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# NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

NEWS RELEASE

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## NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART SEEKS PUBLIC SUPPORT TO REPEAT "CIVILISATION" SERIES

"I believe that order is better than chaos, creation better than destruction. I prefer gentleness to violence, forgiveness to vendetta. On the whole I think that knowledge is preferable to ignorance, and I am sure that human sympathy is more valuable than ideology. I believe that, in spite of the recent triumphs of science, men haven't changed much in the last 2,000 years; and in consequence we must still try to learn from history. History is ourselves...And I think we should remember that we are part of a great whole, which for convenience we call nature. All living things are our brothers and sisters. Above all, I believe in the God-given genius of certain individuals, and I value a society that makes their existence possible."

Kenneth Clark's credo of the  
final film of "Civilisation"

WASHINGTON, D.C. February 5, 1970. Eager to meet tremendous public demand to repeat "Civilisation", the National Gallery of Art is offering an unusual proposal to make this film series continually available for viewing at the National Gallery.

"Civilisation" is an extraordinary series of 13 one-hour films in color narrated by Kenneth Clark and originally made for British television. During its initial 13-week appearance in Washington, the series has been seen by nearly 150,000 viewers, including the staff of the White House, where special showings were arranged at the request of the President.

Between November 2nd and January 31st, the films were shown a total of 457 times at the Gallery, with approximately five showings

daily Monday through Saturday and six on Sunday.

Three basic circumstances temporarily preclude the National Gallery from repeating the series. Although the first showing was made available to the Gallery without charge, subsequent showings will be possible only if the complete 13-film series is purchased. The 1970 fiscal budget for the Gallery, however, was set before the option to buy became available, and no funds were requested to meet these circumstances. In addition, by the terms on which the films are available for purchase, there can be no admission charge.

"Therefore," explained the Director of the National Gallery, J. Carter Brown, "our only recourse is to throw ourselves on the mercy of our friends to see if we can purchase a set of prints - which we very much want to do."

For a second showing of the series, the Gallery would make arrangements for reserved seats for weekday performances for all contributors of \$5.00 or more. Contributions in support of "Civilisation" may be sent to the National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C. 20565. All contributions are deductible for Federal income tax purposes.