

NEWS RELEASE

National Gallery of Art
Washington, D. C.

FOR RELEASE: Sunday Papers of
February 23, 1947.

WASHINGTON, February 22: David E. Finley, Director, announced today the opening on February twenty-third of an exhibition of American portraits, including many of important historical personages which the National Gallery holds as custodian for a future National Portrait Gallery. The exhibition will remain on view through March thirtieth.

Among the twenty-seven portraits so held, the earliest is the famous portrait of Pocahontas by an unknown artist, which was painted during a visit the Indian Princess paid to London. This portrait was a gift of The A. W. Mellon Educational and Charitable Trust which also gave a number of other portraits, including one of John Marshall by James R. Lambdin; James Monroe by John Vanderlyn; Daniel Webster by George P. A. Healy; John C. Calhoun by Rembrandt Peale; and Abraham Lincoln by George P. A. Healy.

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Also included is the portrait of George Washington by Rembrandt Peale from Mr. and Mrs. George W. Davison; a portrait of Ralph Waldo Emerson by Thomas Sully from Mr. Chester Dale; and a recent portrait of General Dwight D. Eisenhower by Thomas E. Stephens as a gift from an anonymous donor.

These portraits, with others which may be added in the future, will form a most important group of historical documents and will serve as the nucleus of a collection for a National Portrait Gallery when such an institution is established.

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