

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

NEWS RELEASE

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WASHINGTON, D.C. May 7, 1960. John Walker, Director of the National Gallery of Art, announced today that agreement had been reached on the method of dividing the well-known paintings bequeathed to both The Metropolitan Museum of Art and the National Gallery of Art by Mrs. William R. Timken in October, 1959.

Mrs. Timken's magnificent bequest, which consists of 85 paintings, has been divided into groups. It is believed that the groups are fairly balanced from the points of view of both museums.

The method of selection between the groups will be as follows:

1. Both Directors will disclose simultaneously their choices of each group. Thus, the Director of The Metropolitan Museum of Art, James Rorimer, and the Director of the National Gallery of Art, John Walker, will indicate whether they prefer the paintings in Group A-1 (Rembrandt Christ at the Well, Van Dyck Madonna, Gainsborough Portrait, Pater Large Fête), or the paintings in Group A-2 (Boucher Love Letter, Fragonard Happy Family, Moroni Portrait, Turner Deluge). If the two Directors select different groups, their selections will stand.

2. This system will be continued until both Directors select the same group. If neither Director feels a strong preference, agreement will be reached on the basis of which group of paintings is most useful to which museum.

(more)

3. If both Directors feel a strong preference for the same group, a coin will be tossed and the Director winning the toss will have the first choice.

An announcement of the division will be made at a later date.

End