

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

FOR RELEASE: Thursday,
May 8, 1952

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

WASHINGTON, May 8, 1952: Dedication exercises for the new Andrew W. Mellon Memorial Fountain will take place at the fountain site, Constitution and Pennsylvania Avenues at Sixth Street, on Friday, May 9th, at twelve-thirty o'clock.

The principal addresses will be given by the Chief Justice of the United States, the Honorable Fred M. Vinson, who is ex officio Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the National Gallery of Art, and by Dr. John G. Bownan formerly chancellor of the University of Pittsburgh.

MELLON

FOR RELEASE: Thursday,
May 8, 1952

-2-

The gift of friends of Mr. Mellon, the fountain will be accepted on behalf of the Government by the Honorable Oscar L. Chapman, Secretary of the Interior, in the presence of several hundred distinguished guests and friends and associates of the late Secretary of the Treasury and Pittsburgh financier. Among those who will attend are the Governor of Pennsylvania, Honorable John S. Fine, the Senators and Congressmen from Pennsylvania, many members of the Mellon family from Pittsburgh and New York, including Mr. Mellon's daughter, Mrs. Mellon Bruce, and his son, Mr. Paul Mellon, and Mrs. Mellon; the trustees of the National Gallery of Art; also the following members of the Andrew W. Mellon Memorial Committee: Arthur E. Braun, Chairman, Frank R. Denton, J. Frank Drake, Roy A. Hunt, A. W. Robertson, and A. W. Schmidt, all of Pittsburgh.

The program will begin promptly at noon with music by the United States Marine Band. Mr. J. Frank Drake, representing the Memorial Committee, will preside. The invocation will be given by the Reverend W. Sherman Skinner of Pittsburgh. Mr. Drake will introduce the Chief Justice, Mr. Vinson. Dr. Bowman will make the presentation of the gift of the fountain, which will be accepted by the Secretary of the Interior, Mr. Chapman. Following the playing

MELLON

FOR RELEASE: Thursday
May 8, 1952

-3-

of the National Anthem, the benediction will be pronounced by the Rt. Rev. Angus Dun, Bishop of Washington.

The fountain is located on the triangular plot formed by the intersection of Pennsylvania and Constitution Avenues at Sixth Street, directly opposite the National Gallery of Art. Authorization to erect the fountain on this site was granted to the Memorial Committee by a Joint Resolution of the Senate and House of Representatives, approved July 16, 1947. Erected at a cost of over \$300,000, all funds were raised by the Committee from friends of Mr. Mellon. Following the dedication exercises on Friday the operation of the fountain will be under the supervision of the National Park Service, Department of the Interior.

The fountain was designed by the architectural firm of Eggers and Higgins of New York. Landscape architects were Clarke and Rapuano of New York. The fountain was constructed by John McShain of Philadelphia. It is so constructed that the falling water forms a smooth, transparent curtain over the polished rim of the largest of the three bronze bowls. The fluted sides of the largest bowl are decorated with the twelve signs of the zodiac in high relief, designed by the well known sculptor, Sidney Waugh.

MELLON

FOR RELEASE: Thursday,
May 8, 1952

#44

Near the fountain is a granite seat. Incised in
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.

###