

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PAUL MELLON NAMED GALLERY'S FIRST HONORARY TRUSTEE AND RECEIVES FIRST ANDREW W. MELLON MEDAL ON BOARD RETIREMENT

WASHINGTON, D. C. May 3, 1985. The Board of Trustees of the National Gallery of Art today elected Paul Mellon an Honorary Trustee of the Gallery for life. This marks the first time that the Board of Trustees has so designated a former trustee. In further recognition of Mr. Mellon's immeasurable achievements, the Board has caused to be struck a new medal in the name of the Gallery's founder, Andrew W. Mellon. Paul Mellon becomes the first recipient of this new medal.

Mr. Mellon, Chairman of the Gallery's Board, today announced his intention to retire from the Board. His service to the National Gallery of Art spans nearly fifty years -- as President from 1938 to 1939, Vice-President from 1961 to 1962, President again from 1963 to 1979, and Chairman of the Board of Trustees from 1979.

In expressing the sentiments of the Trustees, John R. Stevenson, President of the National Gallery of Art, commended "Mr. Mellon's wise, able, and dedicated guidance of the artistic and administrative affairs of the Gallery, his sound and constructive counsel as a Trustee and officer, and his unparalleled generosity to the Nation, exemplified by his many gifts of great works of art and of funds for the Gallery's development, artistically, intellectually, and physically, including his

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decisive role in the creation of the East Building of the National Gallery of Art, and in the restructuring of the West Building; and, in addition, his intangible but munificent investment of energy, time, and wisdom."

Paul Mellon is the recipient of numerous other highly distinguished awards, the most recent being the new National Medal of Arts, presented to him and eleven other recipients on April 23, 1985 by President and Mrs. Reagan for distinguished contributions to American culture.

The obverse of The Andrew W. Mellon Medal, which is cast in bronze and measures 2½", has been created by the distinguished sculptor, Walker Hancock. The medal bears a profile portrait of Andrew W. Mellon, based on the larger marble portrait relief of Andrew Mellon done by Mr. Hancock for the Constitution Avenue lobby of the National Gallery's West Building.

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