

From: The Committee for the
Andrew W. Mellon Memorial
Fountain

FOR RELEASE: Thursday after-
noon, April 24,
1952.

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART
Washington 25, D. C.
Republic 4215

WASHINGTON, April 24: The latest addition to the architectural beauty of Washington, the Andrew W. Mellon Memorial Fountain, will be dedicated Friday, May 9, it is announced by the Committee in charge of this project. Speaking for the Committee at a press preview of the fountain (April 24), David E. Finley, Director of the National Gallery of Art, stated that the exercises would take place at 12:30 PM, at the site of the fountain on the triangular plot formed by the intersection of Constitution and Pennsylvania Avenues, and directly opposite the National Gallery of Art.

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Erected at a cost of over \$300,000, this magnificent memorial to the late Secretary of the Treasury and Pittsburgh financier was designed and constructed without cost to the Federal Government. All funds were raised through the private contributions of friends of Mr. Mellon by the Andrew W. Mellon Memorial Committee (Arthur E. Braun, Chairman, Frank R. Denton, J. Frank Drake, Roy A. Hunt, A. W. Robertson, A. W. Schmidt, all of Pittsburgh). Authorization to erect the fountain on the above-mentioned site was granted the Committee by a Joint Resolution of the Senate and House of Representatives, approved July 16, 1947 (copy attached). At the dedication exercises on May 9th, the fountain will be turned over to the Secretary of the Interior for operation by the National Park Service.

The fountain was designed by Eggers and Higgins, Architects, of New York. Landscape architects were Clarke and Rapuano of New York. The fountain was constructed by John McShain of Philadelphia and required twelve months to build.

It is so constructed that the falling water forms a smooth, transparent curtain over the polished bronze rim of the lowest and largest bowl. The fluted sides of the bronze bowl are decorated with the twelve signs of the zodiac in high relief, designed by the well known sculptor, Sidney Waugh.

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Surrounding the fountain is a seven foot wide granite walkway, a few steps above sidewalk level. On the curve of the extended radius of the fountain is a 25-foot long granite seat. Incised in the center of the back of the seat are the words:

1855 Andrew W. Mellon 1937
Financier Industrialist Statesman
Secretary of the Treasury 1921 - 1932
Ambassador to Great Britain 1932 - 1933
Founder of the National Gallery of Art - 1937
This fountain is a tribute from his friends.

Erected at the eastern apex of what is known as the Triangle, the fountain will be seen by visitors to Washington arriving at the Union Station or visiting the Capitol Building or the National Gallery of Art. The remainder of the Triangle south of Pennsylvania Avenue is occupied by the great Government buildings along Constitution Avenue, including the Apex Building, the National Archives, the Department of Justice, the Department of Labor, the Bureau of Internal Revenue, the Post Office Department and the Department of Commerce. These buildings were planned and most of them erected during the years when Mr. Mellon, as Secretary of the Treasury, served as chairman of a committee to direct the development of the Triangle and to erect buildings needed for the use of the Government. It is particularly fitting that the fountain, as a memorial to Mr. Mellon should be

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placed on Constitution Avenue at the apex of the Triangle
group of buildings and facing the National Gallery of Art.

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