

[1984/1985]



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FROM THE AMBASSADOR

THE TREASURE HOUSES OF BRITAIN exhibition is a magnificent example of what the British and Americans can achieve together. Since the British Council first discussed with the Director of the National Gallery of Art the idea of a major exhibition to celebrate Britain's artistic heritage, the commitment, energy and imagination displayed by all those involved has been impressive.

On the American side, Carter Brown and his staff at the National Gallery of Art have been indefatigable in the pursuit of excellence in content, design and organisation. We are fortunate that they have been so splendidly backed by the fine generosity of the Ford Motor Company.

In Britain the expertise and dedication of the exhibition's guest curator Gervase Jackson-Stops, has met with unstinting generosity and help from the private owners of some of the world's greatest art treasures and from the organisations which do so much to ensure a future for the past - The National Trust, the Historic Houses Association, and, in a different way, The British Tourist Authority.

As a sponsor of the exhibition The British Council's Fine Arts Department has provided staff, premises and its experience of exhibition coordination as well as a substantial financial contribution to the cost of shipping the largest ever collection of its kind from London to Washington. Many other people have given their time freely to serve on committees and provide ideas and advice.

/The result



The result of this collaboration will be a celebration of five hundred years of history, culture, civilisation, power, taste and influence such as we might never otherwise have seen for ourselves in such a comprehensive and significant form. It is a common heritage which we are proud to share.

The patronage of TRH The Prince and Princess of Wales is a compliment to all those who have worked so hard to make this exhibition a reality. Their presence in Washington in November will add a further sense of occasion to what promises to be an unforgettable cultural event.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to be 'O. Howard', is written over a diagonal line. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'O'.