

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MELLON, STEVENSON ELECTED BOARD CHAIRMAN
AND PRESIDENT OF NATIONAL GALLERY

WASHINGTON, D. C. May 3, 1979. The Trustees of the National Gallery of Art at their regularly scheduled annual meeting today (May 3) elected Paul Mellon as Chairman of the Board, John R. Stevenson as President of the Gallery and Carlisle H. Humelsine as Vice-president. Mrs. Ruth Carter Johnson of Fort Worth, Texas, was elected a new Trustee, and Franklin D. Murphy was re-elected to a ten-year term.

Chief Justice of the United States Warren E. Burger has asked to be relieved of his responsibilities as Chairman of the Board in which capacity he has served since 1969, but will continue as an ex officio Trustee.

John Hay Whitney, Vice-president since 1963, has retired from the Board.

Mr. Mellon, who is the son of the Gallery's Founder, Andrew W. Mellon, has been President of the Gallery since 1963. He first joined the Board in 1938 but resigned the following year for military service. He was re-elected to the Board in 1945.

Mr. Stevenson, member of the international law firm of Sullivan & Cromwell, became a member of the Board in September 1975.

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Mr. Humelsine, chairman of the board of the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, was elected to the Board in March 1974.

Dr. Murphy, chairman of the board and chief executive officer of the Times-Mirror Corporation, Los Angeles, joined the Board in 1964.

Mrs. Johnson has been national chairman of the Gallery's Collectors Committee since its formation in October 1975. This committee, made up of more than 150 art patrons throughout the country, was created to enable the National Gallery to acquire particular works of art for its very recently opened East Building. She is the founder and president of the Amon Carter Museum of Western Art and has served for many years on the International Council of the Museum of Modern Art.

Mr. Whitney, a life-long connoisseur and art collector, announced his retirement from the National Gallery's Board this past January. He has been a member of each of the three standing committees of the Board from the outset of his service in 1961. In addition, he has served, from its inception in January 1970, on the Building Committee, which was responsible for the planning, design and construction of the East Building.

At their meeting, the Board praised Mr. Whitney's notable service as Ambassador to the Court of St. James's, as a publisher of great newspapers on two continents, as a public servant of high distinction and a most generous and effective philanthropist.

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To the National Gallery in particular, they noted, he brought wise counsel and sound advice on the investment and management of the funds entrusted to the Board and a perceptive eye and awareness of what was best suited to add depth and lustre to the Gallery's collections.

The Board of Trustees of the Gallery is limited by Congressional statute to nine members, four of whom are ex officio, the Chief Justice, the Secretary of State, the Secretary of the Treasury, and the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution. The five general trustees, who may not be officers of the Government, are Mr. Mellon, Mr. Stevenson, Mr. Humelsine, Dr. Murphy, and Mrs. Johnson.

The following is biographical information on the new Chairman, President, Vice-president, Dr. Murphy and Mrs. Johnson:

PAUL MELLON--Mr. Mellon was born in Pittsburgh in 1907. He graduated from Yale in 1929 and from Cambridge (Eng.) University in 1931. He is an Honorary Knight Commander of the Order of the British Empire. In 1977 the Yale Center for British Art was opened under his patronage, housing the gift of his collection of British paintings, watercolors, prints and drawings, and rare books, one of the finest holdings of its kind in the world. The National Gallery's East Building, which opened last June, was constructed with funds donated by Mr. Mellon, his sister Ailsa Mellon Bruce, and The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. In addition to serving on all three standing committees of the Board, he

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has served as chairman of the Building Committee, which was responsible for the planning, design and construction of the East Building.

JOHN R. STEVENSON--Mr. Stevenson was born in Chicago in 1921. He graduated from Princeton University in 1942 and from Columbia Law School in 1949, where he was Editor-in-Chief of the Columbia Law Review. Alternating a distinguished public service record with private practice, he has been The Legal Adviser to the Department of State (1969-1972) and U.S. Ambassador leading the U.S. Delegation to the Law of the Sea Conference (1973-1975). He is also a trustee of The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and a director of the Bank of New York.

CARLISLE H. HUMELSINE--Mr. Humelsine was born in Hagerstown, Maryland, in 1915 and he graduated from the University of Maryland in 1937. He is chairman of the board of The National Trust for Historic Preservation, a former president of the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, a trustee of The National Geographic Society, The Mariners Museum, and the Sleepy Hollow Restoration. Prior to joining Colonial Williamsburg in 1953, he had served as deputy under-secretary and assistant secretary of state in the State Department.

FRANKLIN D. MURPHY--Dr. Murphy was born in Kansas City, Missouri, in 1916. He graduated from the University of Kansas in 1936 and received his M.D. from the University of Pennsylvania

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in 1941. Following a period of teaching (in medicine), he became chancellor of the University of Kansas (1951-1960) and subsequently chancellor of the University of California at Los Angeles (1960-1968) prior to becoming chairman of the Times-Mirror Corporation. He is also a director of several major corporations and president of the Kress Foundation.

RUTH CARTER JOHNSON--Mrs. Johnson was born in Fort Worth in 1923. She graduated from Sarah Lawrence College in 1945. She has been chairman of the board of the Amon Carter Museum since 1961. She was vice-president of the International Council of the Museum of Modern Art from 1965 to 1972 and has also served on the boards of the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the University of Texas and the commission of the National Collection of Fine Arts of the Smithsonian Institution. She is presently a trustee of Texas Christian University.

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