

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

NEWS RELEASE

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T.S.R. BOASE TO DELIVER MELLON LECTURES
ON "VASARI, THE MAN AND THE BOOK"

WASHINGTON, D.C. February 5, 1971. "Vasari, the Man and the Book" is the subject of the National Gallery of Art's 20th annual A.W. Mellon Lectures in the Fine Arts, to be delivered this year by the distinguished British art historian and educator, T.S.R. Boase, beginning Sunday, February 21.

Vasari's Lives of the Artists: Biographies of the Most Eminent Architects, Painters, and Sculptors of Italy has been the major source book for students of Italian Renaissance painting for four centuries.

Giorgio Vasari (1511-1574), the renowned biographer, painter, architect, collector, and founder of modern art history, was born in Arezzo but worked largely in Florence. He was a follower and admirer of Michelangelo, whose biography he treated as the culmination of his Lives. Dr. Boase's lectures will explore the life and influence of this important sixteenth century figure.

The series of six consecutive Sunday lectures will begin February 21 at 4:00 in the National Gallery Auditorium with a discussion of "Vasari, the Man." There is no admission charge to these lectures, which are open to the public.

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Dr. Boase, Chairman of the British School at Rome since 1965, was educated at Rugby School and Magdalen College, Oxford, and has served as a Professor of the History of Art at the University of London and Director of the Courtauld Institute of Art (1937-47). He was president of Magdalen College from 1947-1968.

His publications include Boniface VIII (1933), St. Francis of Assisi (1936--new edition 1968), and numerous articles in the Journal of the Warburg and Courtauld Institutes. He is also editor of the Oxford History of English Art.

The A.W. Mellon Lectures in the Fine Arts began in 1952 with grants from the Avalon and Old Dominion Foundations. Their purpose is to "bring to the people of the United States the best contemporary thought and scholarship bearing on the subject of the fine arts."

The A.W. Mellon Lectures are published in the Bollingen Series by the Princeton University Press.

Previous lecturers include Sir Nikolaus Pevsner, the British architectural historian, and Kenneth Clark, author and narrator of the "Civilisation" series, whose lectures in 1953 later were published as The Nude: A Study in Ideal Form.

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