

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR RELEASE:

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SPECIAL CATALOG OF TIEPOLO ETCHINGS
HONORS CONNOISSEUR-COLLECTOR ROSENWALD

WASHINGTON, D. C. January 10, 1972. A catalog on the graphic oeuvre of the Venetian artist Giovanni Battista Tiepolo (1696-1770) and his son Giovanni Domenico (1727-1804) will be published by the National Gallery of Art in conjunction with the Gallery's special exhibition, Rare Etchings by G.B. and G.D. Tiepolo. Both the catalog and the exhibition are in honor of Lessing J. Rosenwald, a Founding Benefactor and Trustee of the Gallery.

On view from January 27 through April 23, 1972, the exhibition brings together over 90 rare and exceptionally fine Tiepolo etchings, a supplemental group of 18th-century Venetian paintings, and a display of prints by contemporary artists. Eighty-five of the Tiepolo etchings are from two 18th-century albums formerly belonging to A. M. Zanetti the Elder (1680-1767), a noted collector-connoisseur and friend of the Tiepolos. The albums were given to the National Gallery by Mr. Rosenwald, whose gifts of graphic arts form the nucleus of the Gallery's distinguished holdings in this field.

As the first publication of the Zanetti-Rosenwald albums, the catalog is unique. Reproduced for the first time is the

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set of working proofs from the Scherzi series, with rare, hand-inked corrections thought to be by Giambattista. Among the illustrations are also the superb early impressions of the Capricci series. The catalog is arranged to illustrate comparative impressions of the various series.

J. Carter Brown, the Gallery's Director, has written the preface. The introduction and critical entries were prepared by H. Diane Russell, Assistant Curator of Graphic Arts. The book was designed by Gaillard Ravenel, Museum Curator, and Frances Smyth, Assistant Editor.

In addition to illustrations of all 94 etchings in the show, there are 36 supplementary catalog illustrations of related paintings and drawings. The Vari Capricci and the Scherzi di Fantasia series by Giambattista and ten of Giandomenico's Flight into Egypt series are reproduced in facsimile from the original prints. All illustrations have been reproduced directly from the etchings in order to insure fidelity to the originals.

Appendices include English translations of Italian texts important to the dating of the Scherzi series, information on editions of the Capricci and the Scherzi series, and an extensive chronology of the artists' lives. A bibliography is included, and an alphabetical listing of prints serves as an index.

The 120-page catalog will be available at the National Gallery in limited soft- and hard-cover editions.

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