

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

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EMINENT DRAWINGS SCHOLAR APPOINTED

1977-78 GALLERY KRESS PROFESSOR

WASHINGTON, D. C. December 7, 1977. Agnes Mongan, former Director and Curator Emeritus of Drawings at Harvard University's Fogg Art Museum, has been named the National Gallery of Art's Samuel H. Kress Professor in Residence for the academic year 1977-78. At Harvard, Miss Mongan also held the chair of Martin A. Ryerson Lecturer in the Fine Arts from 1960 to 1975.

Miss Mongan is a distinguished art historian particularly well known and respected for her work on drawings of both old and modern European and American draftsmen, especially those by French masters of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries such as Fragonard, Watteau, Ingres, Daumier and Degas. At present, she is preparing a catalogue of the Fogg's early nineteenth-century French drawings.

In March, Miss Mongan will deliver a lecture at the National Gallery on Venice. Miss Mongan began her academic studies in fifteenth-century Italian sculpture and painting. Her interest evolved into the study of Florentine drawings and from them into eighteenth- and nineteenth-century drawings, which became her academic speciality. She has just recently been elected to the scholarly and fund-raising boards of I Tatti, Bernard Berenson's Italian study and library in Florence now under the auspices of Harvard.

Miss Mongan became the Fogg's Director in 1969. From 1947 to 1975, she was Curator of Drawings. Beginning her career in 1929 as a research assistant in the drawings department at the Fogg, she subsequently catalogued the renowned

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drawings collection of Paul J. Sachs, and with him, in 1940, published the three-volume Drawings in the Fogg Museum of Art.

Miss Mongan received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Bryn Mawr in 1927. After a year of study abroad, she entered the Harvard Graduate School for a year as a special student, then joined the staff of the Fogg. She received her Master of Arts degree from Smith College in 1929. She has also received an honorary L.H.D. from Smith in 1941, an honorary Litt. D. from Wheaton College in 1954, and honorary Doctorates of Fine Arts from the University of Massachusetts in 1970, from LaSalle College in 1973 and Colby College in 1973. In addition, she has received European recognition in France with the Palms d'Académie in 1949 and Italy's Cavaliere Ufficiale in 1971.

Her numerous writings include the text for the third volume devoted to French drawings of the four-volume definitive study Great Drawings of All Times, published in 1962.

Miss Mongan served as chairman of the selection committee for the major exhibition French Drawings from American Collections: From Clouet to Matisse, held in 1958 and shown in America and Europe. She also accompanied the exhibition as curator when it was shown in Rotterdam and Paris.

Other exhibitions she has organized in the drawings field include Andrew Wyeth: Dry Brush and Pencil Drawings, for which she wrote the exhibition catalogue (1963); the memorial exhibition of the Paul J. Sachs collection (1966); the Ingres centennial exhibition (1967); the collection of David Daniels (1968); the bicentennial exhibition of the drawings of Tiepolo (1970); the memorial exhibition of watercolors and drawings of Benjamin Rowland, Jr. (1973); and Harvard Honors Lafayette (1975), one of Harvard's three U. S. Bicentennial exhibitions.

Miss Mongan is currently at work on several writing projects and actively advising graduate students in art history at the University of Louisville, Kentucky, and the University of Texas at Austin, where she served as visiting professor before coming to the National Gallery. She was the Bingham Professor at the University of Louisville in 1976 and the Kreeger-Wolf Distinguished Professor at Northwestern University in 1976.

Miss Mongan has lectured throughout the country, giving the Amy Sacker Memorial lectures at Mt. Holyoke College in 1966-67 and the Baldwin Seminar lecture series at Oberlin College in 1966, among others. She also participated in the International Congress for Tiepolo Studies at Udine, Italy in the fall of 1970.

In 1954, as a guest of the Brazilian government, Miss Mongan lectured in Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo on Italian, German and French drawings and advised museums there on the conservation of their works on paper.

Miss Mongan was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship for a six-months leave of absence from Harvard in 1950 to be Art Historian in Residence at the American Academy in Rome.

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