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NEWS RELEASE

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART
WASHINGTON, D. C.

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WASHINGTON, March 8: David E. Finley, Director of the National Gallery of Art, announced today that the first annual series of the A. W. Mellon Lectures in the Fine Arts will be delivered at the National Gallery of Art, by Jacques Maritain, internationally celebrated philosopher, on six successive Sundays, omitting Easter Sunday, commencing March 16. The topic of Professor Maritain's lectures will be, Creative Intuition in Art and Poetry.

Mr. Finley said, "This annual lecture series has been established by the Trustees of the National Gallery of Art under an endowment generously donated for the purpose by the Avalon Foundation and the Old Dominion Foundation. The two foundations were founded respectively by Mrs. Ailsa Mellon Bruce and Mr. Paul Mellon, whose father, the late Andrew W. Mellon, Secretary of the Treasury under Presidents Harding, Coolidge, and Hoover, founded the National Gallery of Art. The lectures are designed to bring to the people of the United States, at their National Gallery, the results of the best contemporary thought and scholarship bearing upon the subject of the Fine Arts."

Professor Maritain is one of the leading representatives of French philosophy and criticism, and is the author of many scholarly books. He taught and lectured for many years in the leading universities of Europe, and from 1945 to 1948 was the French Ambassador to the Vatican. Since 1948 he has been a professor in the Department of Philosophy at Princeton University. Mr. Finley said, "Since Professor Maritain's field is the esthetics and philosophy of art, he will deal in his lectures at the National Gallery with a comparison of Oriental and Western art and his philosophical theory of creative intuition. He will discuss specific characteristics of creative intuition in the individual cases of great ancient and modern painters."

Mr. Finley announced that the Maritain series of the A. W. Mellon Lectures in the Fine Arts will be held at 4:00 P.M. on Sunday, March 16, 23, 30, and April 6, 20, and 27, in the auditorium of the National Gallery of Art.

Admission will be free and application for cards of admission will be received at the Ground Floor Information Desk of the National Gallery of Art during the week preceding each lecture. These cards will reserve seats until 3:50, ten minutes before the lecture begins. After that time, the lecture hall will be open, until the seating capacity has been exhausted, to members of the public who have not obtained cards.