

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

NEWS RELEASE

SIXTH STREET AT CONSTITUTION AVENUE NW WASHINGTON DC 20565 • 737-4215 extension 224

Washington, D. C. March 29, 1967. Mario Praz, Professor of English Language and Literature at the University of Rome, will deliver the 16th annual A. W. Mellon Lectures at the National Gallery of Art, it was announced today by Director John Walker.

Six lectures, "On the Parallel of Literature and Visual Arts," start April 2 at 4 p.m. and will continue at the same hour on successive Sundays through May 7. Admission to the National Gallery auditorium where the illustrated talks will be given is free. No tickets are required for entrance.

Dr. Praz is an arts and literary figure of major proportions. Two of his best-known books, The Romantic Agony and The Flaming Heart, are required reading in American colleges. His histories of interiors, many of which have been translated into English along with The Hero in Eclipse in

Victorian Fiction and Seventeenth-Century Imagery, are standards in their field. He has translated the works of a number of 19th-century British poets into Italian, and recently edited a new Italian translation of Shakespeare's plays.

The A. W. Mellon Lectures were launched in 1952 with endowments from the Avalon and Old Dominion Foundations. Their purpose: to bring to the people of the United States, at the National Gallery of Art, the results of the best contemporary thought and scholarship bearing upon the subject of the fine arts.

Among past A. W. Mellon lecturers have been biographer Lord David Cecil, historian Isaiah Berlin, philosopher Jacques Maritain, and the former Director of the National Gallery, London, Sir Kenneth Clark.

Now in his seventies, Dr. Praz is said to be a legendary figure in his own time. "Events of his life," according to The Saturday Review, "are retold at dinner parties as though they were part of the mythos of a Theban drama. His presence and personality become magnified with accretions akin to those eventually taken on by Vergil, Paracelsus-Faust, Hans Sachs and others."

NOTE: National Gallery extended evening hours April 1 through September 4. Weekdays 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., Sundays Noon to 10 p.m.