

NEWS RELEASE

National Gallery of Art,
Washington, D. C.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON: January 9, 1947. David E. Finley, Director of the National Gallery of Art, announces the opening on January 12th of a special exhibition of etchings and drawings by Alphonse Legros from the collection of George Matthew Adams of New York. Mr. Adams has recently given his famous Legros collection to the National Gallery of Art in memory of his mother, Mrs. Lydia Havens Adams.

Alphonse Legros was born at Dijon in 1837. After a number of years in Paris and a trip to Spain he finally emigrated to London where he spent the rest of his life. In 1876 he was appointed Professor of Art at the Slade School in London, a position which he held for eighteen years. In a long dual career as teacher and artist Legros never deviated from his solid French training and background.

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Halfway between Ingres and Manet, Legros worshipped the draughtsmanship of the old masters, but used his meticulous technique to portray subjects which were close in spirit to the works of Millet and Courbet. The one hundred and four items selected from one of the finest known collections of his work form an excellent retrospective exhibition. The famous grave figure of Cardinal Manning is typical of Legros' mastery of portraiture. His most characteristic work is to be found in the large number of beautiful quiet landscapes where Legros' lyrical interpretation of nature is very evident.

The exhibition will remain open until February 16th.

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