

NEWS RELEASE

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART
WASHINGTON, D. C.

FOR RELEASE: IMMEDIATELY

WASHINGTON, April 30, 1952. David H. Finley, Director, National Gallery of Art, speaking on behalf of the Committee of American Museums which brought the Austrian Collection to this country for exhibit, announced that the collection is now being loaded in Philadelphia aboard the S. S. Texan, a vessel operated for the Navy's Military Sea Transportation Service, for return to Europe. It is being accompanied by Commander Keith Merrill, USNR, and Dr. Ernst Buschbeck, Curator of the Kunsthistorisches Museum in Vienna, which assembled and lent the collection for exhibition in the United States.

Mr. Finley expressed appreciation of the courtesy of the Department of Defense in arranging for the return of the collection to Europe, as well as bringing it to this country in the autumn of 1949.

The collection was shown first at the National Gallery of Art in Washington and was subsequently shown at the Metropolitan Museum in New York, the M. H. deYoung Memorial Museum, San Francisco, the Chicago Art Institute, and museums in St. Louis, Toledo, Toronto, Boston, and Philadelphia. It was viewed by approximately three and a half million people.

Mr. Finley said: "The Austrian Collection is one of the greatest that has ever come to this country and the gesture of the Austrian Government in sending it here is deeply appreciated by the American people."