

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

NEWS RELEASE

FOURTH STREET AT CONSTITUTION AVENUE NW WASHINGTON DC 20565 • 737-4215/842-6353

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ANDREW W. MELLON FILM NOW AVAILABLE THROUGH
NATIONAL GALLERY'S DEPARTMENT OF EXTENSION PROGRAMS

WASHINGTON, D. C. April 28, 1983. Andrew W. Mellon, founder of the National Gallery of Art, is portrayed in The Quiet Collector, a thirty-minute "docudrama" about the formation of his extraordinary collection of paintings and sculpture and Mr. Mellon's commitment to build an art gallery for the nation. Andrew Mellon's taste and his determination to acquire only the finest paintings and sculpture resulted in an impressive nucleus of masterpieces around which the Gallery's collection was formed.

Made possible by a generous grant from Conoco, Inc., the film was produced by Byron H. McKinney, written and directed by DeWitt Sage, Jr., and is a production of Francis Thompson, Inc. An hour-long version, Legacy: Andrew W. Mellon Remembered, also funded by Conoco, Inc., and produced by the same firm, premiered at the Gallery on April 13, 1982. The project was initiated by Conoco, who, with Francis Thompson Inc., produced the popular To Fly at the National Air and Space Museum across the Mall from the Gallery.

Mellon's discriminating eye brought together outstanding works of art spanning seven centuries, ranging from a thirteenth-century madonna to a nineteenth-century Turner landscape. In 1930-1931 he obtained 21 works from the

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Hermitage Gallery in Leningrad -- arguably the greatest collecting coup of the twentieth-century. Among the works from the Hermitage are Raphael's St. George and the Dragon and the Alba Madonna, Botticelli's Adoration of the Magi, Perugino's Crucifixion with Saints, Titian's Venus with a Mirror, Veronese's Finding of Moses, van Eyck's Annunciation, Velazquez's Study of Innocent X, and numerous works by van Dyck, Frans Hals and Rembrandt. Also among his acquisitions is the well-known painting by Goya, The Marquesa de Pontejos.

The Quiet Collector will be available on loan free of charge in both film (16 mm.) and videocassette (three-quarter inch) form through the Gallery's Department of Extension Programs.

In the past year, some forty-eight million people have viewed color slide programs, films, and videocassettes based on Gallery collections and special exhibitions through the Gallery's Extension Service. By distributing materials to schools, libraries, and other community organizations, the resources of the National Gallery are made available each year to all 50 states and to borrowers around the world.

Both the hour and half-hour versions of the Andrew Mellon film are being shown regularly in the auditorium of the Gallery's East Building. For additional information about the viewing schedule, please call 202-737-4215.

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION please contact Katherine Warwick, Assistant to the Director, (Information Officer) or Carolyn Amiot, Information Office, National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C. 20565, (202) 842-6353.