

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

NEWS RELEASE

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KENNETH CLARK RECEIVES NATIONAL GALLERY MEDAL FOR "CIVILISATION" FILM SERIES

WASHINGTON, D.C. November 18, 1970. Kenneth Clark, author and narrator of the "Civilisation" film series, was awarded the National Gallery of Art's Medal for Distinguished Service to Education in Art at a ceremony at the Gallery today.

In presenting the Medal to Lord Clark, J. Carter Brown, Director of the National Gallery, said, "Among the many gaps that need bridging in contemporary life is the cavernous one that yawns between the accomplished art specialist and the layman eager to develop his own response to art. Kenneth Clark--perhaps more effectively than any art scholar of our time--has made of his life a bridge across that chasm."

"Civilisation," a thirteen-part color film series, traces the cultural life of Western man from the fall of the Roman empire through the twentieth century, focusing on the arts, music, literature, and history. Since its American premiere at the National Gallery in the fall of 1969, the entire series has been shown nearly a hundred times and has drawn more than 275,000 viewers. It was originally produced for the British Broadcasting Corporation, and is now being shown on National Educational Television in the United States. In a program beginning this month, "Civilisation" will also be distributed, without charge, through the National

(MORE)

LORD CLARK RECEIVES NATIONAL GALLERY MEDAL FOR "CIVILISATION" -2
Gallery's Extension Services to colleges and universities throughout the nation which have fewer than 2,000 undergraduates.

Lord Clark has had a long and distinguished career of service to scholarship and education in art, serving as director of the National Gallery, London (1934-45), Slade Professor of Fine Arts, Oxford University (1946-50 and 1961-62), chairman of the Arts Council of Great Britain (1953-60), and is the author of numerous books and television films on art.

The Medal for Distinguished Service to Education in Art was first struck for the National Gallery in 1966 on the occasion of its twenty-fifth anniversary. The twenty-five educators who received the medal in a ceremony at the White House March 17, 1966, included Erwin Panofsky, the late author, art historian and professor at the Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton; Mrs. Helen Aupperle, a dedicated high school teacher in Idaho Falls, Idaho; James Ackerman, a Harvard professor and architectural historian, and Mrs. Doris Lough of Seattle, who teaches art to children with learning handicaps.

Artist and sculptor Leonard Baskin of Northampton, Massachusetts, designed the eagle on the medal's obverse, based on the National Gallery seal. The reverse was designed by calligrapher and stone cutter John Everett Benson of Newport, Rhode Island, who executed the inscription for the John F. Kennedy memorial grave at Arlington. The reverse of the medal bears the words "For Distinguished Service To Education In Art" and "Lord Clark, C.H., K.C.B., 18.XI.70," encircled by "National Gallery Of Art, U.S.A."

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For further information contact Katherine Warwick, Assistant to the Director, or Alison Luchs, Public Information Office, National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C. 20565, area code 202, 737-4215, ext. 225.



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