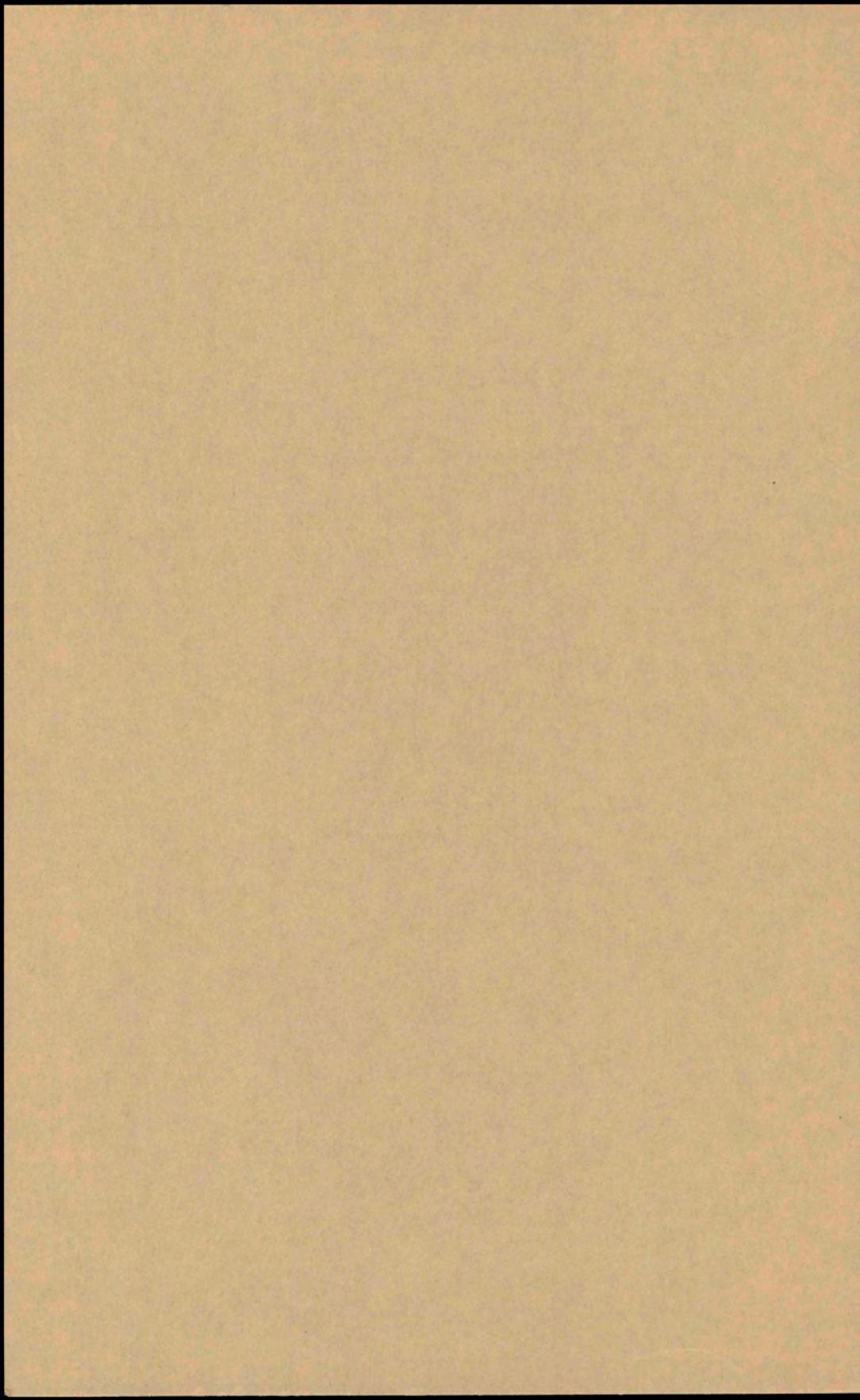


REPORT ON THE
NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

1940

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
WASHINGTON
D. C.



REPORT ON THE
NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

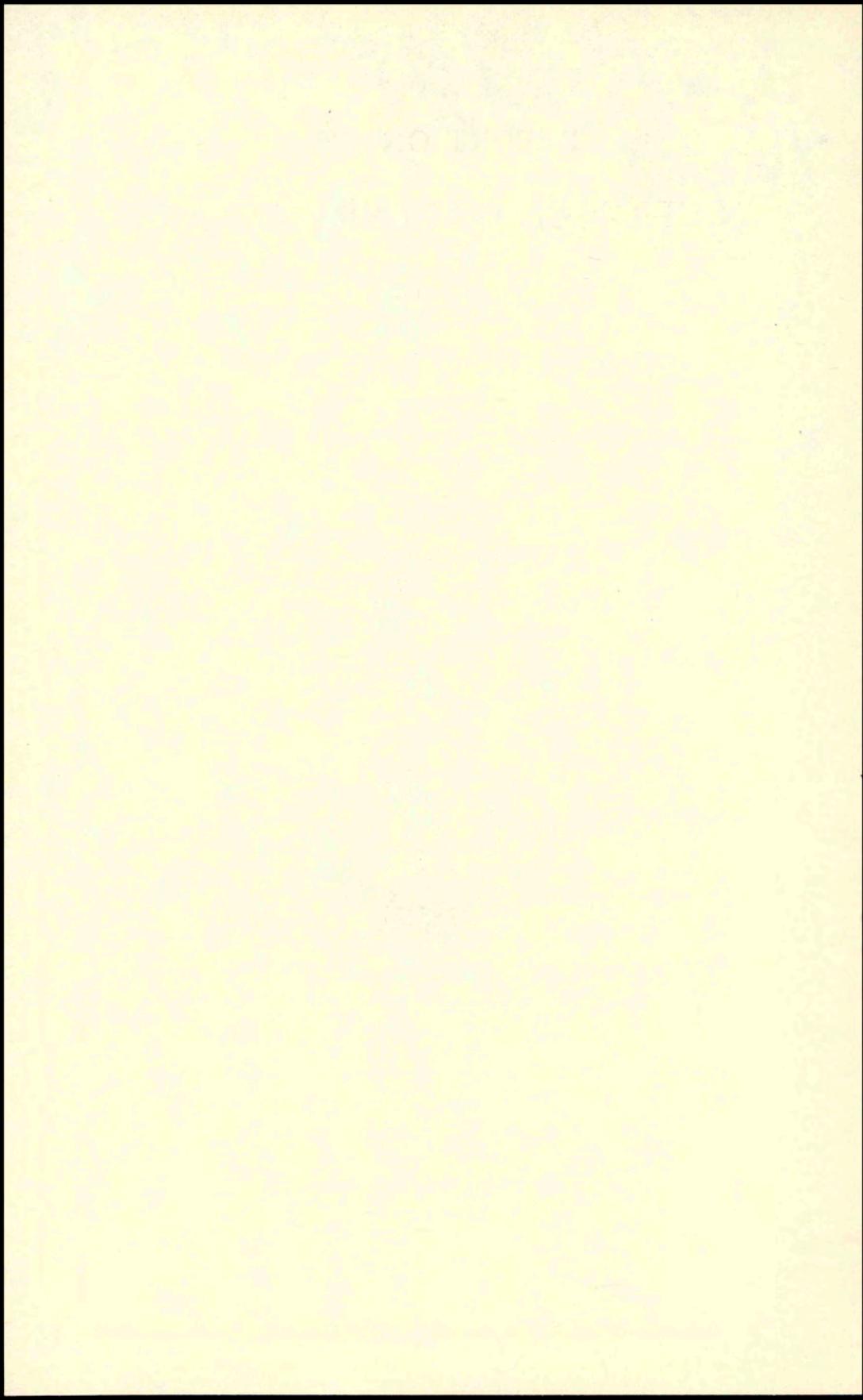
FOR THE
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1940

From the Smithsonian Report for 1940

Pages 31-37



UNITED STATES
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
WASHINGTON : 1941



APPENDIX 2

REPORT ON THE NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

SIR: I have the honor to submit, on behalf of the Board of Trustees of the National Gallery of Art, the third annual report of the Board covering its operations for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1940. Such report is being made pursuant to the provisions of the act of March 24, 1937 (50 Stat. 51), as amended by the public resolution of April 13, 1939 (Pub. Res. No. 9, 76th Cong.).

Under the act of March 24, 1937, Congress created, in the Smithsonian Institution, a bureau to be directed by a board to be known as the "Trustees of the National Gallery of Art," charged with the maintenance and administration of the National Gallery of Art.

In addition, Congress appropriated to the Smithsonian Institution the area bounded by Seventh Street, Constitution Avenue, Fourth Street, and North Mall Drive (now Madison Drive) Northwest, in the District of Columbia, as a site for a National Gallery of Art and authorized the Smithsonian Institution to permit The A. W. Mellon Educational and Charitable Trust, a public charitable trust, established by the late Hon. Andrew W. Mellon, of Pittsburgh, Pa., to construct thereon a building to be designated the "National Gallery of Art." Further, the act authorizes the Board to accept, for the Smithsonian Institution, and to hold and administer gifts, bequests and devises of money, securities, or other property for the benefit of the National Gallery of Art. To date two great collections of outstanding works of art have been received by the Trustees of the Gallery; namely, the Mellon Collection and the Samuel H. Kress Collection, which will be housed and exhibited in the Gallery building now being constructed in Washington. Under the creating act, the United States is pledged to provide such funds as may be necessary for the upkeep of the National Gallery of Art and the administrative expenses and costs of operation thereof, including the protection and care of the works of art so that the Gallery shall at all times be properly maintained and the works of art exhibited regularly to the general public.

ORGANIZATION AND STAFF

The statutory members of the Board are the Chief Justice of the United States, the Secretary of State, the Secretary of the Treasury, and the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, *ex officio*, and five

general trustees. The general trustees, serving during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1940, were David K. E. Bruce, Duncan Phillips, Ferdinand Lammot Belin, Joseph E. Widener, and Samuel H. Kress.

At the annual meeting of the Board held February 12, 1940, David K. E. Bruce was elected President and Ferdinand Lammot Belin was elected Vice President of the Board to serve for the ensuing year. Other executive officers continuing in office were Donald D. Shepard, Secretary-Treasurer and General Counsel, David E. Finley, Director, Harry A. McBride, Administrator, and John Walker, Chief Curator. At the same meeting the Board elected Macgill James of Baltimore, Maryland, to be Assistant Director. Mr. James has been serving as Director of the Municipal Museum of the City of Baltimore and is well qualified by experience and training to perform the duties of Assistant Director of the National Gallery of Art. Mr. James will begin his Gallery duties in the near future.

Other officers of the Gallery appointed during the year were Charles Seymour, Jr., formerly Instructor of History of Art and History in the Department of Fine Arts at Yale University, as Curator of Sculpture; George T. Heckert, as Assistant to the Administrator; and Sterling P. Eagleton, as Chief Engineer and Building Superintendent.

The three standing committees of the Board, provided for in the bylaws, as constituted at the annual meeting of the Board held February 12, 1940, are:

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chief Justice of the United States, Charles Evans Hughes.
Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, Dr. C. G. Abbot.
David K. E. Bruce.
Ferdinand Lammot Belin.
Duncan Phillips.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Secretary of the Treasury, Henry Morgenthau, Jr.
The Secretary of State, Cordell Hull.
David K. E. Bruce.
Ferdinand Lammot Belin.
Samuel H. Kress.

ACQUISITIONS COMMITTEE

David K. E. Bruce.
Duncan Phillips.
Joseph E. Widener.
Ferdinand Lammot Belin.
David E. Finley.

During the year satisfactory progress has been made in the work of organizing the Gallery staff. All the positions required with few exceptions have now been classified by the Civil Service Commission, and examinations for several positions in the artistic

and professional field have been held by the Commission. The nuclear staff has been slightly increased so that it will be in a position to employ and train the staff which will be required when the building is completed and taken over by the Government. Twelve persons were employed on the Government roll as of June 30, 1940. This staff has been engaged in preparatory work and the compilation of the catalogs for the Gallery, and in the purchase of supplies and furniture to be placed in the Gallery building when completed, and in other matters looking toward the opening of the Gallery to the public. Until the Gallery is completed, the staff is being housed in offices furnished by The A. W. Mellon Educational and Charitable Trust.

A large part of the equipment, supplies, furniture, and furnishings have been purchased for delivery as soon as the building is completed. Favorable progress has been made upon the complete cataloging of the works of art in the national collections which will be housed in the Gallery building.

APPROPRIATIONS

For salaries and expenses, for the upkeep and operation of the National Gallery of Art, the protection and care of the works of art therein, and all administrative expenses incident thereto, as authorized by the act of March 24, 1937 (50 Stat. 51), as amended by the public resolution of April 13, 1939 (Pub. Res. No. 9, 76th Cong.), there was appropriated for the fiscal year 1941 the sum of \$300,000. Of the sum of \$159,000 appropriated by Congress for the period July 1, 1939, to June 30, 1940 (53 Stat. 984), \$158,985.75 was expended or encumbered, in the following detailed amounts, for personal services, printing and binding, and supplies and equipment, leaving an unencumbered appropriation of \$14.25.

Expenditures and encumbrances

Personal services.....	\$21, 284. 63
Printing and binding.....	1, 901. 47
Supplies and equipment.....	135, 799. 65
Total.....	<u>158, 985. 75</u>

ACQUISITIONS

On February 12, 1940, the Board of Trustees accepted, from The A. W. Mellon Educational and Charitable Trust, a valuable gift of 11 celebrated paintings by early American artists which are considered outstanding not only for their aesthetic but also their historical merit. These paintings will be placed in specially designed rooms when the building is completed. This gift marks the first step toward setting up

in the National Gallery a section devoted to the advancement and preservation of American art. The gift includes the noted painting of the family of George Washington by Edward Savage. Other paintings given are as follows:

<i>Painting</i>	<i>Artist</i>
John Randolph.....	Gilbert Stuart.
Mrs. Richard Yates.....	Do.
Lawrence Yates.....	Do.
George Washington.....	Do.
Joseph Coolidge.....	Do.
Alexander Hamilton.....	John Trumbull.
William Vans Murray.....	Mather Brown.
Richard Earl Howe.....	John Copley.
Colonel Guy Johnson.....	Benjamin West.
John Randolph.....	Chester Harding.
A Young Man in a Large Hat.....	Frans Hals.
A Turk.....	Rembrandt.
Portrait of a Flemish Lady.....	Van Dyck.

At the same meeting the Board also accepted from Mr. Mellon's charitable trust two fountain groups by Pierre Legros and Jean Baptiste Tubi. These groups were executed in 1672 on orders of Louis XIV as a part of the decoration for the celebrated Theatre d'Eau at Versailles and are exceedingly valuable not only for their antiquity but for the quality of art they reflect. They are admirably suited for the settings arranged for them. One will be placed in each of the spacious garden courts which form an important architectural feature of the main floor of the Gallery.

During the year other offers of gifts of works of art were received but were not accepted because, in the opinion of the Board, they were not considered desirable acquisitions for the permanent collection of the Gallery as contemplated by section 5 (b) of the act of March 24, 1937.

EXCHANGE OF WORKS OF ART

On June 17, 1940, the duly authorized officers of the Gallery, as directed by the Board, on recommendations of the acquisitions committee, exchanged a terra-cotta bust representing Giovanna Tornabuoni and attributed to Verrocchio, in the Mellon collection, for the painting by Aelbert Cuyp entitled "The Maas at Dordrecht" and two monumental eighteenth century marble vases by Clodion (Claude Michel), all to be included in the permanent collection as more desirable and needed acquisitions for the Gallery. The two marble vases by Clodion are signed and dated 1782 and are said to have been made for the Palace of Versailles during the reign of Louis XVI. The painting by Cuyp is said by experts to be one of the greatest masterpieces of the work of that master of the Dutch school of the seventeenth century. The exchange had the approval of the donor.

RESTORATION AND REPAIRS TO WORKS OF ART

During the year, as authorized by the Board, Stephen Pichetto, Consultant Restorer to the Gallery, has undertaken such work of repair and restoration of paintings as has been found to be necessary, at his studio in New York. Such paintings when completed have been returned in excellent condition. Other necessary repairs and restoration to works of art in the collections will be done by Mr. Pichetto during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1941.

PAINTINGS LOANED AND RETURNED

During the year the following paintings from the Mellon collection were returned from the Masterpieces of Art Exhibition at the New York World's Fair where they had been on loan for the period April 30 to October 31, 1939, as reported by the Board of Trustees last year:

Painting	Artist
Self-Portrait	Rembrandt.
An Old Woman Seated.....	Hals.
A Gentleman Greeting a Lady.....	Terborch.

Also, the following paintings from the Mellon collection were returned from the Golden Gate International Exposition at San Francisco where they had been on loan for the period February 16 to December 31, 1939, as reported by the Board of Trustees last year:

Painting	Artist
A Young Man at Table.....	Rembrandt.
Portrait of Balthasar Coymans.....	Hals.
A Dutch Courtyard.....	Pieter de Hooch.

CURATORIAL WORK

Curatorial work during the year consisted primarily of studying and cataloging the large Mellon and Samuel H. Kress collections and in making recommendations for the installation of these collections in the Gallery building when it is completed.

PUBLICATIONS FUND

In its meeting of February 12, 1940, the Board adopted a resolution approving a plan for a publications fund. Carrying this plan into effect, a sum was advanced by The A. W. Mellon Educational and Charitable Trust to establish the Publications Fund, the purpose of which is to ensure that catalogs, handbooks, color reproductions, postcards, and similar material, of the highest quality but at moderate cost, shall be available to the public for educational and study purposes when the Gallery is opened. Considerable progress has already been made in the preparation of these publications.

GALLERY CONSTRUCTION

Work on the Gallery building and landscaping on the site was started in the summer of 1937 and is rapidly nearing completion. It is hoped that construction will be completed in November of this year. Several months will be required for decorating the exhibition rooms and installing the collection. Formal opening of the Gallery to the public, therefore, may take place in March. As of June 30, 1940, \$11,271,786.63 had been expended by The A. W. Mellon Educational and Charitable Trust for the construction of the building and landscaping of the site. It is estimated that the total construction cost of the building and landscaping will exceed \$15,000,000. Upon advice of the accountants of the Gallery, recording of such costs on the books of the National Gallery of Art will be deferred until the building is turned over to the Smithsonian Institution and the trustees of the Gallery.

AUDIT OF PRIVATE FUNDS OF THE GALLERY

Price, Waterhouse & Co., a nationally known firm of public accountants, has made an examination of the accounting records maintained for the private funds of the National Gallery of Art and its Publications Fund for the year ended June 30, 1940. The certificate of Price, Waterhouse & Co. follows:

In accordance with instructions, we have made an examination of the accounting records maintained for the private funds of the National Gallery of Art and its Publications Fund for the year ending June 30, 1940, and have obtained information and explanations from its officers and employees. Records relating to the disbursement of public funds appropriated by Congress for the upkeep of the National Gallery of Art or the administrative expenses and cost of operation were not within the scope of our examination.

The recorded assets of the National Gallery of Art at June 30, 1940, comprised works of art donated by The A. W. Mellon Educational and Charitable Trust and by Mr. Samuel H. Kress and the Samuel H. Kress Foundation, or works of art acquired in exchange for donated items. The works of art acquired from The A. W. Mellon Educational and Charitable Trust were valued for accounting purposes at \$31,892,502.31, including \$589,340 for items acquired during the year under review. One piece of sculpture included in the first-mentioned amount at \$185,000 was exchanged during the year for two vases and a painting appraised at values aggregating the same amount. The value for accounting purposes of the works of art donated June 29, 1939, by Mr. Samuel H. Kress and the Samuel H. Kress Foundation has not yet been determined. This gift is subject to completion of construction of the Gallery building on or before June 29, 1941, as provided in the gift indenture. The cost of construction of the building is being met by The A. W. Mellon Educational and Charitable Trust and the recording of the expenditures on the books of the National Gallery of Art is deferred until completion of the building.

The Publications Fund, National Gallery of Art was created by an indenture dated February 28, 1940 between The A. W. Mellon Educational and Charitable

Trust and three of the officers of the National Gallery of Art designated as "Custodians." The Fund was established for the purpose of making available to the public, at reasonable cost, catalogues and other publications concerning the works of art. The Trust advanced to the Custodians the sum of \$40,000, and the indenture provides for repayment after July 1, 1941, out of profits, if any, from sale of publications and for transfer of any remaining assets of the Fund to the National Gallery of Art after the advance has been entirely paid. We obtained a confirmation from the National Metropolitan Bank of the amount of \$40,000 on deposit at June 30, 1940.

Our examination disclosed no other transactions to June 30, 1940, which should be recorded in the books of account. We did not inspect the works of art but we examined the deeds of trust which provide that the donors shall be responsible for the custody and shall bear the cost of storage and insurance until the delivery of the works of art after completion of the Gallery building.

In our opinion, subject to the fact that the value of the works of art acquired June 29, 1939, has not been determined and recorded, the books of account fairly reflect the transactions pertaining to the private funds of the National Gallery of Art and of the Publications Fund, National Gallery of Art, at June 30, 1940, in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles applied on a basis consistent with that of the preceding year.

Respectfully submitted.

F. L. BELIN, *Vice President.*

DR. C. G. ABBOT,
Secretary, Smithsonian Institution.



The following table shows the results of the work done during the year 1911-12. The total number of specimens collected was 1,234, of which 567 were new to science. The number of species described was 123, and the number of genera 15. The work was done in the following order: 1. Insects, 2. Fishes, 3. Birds, 4. Mammals, 5. Reptiles and Amphibians, 6. Plants, 7. Fungi, 8. Algae, 9. Protozoa, 10. Miscellaneous.

The following table shows the number of specimens of each class of animals collected during the year 1911-12. The total number of specimens collected was 1,234, of which 567 were new to science. The number of species described was 123, and the number of genera 15. The work was done in the following order: 1. Insects, 2. Fishes, 3. Birds, 4. Mammals, 5. Reptiles and Amphibians, 6. Plants, 7. Fungi, 8. Algae, 9. Protozoa, 10. Miscellaneous.

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