

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR RELEASE:

WEDNESDAY a.m.
March 22, 1972

DISTINGUISHED LEONARDO DA VINCI SCHOLAR GIVES
1972 MELLON LECTURES AT NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

WASHINGTON, D. C. March 17, 1972. Ludwig Heinrich Heydenreich, one of the leading contemporary authorities on Leonardo da Vinci, will deliver the 21st annual Andrew W. Mellon Lectures in the Fine Arts, at the National Gallery of Art beginning Sunday, April 2.

The National Gallery of Art has the only accepted Leonardo painting in the Western Hemisphere. The painting is a portrait of Ginevra de' Benci, who was the daughter of a wealthy 16th-century Florentine merchant. It was acquired in 1967 from the collection of the Prince of Liechtenstein.

Professor Heydenreich's Mellon Lectures on the subject of Leonardo's extraordinary genius parallel a revival of broad interest in Leonardo, his ideas and inventions.

For the first time, the lecture series will bring together chronologically a large body of known facts about the artist's life and works as well as other recently uncovered material. Included, for instance, will be an exposition of the renowned Madrid manuscripts which attracted wide public (and press) attention when they were discovered in 1967.

The lectures will be given on six consecutive Sundays, beginning April 2, at 4:00 p.m. in the National Gallery Auditorium. There will be no admission charge. The Mellon Lectures were launched in 1952 through grants from the Avalon and Old Dominion Foundations.

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Their purpose is to bring to the people of the United States the best contemporary thought and scholarship bearing upon the subject of the arts. The lectures will be published in due course by the Princeton University Press.

Professor Heydenreich, who lives in Munich, is presently residing in Princeton, New Jersey, where he is, as he was also in 1961, a temporary member of the Institute for Advanced Study. He was director of the Institute for History of Art in Florence from 1943 to 1945 and head of the Zentralinstitut für Kunstgeschichte in Munich, from which he retired in 1970 after nearly twenty-five years as director. Now he hopes to devote his time to updating his justly famous monograph on Leonardo, first published in 1944 (second edition 1953).

Born in Leipzig, Germany, in 1903, Heydenreich was the student of Erwin Panofsky and Aby Warburg at the University of Hamburg. Although his study of Leonardo has been comprehensive, he maintains a particular interest in the artist's theories and treatises on architecture as this was the subject of his doctoral dissertation which he delivered in 1928.

In addition to being the author of numerous articles, he has given generously of his time and knowledge to American scholarship. In 1970 he was a visiting professor at the Institute of Fine Arts of New York University (New York City); in 1968, along with Sir Kenneth Clark and other leading Leonardo scholars, he was active in an international symposium in Los Angeles at the Center for Leonardo Studies at the Elmer Belt Library. In 1948 he was a visiting professor at Washington University, St. Louis, Missouri.

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NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Ludwig H. Heyden, the National Gallery of Art's 1972
Andrew W. Mellon Curator in the Fine Arts and one of the
world's leading authorities on Leonardo da Vinci. Prof.
Heydenreich is in the galleries with Andrea del
Verrocchio's Alcibiades the Great. His lectures on Leonardo
will be held at National Gallery on six consecutive
Sundays starting 2.

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