

NEWS RELEASE

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"AUSTRIAN DRAWINGS AND PRINTS"
LOAN EXHIBITION TO OPEN FEBRUARY 20
AT THE NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

WASHINGTON, February 19th: David E. Finley, Director of the National Gallery of Art, announced today that a special exhibition of more than 100 "Austrian Drawings and Prints" from the Albertina Museum in Vienna will open at the Gallery on Sunday afternoon, February 20th, at 3 o'clock, and will continue through March 20th.

The exhibition is the first of its kind ever to come to the United States. It is sponsored by His Excellency the Austrian Ambassador, Dr. Karl Gruber, and will be circulated under the auspices of the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service.

Dr. Otto Benesch, Director of the Albertina Museum, Vienna, which houses one of the world's greatest collections of the graphic arts, made the selection of original drawings and prints from the 15th to the beginning of the 20th centuries. He also wrote the foreword to the illustrated catalogue which has been published in connection with the exhibition. The Austrian Foreign Office and the Ministry of Education in Vienna cooperated in bringing the show to the United States for a one-year tour. Dr. Eckhart Knab, Curator of the Albertina, accompanied it from Vienna to Washington.

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Among the finest examples of Austrian draftsmanship included are: Viennese School (1420-30), "Joseph Interprets his Dreams in Prison"; Albrecht Altdorfer (1480-1538), "St. Christopher" (c. 1510); Wolf Huber (1490-1553), "Portrait of a Man"; Jacob Seisenegger (1505-1567), "Portrait of a Boy"; Isaac Major (1575-1630), "View of the Danube"; and Johann Spillenberger (1628-1679), "Conversion of St. Paul".

The Baroque Period is represented by religious and secular scenes by Martin Altomonte (1659-1745), Daniel Gran (1694-1757), Paul Troger (1698-1762), Franz Anton Maulbertsch (1724-1796), and Kremser Schmidt (1718-1801). Of particular interest is a chalk drawing, "St. Magdalen Penitent", from the hand of the Empress Maria Theresia (1717-1780).

Characteristic drawings by all the best known Austrian artists of the 19th century are also shown, including examples by Josef Anton Koch (1768-1839), Jakob Alt (1789-1872), Peter Fendi (1796-1842), Moritz von Schwind (1804-1871), Carl Schuch (1846-1903), and others.

In addition to 88 original drawings, the exhibition contains 28 prints, mostly woodcuts of the 15th and 16th centuries. A group from the Benedictine Monastery at Mondsee is of particular importance, as are "Scenes from the Life of St. Wolfgang".

The Albertina Collection was founded in 1795 by Duke Albert of Saxony-Teschen. It is famous for its more than 30,000 Old Master drawings and many hundred-thousand prints from every important European school. The palace in which this collection is housed was partly destroyed during the war, but since it has been completely rebuilt.

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ITINERARY

<u>1955</u>	February 20 - March 20	National Gallery of Art Washington, D. C.
	April 3 - 24	The Minneapolis Institute of Arts Minneapolis, Minnesota
	May 8 - 31	J. B. Speed Art Museum Louisville, Kentucky
	June 15 - July 15	Los Angeles County Museum Los Angeles, California
	July 29 - August 28	to be announced
	September 11 - October 2	William Rockhill Nelson Gallery of Art Kansas City, Missouri
	October 12 - November 6	Seattle Art Museum Seattle, Washington
	November 20 - December 18	Marion Koogler McNay Art Institute San Antonio, Texas
<u>1956</u>	January 1 - 22	George Thomas Hunter Gallery of Art Chattanooga, Tennessee
	February 5 - 26	to be announced

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