

Mr. Cairns

NEWS RELEASE

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART
WASHINGTON, D. C.

FOR RELEASE:- 6:00 p.m.,
Tuesday, May 23, 1950.

WASHINGTON, May 23: David E. Finley, Director of the National Gallery of Art, announced today that Mr. C. S. Gulbenkian, one of the most important private collectors in Europe, will lend some of his greatest paintings to the National Gallery in connection with the Sesquicentennial celebration of the founding of Washington. These pictures have been until recently on view at the National Gallery in London, where they occupied some of the principal rooms. Many of the pictures came originally from leading European collections. Among the artists represented are: Stefan Lochner, Dirk Bouts, Ghirlandaio, Carpaccio, Rubens, Van Dyck, Rembrandt, Hals, Lancret, Boucher, La Tour, Hubert Robert, Fragonard, Guardi, Gainsborough, Corot, Manet, Monet, Degas, and Renoir.

The pictures are being accompanied from Europe to Washington by John Walker, the Chief Curator of the National Gallery of Art. They will be transported from New York to Washington in special trucks with a police escort. The date of the opening of this special exhibition, which will be on view during the two years of the Sesquicentennial celebration, will be announced later.

In 1949, Mr. Gulbenkian sent to the National Gallery of Art the Egyptian section of his collection, which is now on display in Washington. This loan and the new additions will form the most important group of works of art ever lent to an American museum by a European collector.

In connection with the exhibition of his paintings in Washington, Mr. Gulbenkian expressed his pleasure at being able to comply with the request of the Department of State to send to the National Gallery of Art some of his works of art. He hoped they would prove a source of enjoyment and interest to the American public. Mr. Gulbenkian was particularly appreciative of the very courteous letter he had received from Mr. Clement Atlee, the British Prime Minister, and Sir Alan Barlow, the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the National Gallery, London, regarding the proposed exhibition. He also stated that

he wished to pay a personal tribute of gratitude to the Earl of Crawford and Balcarres for never-failing assistance, courtesy, and most valuable advice while his pictures were on loan in England. Mr. Gulbenkian referred to the courtesy of Sir John Forsdyke, the late Director of the British Museum, and of Sir Kenneth Clark and Sir Philip Hendy, the past and present directors of the National Gallery in London, who have been most helpful at all times while his pictures have been on exhibition in England.

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