

Mr. Cairns

NEWS RELEASE

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART
WASHINGTON, D. C.

FOR RELEASE: Sunday Papers,
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WASHINGTON, September 22: David E. Finley, Director of the National Gallery of Art, announces the opening on Sunday, September 23rd, of a special exhibition honoring the 100th anniversary of the death of the great American naturalist, John James Audubon (1785-1851).

Included in the exhibition are fifty of the plates from the Elephant Folio of The Birds of America, given to the Gallery by Mrs. Walter B. James, the publication on which Audubon's fame rests. These prints were reproduced from Audubon's original watercolors by Robert Havell, father and son, in London, by combining the processes of engraving, etching and aquatint.

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Also to be on display is a portrait in oils of the elder Audubon by his son, John Woodhouse Audubon, given this year to the National Gallery of Art by the Avalon Foundation through the generosity of Mrs. Ailsa Mellon Bruce. In addition, there will be shown nine other oil paintings and one watercolor by the Audubons, which were recently presented to the Nation by E. J. L. Hallstrom of Sydney, Australia. This latter group of paintings had remained in the Audubon family until 1950, when Mr. Hallstrom bought them in Australia from Leonard and Eleanor Audubon, great-grandchildren of the naturalist. The exhibition will continue through October 21st.

On October 7th at 4:00 p.m., in the auditorium of the National Gallery, Donald A. Shelley, Assistant Director of the Reading (Pennsylvania) Public Museum and Art Gallery, will give an illustrated lecture on "The Art of the Naturalist, Audubon."

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