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### OLD MASTER DRAWINGS ARE INCLUDED IN NATIONAL GALLERY'S RECENT ACQUISITIONS

Four major old master drawings recently acquired by the National Gallery of Art will be included in the Gallery's exhibition, Recent Acquisitions and Promised Gifts: Sculpture, Drawings and Prints, on view from June 2 through September 1.

More than 150 drawings were acquired between 1971 and 1973 with the advice of Konrad Oberhuber, Senior Research Curator at the Gallery and former Curator of Drawings, in a concentrated effort to strengthen the Gallery's drawing collection.

The four major drawings by fifteenth and sixteenth century masters are An Oriental Ruler Seated on His Throne by Albrecht Dürer, Landscape with the Penitence of Saint Jerome by Pieter Bruegel the Elder, and Saint Michael and the Devil by Giulio Romano, all acquired through the Ailsa Mellon Bruce Fund; also by Giulio Romano, A River God, acquired through the Richard King Mellon Charitable Trusts.

The Dürer Oriental Ruler Seated on His Throne was discovered by Christopher White, former Curator of Prints, and it is rare, both as an example of the master's early period and as a work of outstanding quality and grandeur. This drawing, in pen and black ink, was executed in Venice in 1494/5 and depicts the ruler in an elaborate robe seated on a canopied throne and gazing intently at the viewer. An old bearded man, the monarch holds the symbol of his royal power--the orb--and rests his left hand on a large gem-studded sword. The

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elaborate details of his jewelry and the delicately executed embroidery patterns of his robe are evidence of Venetian influence on Dürer.

The Landscape with the Penitence of Saint Jerome, a key to the attribution of other Bruegel drawings, was executed in Italy. It is signed and dated 1553. The presence of the small figure of Saint Jerome and his lion indicates that the drawing is a carefully composed landscape, not a study from nature. The magnificent large tree in the left foreground is characteristic of Bruegel's early landscapes when he was influenced by the Venetian style, especially that of Titian. Bruegel's subsequent landscapes differ from this one in their pre-occupation with grand Alpine scenery.

The Gallery's new drawing acquisitions also include two fine drawings by Giulio Romano, A River God and Saint Michael and the Devil, both dated about 1528. The provenance of these drawings includes the prestigious collections of the artist Sir Thomas Lawrence and of the Earl of Ellesmere. In the Saint Michael and the Devil free calligraphic swirls at the same time define the volume of the two figures and the intensity of movement and emotion that characterize Saint Michael as he thrusts his sword into the neck of the gasping devil figure. The rapidly executed drawing of A River God is made with the same energetic lines imparting a sense of movement to the figure. This drawing was a preparatory sketch for the fresco The Marriage Feast of Cupid and Psyche in the Palazzo del Te at Mantua, which was executed by Giulio's assistants after the master's designs.

A major catalog of all the Gallery's acquisitions of sculpture, drawing and prints from 1971 until the Spring of 1974 will be available for the exhibition.

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION or photographs contact Katherine Warwick, Assistant to the Director, or Pamela Jenkinson, Information Office, National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C. 20565, area code 202, 737-4215, rcy. 224.