

# NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

NEWS RELEASE

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CATALOGUE OF AMERICAN PAINTINGS IN NATIONAL GALLERY

PUBLISHED BY GALLERY

WASHINGTON, D.C. July 20, 1970. A fully illustrated summary catalogue of American paintings and sculpture in the National Gallery of Art, bringing out many new findings and attributions, has been published by the Gallery.

Research on the catalogue of 827 paintings and five sculptures was started more than 30 years ago under James W. Lane, former curator of the Gallery's American paintings. The work continued under William P. Campbell, acting chief curator, who succeeded Mr. Lane in 1951 as curator of American paintings.

The collection, strongest in portraiture of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, includes particularly fine works by Benjamin West, John Singleton Copley, Gilbert Stuart, and Thomas Sully. It is also rich in paintings by John Trumbull, James McNeill Whistler, Mary Cassatt, John Singer Sargent and George Bellows. The American naive pictures, Mr. Campbell said, comprise possibly the most important group of such paintings in a public collection.

Studies have led to the conclusion that 35 paintings formerly considered American actually have European origins. These include a portrait of Captain Robert Calder, formerly given to Gilbert Stuart, now attributed to the British artist Lemuel Francis Abbott, and four canvases of birds based on drawings by John James Audubon

(MORE)



and once attributed to that artist, now given to the British painter Joseph Bartholomew Kidd.

"American" paintings now considered to be European works of unknown nationality include An Artist's Studio, earlier known as Stuart's Family by Washington Allston; and a portrait of a man which had been called a John Singleton Copley painting of Jeremiah Taylor.

Four portraits formerly attributed to Gilbert Stuart have undergone changes of attribution, leaving 33 works in the Gallery's collection securely assigned to him.

Nineteen paintings are now questioned as American, but not yet called European. They include works formerly known as Williamina Moore by Robert Feke; Gawen Brown by John Singleton Copley; and General Mordecai Gist by James Peale.

More than three-quarters of the Gallery's American works have come from three donors: 130 American portraits given between 1940 and 1954 in the name of Andrew Mellon by The A.W. Mellon Educational and Charitable Trust; 175 American naive pictures given since 1953 by Edgar William and Bernice Chrysler Garbisch; and 351 Indian paintings by George Catlin, given in 1965 by Paul Mellon, with the request that they be lent as widely as possible.

Two smaller but important gifts include a donation of 42 American paintings by Chester Dale, and funds given by the Avalon Foundation from which 16 American paintings have been bought to date, primarily nineteenth- and twentieth-century pictures that have helped fill gaps in the collection.

The catalogue is on sale at the Gallery for \$5.00.

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