

SIXTH STREET AT CONSTITUTION AVENUE NW WASHINGTON DC 20565 • 737-4215 extension 224

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EXHIBITION OF OLD MASTER DRAWINGS FROM OXFORD
PREMIERS AT NATIONAL GALLERY IN FIRST LOAN ABROAD

WASHINGTON, D.C. September 1, 1972. An extraordinary selection of 118 drawings from Christ Church by masters of the 15th, 16th, and 17th centuries will begin a five-city tour at the National Gallery of Art on September 16. The drawings, including works by Leonardo, Michelangelo, Dürer, and Rembrandt, have been lent by the Governing Body of Christ Church College, Oxford University, which holds one of the finest old master drawing collections in Britain. The drawings will remain on view at the National Gallery through October 22.

The Christ Church drawings have been seen in public exhibitions only three times since 1878 and are being lent abroad for the first time. The earliest work is a beautiful 14th-century French drawing, "Archer with His Bow", by an anonymous artist. There is a particularly strong showing of works from the 15th and 16th century Florentine school, as well as Bolognese and Roman drawings of the 17th century. Major North European schools are also well represented. A number of the drawings have been re-attributed in recent years as a result of new information and technical investigation.

The Christ Church collection was formed in 1765 largely through the bequest of General John Guise who took his degree at Christ Church. General Guise was an early collector of old

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master drawings, which he acquired in off duty hours. Much of his searching was done with a fellow soldier, the future 2nd Duke of Devonshire, who helped to establish the high standard of the Chatsworth drawing collection, parts of which have been shown at the National Gallery in two earlier exhibitions.

The drawings for the American tour were selected by James Byam Shaw, Lecturer at Christ Church.

The exhibition will be circulated by the International Exhibitions Foundation, supported by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, and will be seen later at the Philadelphia Museum of Art, the Pierpont Morgan Library in New York, the Cleveland Museum of Art and the Art Institute of Chicago.

CHRIST CHURCH CATALOG AND LECTURES

A fully-illustrated catalog with foreword and entries by James Byam Shaw, Lecturer at Christ Church and a noted authority in the field of old master drawings, accompanies the exhibition. Lectures on topics associated with the exhibition will be given by John Christian, the Assistant Curator of Pictures at Christ Church (September 17, 4:00p.m.), by Nancy W. Neilson, Associate Curator, the City Art Museum of St. Louis and a former National Gallery Finley Fellow (1966-1969) (September 24, 4:00p.m.), and by Christopher White, Curator of Graphic Arts, the National Gallery of Art (October 1, 4:00p.m.).

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FACT SHEET

Old Master Drawings from Christ Church, Oxford

International Loan Exhibition at
National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.
September 16 through October 22, 1972

Contents: For the first time, 118 old master drawings from one of the world's finest drawings collections will be lent abroad. By consent of the Governing Body of Christ Church College, Oxford, England, magnificent examples by Bellini, Carpaccio, Leonardo da Vinci, Pontormo, Sodoma, Titian, Michelangelo, Verrocchio, Zuccaro, Claude, Dürer, Hugo van der Goes, Holbein, Rembrandt, Van Dyck, Rubens, and other major artists of the 15th through 17th centuries will be seen in the United States through 1972 and into 1973.

Exhibition dates: Sponsored by the Ambassador of Great Britain, the exhibition will open first (September 16) at the National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C. Organized by the International Exhibitions Foundation, it will then be seen at: Philadelphia Museum of Art (November 4 through December 17); Pierpont Morgan Library, New York (January 8 through February 17, 1973); Cleveland Museum of Art (March 6 through April 8, 1973); Chicago Art Institute (April 20 through May 20, 1973).

Catalog: A fully-illustrated catalog, with foreword and entries by James Byam Shaw, research curator at Christ Church and a widely-published authority on old master drawings, will accompany the exhibition. Copies of the catalog galleys are available now, on request, for the convenience of writers with early deadlines.

Lectures in Washington: A free public lecture by Mr. Byam Shaw will be held on the opening day of the exhibition (Sunday, September 16) at 4:00 p.m. in the National Gallery auditorium. Other free lectures by Gallery staff will be held throughout September and October. (Lecturers and subjects to be announced later.)

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For further information contact Katherine Warwick, Assistant to the Director, National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C. 20565. Area code 202, 737-4215, ext. 225.