

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BOARD ELECTS NEW CHAIRMAN, TRUSTEE, TRUSTEES' COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

PRESIDENT ANNOUNCES MELLON RETIREMENT FROM BOARD

WASHINGTON, D.C. May 3, 1985. Following a regularly scheduled Board of Trustees meeting today, John R. Stevenson, President of the National Gallery of Art, announced that Paul Mellon, Chairman of the Gallery's Board since 1979 and son of Andrew W. Mellon, the Gallery's founder, has decided to retire from the Gallery's Board. Succeeding Mr. Mellon as Chairman is Dr. Franklin D. Murphy of Los Angeles, and, as a Trustee, Robert H. Smith of Washington. Mr. Smith, who has been chairman of the Trustees' Council since its formation in 1982, is succeeded in that position by the Council's vice-chairman, Alexander M. Laughlin of New York.

Mr. Stevenson also announced that the Patrons' Permanent Fund campaign, launched by Mr. Mellon and himself as campaign chairman, had by today raised more than \$50 million, the income from which will be used solely for the purchase of works of art. This campaign concludes at the end of this year.

"Paul Mellon has given nearly fifty years of almost continuous, active leadership to this national institution as a Trustee, President of the Gallery and Chairman of the Board of Trustees, an unparalleled example of service," Mr. Stevenson added. Mr. Mellon, who will be seventy-eight in June, was first elected a Trustee in 1938. He resigned the following year

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for military service in World War II. He was re-elected to the Board in 1945.

Franklin D. Murphy, who has been a Trustee of the Gallery since 1964, is chairman of the Samuel H. Kress Foundation, New York. He was chairman and chief executive officer of the Times Mirror Company, Los Angeles, from 1968 to 1981 and has been chairman of its executive committee since 1981. He is a trustee of the Ahmanson Foundation, the J. Paul Getty Trust and the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. He is a former chancellor of the University of California, Los Angeles.

Robert H. Smith is a distinguished collector of European paintings, drawings and sculpture. He is a long-time resident of the Washington area and has been affiliated for the past thirty-five years with The Charles E. Smith Companies, a Washington metropolitan real estate development and management firm. He is currently president of Charles E. Smith Construction, Inc. He has been actively involved in the Patrons' Permanent Fund and will continue to serve as a member of its campaign committee until the end of this year when the campaign will close.

Alexander M. Laughlin, associate director of Tucker, Anthony & R. L. Day, Inc., New York, was one of the earliest members of the Trustees' Council. He is also a trustee of the Helen Keller Foundation, Brooks School in Andover, Massachusetts, and the Laughlin Memorial Library, Ambridge, Pennsylvania.

Dr. Murphy was dean of the School of Medicine of the University of Kansas from 1948 to 1951 and chancellor of the university from 1951 to 1960. In 1960, he became chancellor of the University of California, Los Angeles, a position he held until 1968, when he became chairman of the Times Mirror Company.

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Mr. Smith is a director and member of the executive committee of The Riggs Holding Company, Washington; trustee of the International Exhibitions Foundation; trustee of George Washington University; on the board of directors of the National Realty Committee; life member and past president of the Greater Washington Jewish Community Foundation; chairman, board of governors, State of Israel Bonds, Washington; and chairman of the board of governors of The Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

Mr. Mellon served as the Gallery's first President, 1938 to 1939, and was again elected President of the Gallery in 1963. In that office between 1968 and 1978 he guided the Board of Trustees, the Gallery's executive officers and the architect through the design and construction of the Gallery's highly acclaimed East Building. In 1979, he was elected Chairman of the Board. In 1983, he gave the National Gallery fifty paintings, twenty-four sculptures and nineteen prints and drawings by nineteenth- and twentieth-century European and American artists collected by himself and Mrs. Mellon over thirty years.

On April 23, 1985, Mr. Mellon was named one of the first recipients of the new National Medal of Arts, established by President and Mrs. Reagan for distinguished contributions to American culture.

Mr. Mellon has collected widely in all fields of English art - prints, drawings, sculpture as well as books and paintings, the latter group including portraits, conversation pieces, landscapes, seascapes and history paintings. Mr. and Mrs. Mellon also collect European paintings and drawings, mainly of the Impressionist and Post-Impressionist schools. One of Mr. Mellon's earliest gifts of a work of art to the National Gallery was the portrait of The Artist's Father by Cézanne, which entered the collections in 1970.

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He is a trustee of The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation of New York, which he established in his father's name in 1969 by merging the Old Dominion Foundation, of which he was founder in 1941, and the Avalon Foundation, founded by his sister Ailsa Mellon Bruce. The Mellon Foundation has been particularly active in supporting the humanities and higher education, the arts and medical research. In 1945, Mr. Mellon and his first wife founded Bollingen Foundation, which has also been active in the advancement and preservation of learning in the humanities, largely by assistance to the individual scholar through support of research and publication.

Mr. Mellon maintains a large horse farm in Virginia, where he has bred (and subsequently raced) such top horses as Arts and Letters, Horse of the Year in 1969 and winner of the Belmont, the Travers, the Jockey Club Gold Cup and many other stakes; Fort Marcy, twice winner of the Washington International and Horse of the Year in 1970; and Mill Reef, the 1971 winner of the English Derby and the French Arc de Triomphe, becoming Horse of the Year in England.

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