

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

NEWS RELEASE

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TALKS BY RENOWNED SCHOLARS TO COMPLEMENT NATIONAL GALLERY'S DURER EXHIBITION

WASHINGTON, D.C. March 18, 1971. Concurrently with its major special exhibition, Dürer in America: His Graphic Work, the National Gallery of Art will hold a series of four consecutive Sunday lectures devoted to the sixteenth-century German master from Nuremberg, whose 500th birthday is being celebrated this year both in Washington and in the artist's native city.

The lectures by distinguished scholars begin on the opening day of the National Gallery's exhibition, April 25. All the lectures will be given at 4:00 p.m. in the National Gallery auditorium.

Wolfgang Stechow, 1971 Kress Professor in Residence at the National Gallery, will inaugurate the series on April 25 with "Dürer and America." Dr. Stechow plans to focus on the collecting of Dürer graphics in this country in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries and appreciation of the master among American writers, such as Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr., and W. M. Ivins, Jr.

Dr. Stechow has also been invited to deliver the opening remarks at the Dürer anniversary exhibition in Nuremberg on May 21, the artist's birthday.

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Dr. Stechow, professor emeritus of Oberlin College and former editor of The Art Bulletin, taught art history at Oberlin for twenty-three years. He has also served as adjunct curator of European art at the Cleveland Museum and lectured and instructed at Williams, Bryn Mawr, Smith and Vassar Colleges, the University of Michigan, the University of Wisconsin, and Case Western Reserve University.

On May 2, Julius Held, professor of art history at Barnard College, Columbia University, will speak on "Dürer's Personality." The talk will be illustrated with some of the artist's less familiar works, and Dr. Held will make extensive use of quotations from Dürer's writings. Describing the scope of his lecture, Dr. Held has called it an introduction to Dürer's art, although the main purpose is to trace a picture of Dürer the man.

Dr. Held was a director of the College Art Association from 1959 to 1964. He was a member of the Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, and serves on the editorial boards of The Art Bulletin and The Art Quarterly. In 1969-70 he was Clark Professor of Art at Williams College.

The lecture on May 16 will be delivered by Gerald Strauss, professor of history at Indiana University. Dr. Strauss, who has written a well-known book on sixteenth-century Nuremberg, will lecture on "Dürer--the Artist and His Society." The talk will cover the setting into which the artist was born--"to which he related in some ways while transcending it in some," Dr. Strauss has said.

Dr. Strauss is a specialist in early modern European history and German humanism. He has taught at Indiana University since 1959. He has also instructed at Phillips Exeter Academy and the University of Alabama.

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"Dürer, Master Printmaker," will be the subject of the May 16 lecture by Eleanor A. Sayre, curator of the Department of Prints and Drawings at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. The Washington appearance will be a homecoming for Miss Sayre, a granddaughter of President Woodrow Wilson and sister of the Very Reverend Francis B. Sayre, Jr., Dean of the National Cathedral.

Miss Sayre, who is preparing a catalog of Dürer prints, will concentrate in her talk on technical and stylistic aspects of Dürer's prints, and the differences between impressions. She has worked in the prints and drawings department of the Boston Museum since 1945 and has been curator of the department since 1967. She has also taught seminars at the museum for Harvard and other universities.

The National Gallery's exhibition of prints and drawings by Albrecht Dürer (1471-1528) opens on April 25. All but two of the known Dürer drawings in American and Canadian collections and the finest grouping of Dürer prints gathered to date from American holdings are among the important features of the exhibition, which closes on June 6.

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