

April 28, 1948

GERMAN ART TO GO ON NATIONAL TOUR  
BEFORE RETURN; CHILDREN TO BENEFIT

Plans are being formulated for the limited showing of certain German paintings in museums in the United States this summer and fall, before their ultimate return to Germany, Secretary of the Army Kenneth C. Royall announced today.

Following conferences between members of the Senate Armed Services Committee and Department of the Army officials here and abroad, it has been decided that the showings will be authorized for the benefit of German children in the United States occupation zone, Mr. Royall said. Details of the planned exhibits, including dates and places, have not yet been worked out. Mr. Royall has asked the National Gallery of Art to act as the Army's agent in arranging the technical and professional details involved in the tour.

It is expected that approximately fifty of the 202 paintings which attracted nearly a million visitors to Washington's National Gallery recently will be returned without delay to Germany. These paintings, it was explained, would not stand the handling attendant on a national tour.

The remaining 150 art objects, it is believed, will probably go to New York some time next month for the first "road" showing, at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. In a few months, one-half to one-third of the 150 paintings will be withdrawn from the show and returned to Germany, the remainder continuing on tour for several more months before being shipped to Germany in one or two additional groups.

The date for the showing at New York and the itinerary subsequent to the exhibit at the Metropolitan Museum will be worked out in the near future, after the desires of museums are definitely known.

The Army stressed that expenses attendant on transportation of the paintings from one city to another would have to be defrayed by the interested museums from their own funds. Money accruing to the German children's benefit fund from admissions, it was pointed out, could not be used for this purpose, but would be earmarked for the relief of the young in the occupied area.

It is understood that interested German officials are in accord with the plan to retain the paintings here for the benefit tour.

Administrative details, according to the agreement between the Army and the Senate committee, will be worked out by the Army, which is responsible for the safekeeping of the paintings and their return to Germany. It is expected that Army guards will accompany the objects on tour.

Further details will be announced as soon as plans become definite.

END

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