

# NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

NEWS RELEASE

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## "TREASURE HOUSE" DOORS FINALLY CLOSE AT NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART Nearly One Million Visited Popular Exhibition

The largest and most complex exhibition in the history of the National Gallery of Art, The Treasure Houses of Britain: Five Hundred Years of Private Patronage and Art Collecting, closed Sunday, April 13 after a 23-week run that included a visitor count of more than 990,000. Exhibition popularity at the Gallery has often been measured by the Treasures of Tutankhamun exhibition in 1976-77 which drew more than 835,000 visitors.

The Treasure Houses of Britain exhibition was made possible by a generous grant from Ford Motor Company.

According to J. Carter Brown, director of the National Gallery, "The Treasure Houses of Britain has been an extraordinarily exciting undertaking and we are all terribly sad to see it dispersed. The lending houses, most of them open to the public, will, I believe, begin attracting increasing numbers of visitors as a result of this show."

Donald E. Petersen, chairman of the board and chief executive officer of Ford Motor Company expressed his farewell by saying, "We at Ford are proud to have been a partner in excellence with the National Gallery of Art in bringing this magnificent exhibition to the American public."

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Treasure Houses of Britain Closing...add one

Nearly one million people saw The Treasure Houses of Britain at the National Gallery. Public response was so great that the exhibition which was originally scheduled to close March 16 was extended through April 13. Ford Motor Company provided additional funds to make the extension possible.

Over the next several weeks, the more than 700 objects in the exhibition, including the silver furniture from Knole, the Calke Abbey bed with its magnificent Chinese embroidered hangings and the remarkable Rainbow Portrait of Queen Elizabeth I, will be returned to the more than 200 lending houses in the United Kingdom.

The exhibition drew international attention soon after it opened on Nov. 3 last year when the patrons, Their Royal Highnesses, The Prince and Princess of Wales toured The Treasure Houses of Britain on Nov. 10.

The 18 rooms in the exhibition, originally created out of large, open gallery space, will be dismantled over the upcoming weeks. The area will be reconstructed to accommodate 20th-century art from the Gallery's permanent collection as well as works of art on loan.

The next major show at the Gallery, Impressionist to Early Modern Painting from the U.S.S.R., to run May 1 - June 15, will be shown in the Concourse Level of the East Building.

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