

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR RELEASE:
MONDAY, JANUARY 23, 1984
9 a.m.

MAJOR DRAWINGS COLLECTION ACQUIRED BY NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

WASHINGTON, D.C. January 23, 1984. The National Gallery of Art today announced the acquisition, by donation and purchase, of a major collection of 202 old master and modern drawings formed by the distinguished art historian Julius S. Held and Mrs. Held. J. Carter Brown, Director of the National Gallery, made the announcement on the occasion of the installation of a selection of twenty-six of the drawings in the West Building Print and Drawing Galleries.

One hundred drawings have been or will be donated to the National Gallery over the next few years by Professor and Mrs. Held. The remaining one hundred and two have been purchased through the Ailsa Mellon Bruce, Avalon, and other purchase funds.

The Held Collection surveys European and American drawings from the sixteenth through the twentieth centuries. It strengthens the National Gallery collection in general as well as in the special areas of Professor Held's scholarly interest, seventeenth-century Flemish and Dutch art. Further, the collection adds many fine works in areas virtually unrepresented in the Gallery, for example, classical French baroque drawings, nineteenth-century German drawings including almost all the important Nazarenes as well as the landscapists and romantics, and drawings by English pre-Raphaelites and academics.

Highlights now on view include a rare wash drawing by Thomas Eakins, The Poleman in the Ma'sh; Guercino's Angel of the Annunciation; It is Good Candles

Which Light the Way, a drawing by the seventeenth-century artist Jacob Jordaens based on a Flemish proverb; The Disobedient Prophet (1793) by Benjamin West; Giovanni Battista Tiepolo's caricature of A Venetian Lawyer at His Desk; and works by Jean-Baptiste Millet, Charles Le Brun, Laurent de la Hire, Joseph Heintz, Peter Cornelius, and Laura-Thérèse Alma-Tadema.

Other drawings in the Held Collection include works by Rubens, van Dyck, Cropsey, Sargent, Pechstein, and Schiele, as well as an album of thirty-eight sketches made on his trip to Rome by Hubert Robert. They are all available for viewing by appointment in the Gallery's Print Room, Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 12 noon and 2 to 4 p.m.

Professor Held was born in Mosbach, Germany in 1905. He studied at the Universities of Heidelberg, Berlin and Vienna, and received his Ph.D. from the University of Freiburg in 1930. He fled Nazi Germany for the United States in 1934 and became an American citizen in 1940. His books include Rubens in America (with Jan-Albert Goris, 1947); Rubens, Selected Drawings (2 vols., 1959); Rembrandt's Aristotle and Other Rembrandt Studies (1969); 17th and 18th Century Art, Baroque Painting, Sculpture, Architecture (with Donald Posner, 1972); The Oil Sketches of Peter Paul Rubens (2 vols., 1980); and Rubens and His Circle (1982). Mrs. Held, the former Ingrid-Marta Nordin-Pettersson, is a distinguished conservator.

The newly acquired drawings were selected for the National Gallery by Andrew Robison, Curator of Prints and Drawings and Senior Curator at the Gallery.

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