

NEWS RELEASE

National Gallery of Art  
Washington, D. C.

FOR RELEASE: Afternoon papers of  
February 16, 1946.

WASHINGTON, February 16: David E. Finley, Director of the National Gallery of Art, announces the opening on February 17th of a special exhibition of prints by Hogarth and Rowlandson. All the prints in the exhibition are from the Lessing J. Rosenwald Collection, now part of the National Gallery of Art.

The two great satirists, Hogarth 1697-1764 and Rowlandson 1756-1824, were prolific artists whose combined dates more than spanned the century. Their remarkably rich and lively accounts of English life form a pictorial chronicle of eighteenth century taste and manners. Hogarth's three well-known series, the Harlot's Progress, the Rake's Progress, and Marriage à la Mode, as well as a number of his single popular prints, the famous Lord Lovat, the Laughing Audience, and Strolling Actresses Dressing in a Barn, are included in the exhibition. It is not without significance that Hogarth often spoke of himself as the author and not the artist. He deliberately treated his themes as if they were drama. The dumb show enacted in the small stage of his composition was intended to entertain and improve the mind. Elaborate details of furniture and costume provide the stage setting for the inevitable triumphs of virtue over vice.

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Rowlandson's brilliant caricatures are the reports of his all embracing quick eye which registered the ridiculous and the incongruous as they appeared in politics, in sport and in domestic life. Such prints as the Fire in the Inn Yard, the Sudden Squall in Hyde Park, and A Kick up at Hazard are contemporary genre scenes presented with a boisterous sense of the comic. The Rowlandson prints included in the exhibition are all exceptionally fine impressions. They were formerly part of the almost complete collection of the artist's work which was formed by Sir William Fraser in England in the mid-nineteenth century. This particular collection was acquired by Lessing J. Rosenwald for the National Gallery in July, 1945. The exhibition will remain on view until the end of March.

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