

NEWS RELEASE

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National Gallery of Art
Washington, D. C.

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WASHINGTON, October 30: Samuel H. Kress, of New York, has given to the Nation a large new collection of rare Italian art, including some of the greatest masterpieces of painting and sculpture in America, it was announced here today by David E. Finley, Director of the National Gallery of Art.

The new Kress gift enriches the National Gallery with many world-famous works, among them the celebrated Raphael painting of Bindo Altoviti; the Domenico Veneziano Saint John in the Desert, one of the most beautiful of all fifteenth-century panels; the famous bust of Lorenzo the Magnificent by Verrocchio; and a marble bust of the Christ Child by Desiderio da Settignano and a bust, also in marble, of the youthful St. John by Antonio Rossellino, two of the most important pieces of sculpture to leave Italy in recent years.

The new donation by Mr. Kress and the Samuel H. Kress Foundation consists of more than ninety paintings and pieces of sculpture, and will make the National Gallery's collection of Italian art one of the most comprehensive in the world, rivaled only by the four leading European collections in Florence, London, Paris and Berlin, it was pointed out here today.

As a war-time safety measure, some of these great works of art, previously on loan to the Gallery, were evacuated from Washington at the start of the war. They have recently been returned and will shortly be placed on exhibition. These are now given to the Gallery and in addition Mr. Kress has presented a large new group of paintings and sculpture, which will likewise be put on exhibition at the National Gallery as soon as conditions permit, according to Mr. Finley, the Gallery's director.

The present gift is the third large Kress donation to the National Gallery and emphasizes the steady growth of the Nation's collection, Mr. Finley declared. The new gift will augment the great Kress Collection of Italian paintings presented to the Gallery at the time of its opening. In July, 1944, the same donors also gave one of the most notable series of French eighteenth-century paintings ever received by any museum.

Describing some of the outstanding new acquisitions, John Walker, Chief Curator of the National Gallery, emphasized the importance and rarity of these works, such as Raphael's Bindo Altoviti, formerly one of the treasures of the Alte Pinakothek in Munich, and paintings by Domenico Veneziano and other rare masters.

"It is very gratifying to know," said Mr. Walker, "that with this gift the National Gallery of Art now has four of the thirteen panels generally ascribed to Domenico Veneziano. The new panel, Saint John in the Desert, once formed part of the Saint Lucy altarpiece, now one of the glories of the Uffizi Gallery in Florence. Another from the same altarpiece was given by Mr. Kress at the time of the opening of the National Gallery."

"With the new Madonna and Child formerly in the Brady Collection the Gallery acquires a sixth painting by Botticelli, the largest number of panels by that artist in any museum, except the Uffizi and the National Gallery, London."

Mr. Walker also pointed out that the Kress gift to the National Gallery of Art, also includes Bonfigli's Madonna and Child Enthroned, the most important painting by this rare master with the exception of those in his native town of Perugia. Among other works in this donation are Baronzio's Madonna and Child with Angels formerly in the Otto Kahn Collection, as well as a superb Madonna by Giovanni Bellini, a Coronation of the Virgin by Filippino Lippi and an Annunciation by Fra Filippo Lippi.

Melozzo da Forli, whose paintings of music-making angels in the Vatican are well known to all tourists, is represented in the new gift by two panels of the same subject, the only work of this painter in America.

Of a later period there is Dosso Dossi's Circe and Her Lovers in a Landscape, which aroused great interest when shown at the Italian Exhibition in London in 1930, being one of this artist's outstanding achievements. There is also a view of the Exterior of the Pantheon by Panini, which will form a pendant to the Interior of the Pantheon by the same artist, already given by Mr. Kréss.

Contemporary artists will benefit especially from the cycle of nine frescoes by Luini, illustrating the legend of Cephalus, from the Villa Pelucca. Apart from their intrinsic beauty these offer the most extensive evidence available in this country of the technique of sixteenth-century fresco painting. To show the Luini frescoes as nearly as possible in a setting like the original, and to stress their beauty as architectural decoration, the Gallery will install them in a special room, as soon as construction materials are again available.

In addition to the paintings, the Kress donation includes famous pieces of sculpture by many of the greatest masters; and as a result of this gift the representation of Florentine Renaissance sculpture in the National Gallery of Art is now among the four or five greatest collections in the world.

"Ghiberti's lovely relief of the Madonna, in painted terracotta, once in Santo Spirito, Florence, is the earliest piece of Florentine sculpture in the new donation," Mr. Walker pointed out. "Benedetto's marble tondo, Madonna and Child, full of quiet and contemplative emotion, rivals in artistic quality and composition his famous Strozzi tomb, erected in 1491 in Santa Maria Novella, Florence, and probably adorned a similar monument."

Particularly noteworthy, he added, is the gift of Verrocchio's celebrated monumental bust of Lorenzo the Magnificent, especially as the National Gallery is already the possessor of Verrocchio's bust of Giuliano de' Medici, younger brother of Lorenzo. A miracle of psychological interpretation of this master of political persuasion, it is doubtless the model of all the other existing effigies of Lorenzo.

One of the greatest events in recent years in the history of Italian sculpture collections is the re-uniting in America of the two Vanchetoni marble busts through the Kress gift to the National Gallery of Desiderio's little Christ Child. Unsurpassed in delicacy of handling and irresistible in its rendering of the charm of childhood, it is perhaps the most remarkable of all Florentine child portraits, Mr. Walker stated. The little bust comes from the Vanchetoni chapel in Florence, where originally it formed a pair with Rossellino's Giovannino bust, also now given to the National Gallery as part of the present Kress donation. These two exquisite works will now be reunited and exhibited together.

Among other notable pieces are the Saint John by Donatello, and the marble bust of Saint Catherine of Siena, ascribed to Mino da Fiesole, which ranks as one of the most delicate examples of portraiture in all sculpture. Other sculptors who established the leadership of Florence in the fifteenth century are also represented in the gift, such as Antonio Pollaiuolo with a Bust of a Warrior, and Benedetto da Maiano, with the Portrait of a Florentine Statesman, both celebrated pieces formerly in the Mackay Collection.

From the Dreyfus Collection come two statuettes, one of Saint Sebastian, by the outstanding artist of Lucca, Matteo Civitale, and the other of David, by the master of Leonardo da Vinci, Andrea Verrocchio. The collection of North Italian sculpture is also enriched by the addition of important works by Pietro Lombardo, Amadeo, Solari, Leone Leoni and Vittoria.

The Kress gift of sculpture is not limited to the works of the Renaissance. Bernini's sumptuous bronze Portrait of Louis XIV expresses the magnificence of the baroque style, and the influence of Italy and France in the seventeenth century is shown by a large marble statue representing Victory, by Germain Pilon, and the bust of the Duc de Chaulnes by Coysevox. The latest pieces of sculpture in the Kress gift are two marble statues by Carpeaux, one of a Neapolitan Fisher Boy and the other a Girl with a Shell.

A complete list of the Kress gift is attached.

National Gallery of Art

NEW KRESS GIFT

PAINTINGS

<u>Artist</u>	<u>Title</u>
Pseudo Avanzo (Jocopo da Bologna)	Martyrdom of Saint Catherine
Giovanni Baronzio	Madonna and Child with Angels
Domenico Beccafumi	The Holy Family with Angels
Giovanni Bellini	Monochrome
Giovanni Bellini	Madonna and Child with Saints
Jacopo Bellini (?)	Christ Washing the Feet of the Apostles
Pseudo Boccaccino	The Adoration of the Shepherds
Giovanni Boccati	Saint John the Baptist and Saint Sebastian
Giovanni Antonio Boltraffio	Madonna and Child
Benedetto Bonfigli	Madonna and Child Enthroned
Botticelli	Madonna and Child
Botticelli	Madonna and Child with Angels
Contemporary of Cimabue	Madonna and Child with Saints
Guidoccio Cozzarelli	Scenes from the Life of the Virgin
Giuseppi Maria Crespi	Portrait of a Girl
Bernardo Daddi	Madonna and Child Enthroned with Saints and Angels
Bernardo Daddi	Madonna and Child with Donor
Domenico Veneziano	Saint John in the Desert
Domenico Veneziano (?)	Saint John the Baptist
Dosso Dossi	Circe and Her Lovers in a Landscape
Contemporary of Duccio	Madonna and Child with Saints and the Crucifixion
Vincenzo Foppa	Saint Paul
Girolamo di Benvenuto	The Nativity with Saint Jerome
Girolamo di Benvenuto	A Miracle of Saint Catherine of Siena
Francesco Granacci	Madonna and Child with Two Angels
Francesco Guardi	A Seaport and Classic Ruins in Italy
Italian School (Central) 13th Century	Madonna and Child with Angels
Jacopo del Casentino	Saint John the Baptist
Jacopo del Casentino	Saint Lucy
Nicolas de Largilliere	Portrait of a Man
Fra Filippo Lippi	Madonna and Child Enthroned
Fra Filippo Lippi	The Annunciation
Filippino Lippi	The Coronation of the Virgin
Pietro Lorenzetti	Saint Catherine of Alexandria
Lorenzo Monaco (Piero di Giovanni)	Madonna and Child
Bernardino Luini	Procris and Diana
Bernardino Luini	Cephalus Hiding the Jewels
Bernardino Luini	Cephalus and Pan at the Temple
Bernardino Luini	Cephalus Attacking the Bushes
Bernardino Luini	The Death of Procris
Bernardino Luini	The Illusion of Cephalus
Bernardino Luini	The Despair of Cephalus

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New Kress Gift - paintings

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Bernardino Luini	The Misfortunes of Cephalus
Bernardino Luini	Procris and the Unicorn
Nicolas Maes	Portrait of a Lady
Alessandro Magnasco	Christ Calling Saint Peter
Alessandro Magnasco	The Baptism of Christ
Gian Francesco de' Maineri	Ex Voto
Melozzo da Forli	Angels
Melozzo da Forli	Angels
Paulus Moreelse	Portrait of a Lady
Paulus Moreelse	Portrait of a Man
Niccolo da Foligno	The Crucifixion
Giacomo Pacchiarotto	Madonna and Child
Paccio di Buonaguida (Pacino di Bonaguida)	Crucifix
Giovanni Paolo Panini	Pantheon and Other Monuments of Ancient Rome
Paolo Fiamingo	The Nativity
Raffaele dei Carli	Madonna Enthroned with Saints and Angels
Raphael	Bindo Altoviti
Sebastiano Ricci	The Last Supper
Ercole Roberti	Francesco Gonzaga IV
Salvator Rosa	A Warrior
Sassetta	Saint Apollonia
Sassetta	Saint Margaret
Simone dei Crocefissi	Madonna and Child with Saints
Lo Spagna	Pieta
Taddeo di Bartolo	The Coronation of the Virgin
Giovanni Battista Tiepolo	The World Pays Homage to Spain
Giovanni Battista Tiepolo	Madonna of the Goldfinch
Titian	Giulio Romano
Verrocchio	Madonna and Child

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NEW KRESS GIFT

SCULPTURE

<u>Artist:</u>	<u>Title</u>
Giovanni Antonio Amadeo	Filippo Maria Visconti
Benedetto da Maiano	Bust of a Florentine Statesman
Benedetto da Maiano	Madonna and Child
Giovanni Lorenzo Bernini	Louis XIV
Jean-Baptiste Carpeaux	Girl with a Shell
Jean-Baptiste Carpeaux	Neapolitan Fisherboy
Matteo Civitale	Madonna Adoring the Child
Matteo Civitale	Saint Sebastian
Charles Antoine Coysevox	Duc de Chaulnes
Desiderio da Settignano	Bust of the Holy Child
Donatello	Bust of Saint John the Baptist
Lorenzo Ghiberti	Madonna and Child
Leone Leoni	Giovanni Capponi
Pietro Lombardo	A Singing Angel
Mino da Fiesole	Count Rinaldo della Luna
Mino da Fiesole	Saint Cathérine of Siena
Germain Pilon	Allegory of Victory
Antonio Pollaiuolo	Bust of a Warrior
Giovanni della Robbia	Bust of the Young Christ
Giovanni della Robbia	Pieta
Antonio Rossellino	Madonna and Child with Angels
Antonio Rossellino	The Young Saint John the Baptist
Cristoforo Solari	The Resurrection
Verrocchio	David
Verrocchio	Lorenzo de' Medici
Alessandro Vittoria	Jacopo Contarini

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