

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

NEWS RELEASE

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WASHINGTON, D. C. October 25, 1969. Old Master Drawings from Chatsworth, an exhibition of 131 drawings from the Duke of Devonshire's enormous ancestral collection, will begin a tour of nine North American museums at the National Gallery of Art Sunday, November 2, it was announced by J. Carter Brown, Director.

Expected for the opening events in Washington are the Duke's son and daughter-in-law, the Marquess and Marchioness of Hartington.

The Devonshire collection, one of the few great family collections to have survived, was founded in the late 17th century by the 1st Duke for Chatsworth, his new country palace in Derbyshire, and expanded with unusual taste and enterprise by his son.

James Byam Shaw, a noted British specialist in the field of old master drawings, made the selection and wrote the catalogue introduction. His Excellency John Freeman, Ambassador of Great Britain, will sponsor the exhibition during its tour, which was arranged by the International Exhibitions Foundation under the direction of Mrs. John A. Pope with the aid of Thomas S. Wragg, Librarian and Keeper of the Chatsworth Collections.

The exhibition is composed of drawings which have never been shown in this country and amply demonstrates the richness of this renowned British collection. Although many of the earlier draftsmen are represented, such as Dürer, Holbein, Raphael, Veronese,

and Poussin, the emphasis is on the work of the increasingly valued Mannerist and Baroque masters of the later 16th and 17th centuries.

"It is in this last field that the present exhibition is particularly rich," writes Mr. Byam Shaw in his introduction to the catalogue, noting that "this is the direction in which enlightened public taste is now turning."

This shift of interest is reflected in his selection of two pages from Vasari's celebrated sketchbook as well as in concentrations of works by Giulio Romano, Perino del Vaga, Parmigianino, the Carracci, and Guercino. From the important Chatsworth group of over 70 drawings by members of the Carracci family, seven will be shown.

In honor of the exhibition, all five Sunday lectures at the National Gallery in November will be related to the drawings from Chatsworth. Besides a talk on the exhibition by Mr. Byam Shaw, Jacob Bean of the Metropolitan Museum of Art will discuss other important collections of drawings, and Sydney J. Freedberg of Harvard University will lecture on the drawings of Parmigianino.

Old Master Drawings from Chatsworth will remain on view at the National Gallery through November 30.