

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

NEWS RELEASE

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DISTINGUISHED CANADIAN ART HISTORIAN
NAMED KRESS PROFESSOR AT NATIONAL GALLERY

WASHINGTON, D.C. August 2, 1983. Philippe M. Verdier, a noted authority on European medieval and Renaissance art, has been appointed Kress Professor at the National Gallery of Art for 1983-1984.

Professor Verdier is currently Professor Emeritus at the Université de Montreal, where he has been a member of the faculty since 1965. He is the author of numerous studies, including Le Couronnement de la Vierge (1980), Limoges Painted Enamels: Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries (1977), The Painted Enamels of the Renaissance (1967), Russian Art (1959), and L'art religieux (1956; 2nd edition, 1957). His many articles in professional journals range in subject matter from medieval and Renaissance art, history, architecture and decorative arts to modern figures such as Delacroix, Chagall, Gauguin, Toynbee, and Hugo.

During his tenure as Kress Professor, Professor Verdier will be working on a study of Abbot Suger of St.-Denis. Specifically, he will investigate the sources of Abbot Suger's ideas as reflected in his patronage of art and architecture.

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Professor Verdier was born in Lambersart, France in 1912; he became a Canadian citizen in 1973. He holds degrees from the Sorbonne and the Ecole Normale Superieure in Paris. From 1953 to 1965, he was Curator of Sculpture and Decorative Arts at the Walters Art Gallery in Baltimore. He has held Visiting Professorships at Bryn Mawr College, Yale University, The Johns Hopkins University, University of Poitiers, and Harvard University, and served as a consultant to the Museum of Art, Carnegie Institute and the Cleveland Museum of Art. He joined the faculty of the Université de Montreal as Director of the Department of Art History in 1965, and was named Professor Emeritus there in 1979.

He has received fellowships from Yale University, the Institute for Advanced Studies at Princeton University, the Arts Council of Canada, the Government of Canada, the American Philosophical Society, and the Humanities Council of Canada. Professor Verdier has been a member of the Commission des Programmes Universitaires de Quebec (1973-1974), and is currently a member of the International Center of Medieval Art, the Legion of Honor, and the Royal Society of Canada.

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