

NEWS RELEASE

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART
WASHINGTON, D. C.

FOR RELEASE: Sunday papers,
November 14, 1948.

WASHINGTON, November 13: An important acquisition for the collection of American painting at the National Gallery of Art, announced today by David E. Finley, Director, is the portrait of Daniel Boardman by Ralph Earl.

"It is the generous gift of Mrs. W. Murray Crane of New York," Mr. Finley said, "and is the first full-length portrait by Earl to be acquired by the National Gallery."

Daniel Boardman, subject of this painting, was a native of New Milford, Connecticut, where he was born in 1757, and where Earl undoubtedly painted him, for the fine landscape background represents a view of New Milford and the Housatonic River. The picture is signed and dated 1789, and Boardman did not move away from New Milford until 1795.

National Gallery of Art

- 2 -

John Walker, Chief Curator of the National Gallery, said that, with this splendid addition to its eighteenth-century American paintings, the National Gallery was one of the few museums to possess a standing full-length portrait by this distinguished American painter. "In spite of a sojourn of seven years in London, Ralph Earl, a New Englander who died in 1801 at the age of fifty, was one of the most distinctly American of our Colonial painters", Mr. Walker stated. "Though the influence of the more fashionable English style may be discerned in the graceful pose of the figure of Daniel Boardman, and though the draughtsmanship of the tree and leaf forms owes something to Romney, the portrait has a sturdy realism and freshness of characterization typical of work done in this country. Earl was a pioneer of American landscape painting, and the background of the present picture shows a charming glimpse of the broad acres owned by the Boardman family in that most fertile part of America, the Housatonic Valley".

###