

# NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

NEWS RELEASE

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GEORGE KUBLER APPOINTED  
NATIONAL GALLERY KRESS PROFESSOR FOR 1985-1986

WASHINGTON, D.C. October 8, 1985. George Alexander Kubler, a distinguished historian of the art of Latin America's Pre-Columbian and colonial cultures, has been appointed Samuel H. Kress Professor at the National Gallery of Art for the academic year 1985-1986.

The Kress Professorship, a position created by the Gallery in 1965, is awarded annually by the National Gallery of Art and its Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts (CASVA).

Professor Kubler, who is currently Senior Research Scholar at Yale University where he has spent his academic career, joined the university's faculty in 1938, becoming Professor of the History of Art in 1947. His many contributions to the field include writings on the art of Mexico, Central and South America and the art of the colonial powers Spain and Portugal.

During his tenure at the Gallery, Professor Kubler will continue work on a major publication devoted to the aesthetic recognition of ancient American art, a recognition which became general in North America and Europe only after 1950. Professor Kubler's historiographic study will focus on a variety of areas including aesthetic and art historical interpretations of Amerindian antiquity from the Discovery to 1840. He will also consider the limited sensitivity to the aesthetic experience of this art on the part of archaeologists and historians since the 1840s and the future of such assessments in relation to twentieth-century aesthetic systems.

(MORE)

Among Professor Kubler's many published works are Religious Architecture of New Mexico (1940); Mexican Architecture of the Sixteenth Century (1948); Art and Architecture in Spain and Portugal and their American Dominions: 1500-1800 (with Martin Soria, in the Pelican History of Art series, 1959); Art and Architecture of Ancient America (also in the Pelican series, 1962); Shape of Time (1962); Studies of Classic Maya Iconography (1969); and Portuguese Plain Architecture (1972). Over fifty of Professor Kubler's most important essays have been published recently in a volume entitled Studies in Ancient American and European Art.

Professor Kubler was born in Los Angeles in 1912. He received his academic degrees from Yale University (A.B., 1934; A.M., 1936; Ph.D., 1940) and holds an honorary doctorate (Litt. D., 1972) from Tulane University.

During his distinguished career at Yale University, Professor Kubler has held many important visiting professorships: University of Chicago (1946); University of San Marcos, Lima, Peru (1948-1949); University of Mexico (1958); Harvard University (1966-1967); and University of Pennsylvania (1981). In addition, he served as Chief of the UNESCO Mission to Cuzco, Peru (1951). He is also a member of a number of honorary societies including the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, American Philosophical Society, Société des Américanistes de Paris, and Academia de Belas Artes. He is a three-time recipient of Guggenheim Fellowships (Mexico, 1943-1944; Spain, 1952-1953 and 1956-1957). He received the Alice Davis Hitchcock Award for Architectural History in 1962, the Charles Rufus Morey Prize of the College Art Association in 1963, and the Premio José de Figueriredo (Lisbon) in 1973.

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