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NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART
Washington 25, D. C.

REpublic 7-4215, extension 246

FOR RELEASE: Sunday, January 9, 1955

FIVE PAINTINGS GIVEN TO NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

Washington, January 8: David E. Finley, Director, announced that the National Gallery of Art had been given recently five important paintings. A striking portrait of Mr. Forbes, by George Romney (1734-1802), has been given by Mrs. Dwight F. Davis of Washington. A portrait of Jean Christie, by Sir Henry Raeburn (1756-1823), and portraits of George Washington, Ann Barry, and Mary Barry, by Gilbert Stuart (1755-1828), have come to the Gallery by bequest from Mrs. Charles D. Draper of New York.

John Walker, Chief Curator of the National Gallery said: "Mrs. Davis's portrait by Romney is mentioned by Humphry Ward and W. Roberts as showing the sitter in the uniform of a lieutenant of the Royal Horse Guards. It is an excellent example of Romney's mature style, having been painted about 1780 according to the lists compiled by the Reverend John Romney from his father's diaries.

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"We do not know exactly when the portrait of Washington was painted. The original from which Stuart made this replica was executed in 1796 in Philadelphia when the Federal Government was located there. We do know, however, that the portrait was painted for General Samuel M. MacDonald of Baltimore. From his family it passed to the Honorable Robert C. Winthrop of Boston, and remained in his family until it entered the Collection of Mrs. Draper. The portraits of the two Barry sisters, daughters of James David Barry, a British Consul, were painted by Stuart in Washington, D. C., about the year 1803. Although Stuart had returned from England some ten years earlier, there is still evidence in these paintings of the strong influence of the English manner."

Regarding the portrait of Jean Christie, Mr. Walker said: "Jean Christie, who never married, was the only daughter of Mrs. Christie, who in 1820 became the second wife of Alexander, 4th Duke of Gordon. This painting is an unusual portrait by Raeburn with a moodiness that reflects the spirit of the Romantic movement."