

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

NEWS RELEASE

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

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MAJOR PUBLICATION TO ACCOMPANY
TREASURE HOUSES OF BRITAIN EXHIBITION

WASHINGTON, D.C. June 21, 1984. The Treasure Houses of Britain: Five Hundred Years of Private Patronage and Art Collecting, opening in the National Gallery of Art's East Building November 3, 1985, will be the largest and most ambitious exhibition ever undertaken by the National Gallery. The catalogue accompanying the exhibition will be a major publication with essays by leading experts on different aspects of life and possessions in the British country house.

The catalogue will illuminate the historical importance, evolution, and role of country houses in Britain and provide, as well, a complete overview of British art collecting.

Edited by Gervase Jackson-Stops, curator of the exhibition, the catalogue will contain an introductory essay entitled "The Country House as a Work of Art" by J. Carter Brown, Director of the National Gallery. Mr. Jackson-Stops in his essay "Temples of the Arts" will explore the personalities behind the country houses, in particular the relationships between owners, architects, and craftsmen.

Mark Girouard, author of Life in the British Country House, will describe the economic background of the country house, its political importance and the machinery that supported it "Behind the green baize door."

(MORE)

Other contributors will include John Cornforth ("The Backward Look," heritage and tradition as continuing themes in the country house); Sir Oliver Millar ("Portraiture in the Country House"); Sir Brinsley Ford ("The Country House and the Grand Tour"); and Professor Francis Haskell ("The British as Collectors").

Individual entries on objects in the exhibition will be prepared in consultation with members of the Advisory Committee, composed of leading scholars in the various fields represented. They include:

Sir Geoffrey Agnew	Paintings
Michael Archer	Delft and other ceramics
Dr. Charles Avery	Sculpture
Nicholas Barker	Books and documents
Anna Somers Cocks	Metalwork
John Cornforth	Interior decoration/ textiles
Geoffrey de Bellaigue	Sèvres and Meissen, French furniture
Sir Brinsley Ford	Grand Tour
Mark Girouard	Architecture and social history
Sir Nicholas Goodison	Ormolu
John Hardy	English furniture and clocks
St. John Gore	National Trust pictures
Donald King	Tapestries
David Learmont	National Trust for Scotland
John Mallet	English and other ceramics
Sir Oliver Millar	17th century portraits
John Nevinson	16th century textiles
A.V.B. Norman	Amour
Nicholas Penny	Sculpture
Anthony Radcliffe	Sculpture
Graham Reynolds	Miniatures
Francis Russell	Other paintings
John Walker	Paintings
Sir Ellis Waterhouse	18th century portraits
Sir Francis Watson	French furniture

END

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION or photographs contact Anne Hartzell (Deputy Information Officer), or Ellen Stanley, Information Office, National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C. 20565 (202) 842-6353.