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CHIEF CURATOR RETIRES
FROM NATIONAL GALLERY

Washington, D. C. June 24, 1969. Perry B. Cott, Chief Curator and Executive Officer of the National Gallery of Art, will retire July 1. The announcement was made today by John Walker, who retires from his post as Director on the same day.

No replacement for Mr. Cott has been named.

"To find a scholar and administrator of Perry Cott's knowledge and taste is never an easy task," Mr. Walker said. "But to find one who also possesses his connoisseurship will be difficult indeed. During his 13 years as Chief Curator, years when the National Gallery acquired so many important paintings, Perry Cott has influenced every decision."

Mr. Cott came to the National Gallery as Curator of Sculpture and Assistant Chief Curator in 1949, and became Chief Curator in 1956. Since 1956 the Gallery has acquired more than 900 paintings, including St. George and the Dragon by Rogier van der Weyden, A Young Girl Reading by Fragonard, Daniel in the Lions' Den by Rubens, and Ginevra de' Benci by Leonardo da Vinci. His essay on Ginevra is one of the Gallery's best selling publications.

Before coming to Washington, Mr. Cott was Associate Director

of the Worcester Art Museum, Worcester, Massachusetts. During World War II he served as Monuments and Fine Arts Officer in Italy, and after the War in Austria. As Lieutenant Commander, USNR, he participated in the recovery and restitution of displaced works of art.

Mr. Cott received undergraduate and doctoral degrees from Princeton University. He has contributed to art periodicals in several languages and in many countries, and is the author of "Siculo-Arabic Ivories."

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