

# NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

NEWS RELEASE

FOURTH STREET AT CONSTITUTION AVENUE NW WASHINGTON DC 20565 • 737-4215/842-6353

## IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Washington, D. C. August 28: John Walker, Director of the National Gallery of Art, announced today that the marble panel in the Constitution Avenue entrance lobby of the National Gallery of Art is being changed so that the heading will read "Founding Benefactors of the National Gallery of Art". The former heading was "Principal Benefactors of the National Gallery of Art". The change is being made in recognition of the fact that the benefactors whose names are carved on the panel contributed generously to the National Gallery of Art in the early days of its establishment and thus made possible the remarkable growth of the Gallery to the first rank among the great art galleries of the world in its first twenty years. These founding benefactors are Andrew William Mellon, Samuel Henry Kress, Peter A. B. and Joseph E. Widener, Chester Dale, Lessing J. Rosenwald, Paul Mellon, Ailsa Mellon Bruce, and Rush Harrison Kress.

The re-carving of the Botticini marble, imported from Italy when the Gallery was constructed in 1940, is being done by the P. B. Phelps Stone Company of 2501 Ninth Street, N. E., Washington, D. C.

(more)

The new carving will be completed about the  
middle of September, and the panel will then read:

FOUNDING BENEFACTORS  
of the  
NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART  
Andrew William Mellon

Samuel Henry Kress

Joseph E. Widener  
in Memory of Peter A. B. Widener

Chester Dale

Lessing J. Rosenwald

Paul Mellon

Ailsa Mellon Bruce

Rush Harrison Kress