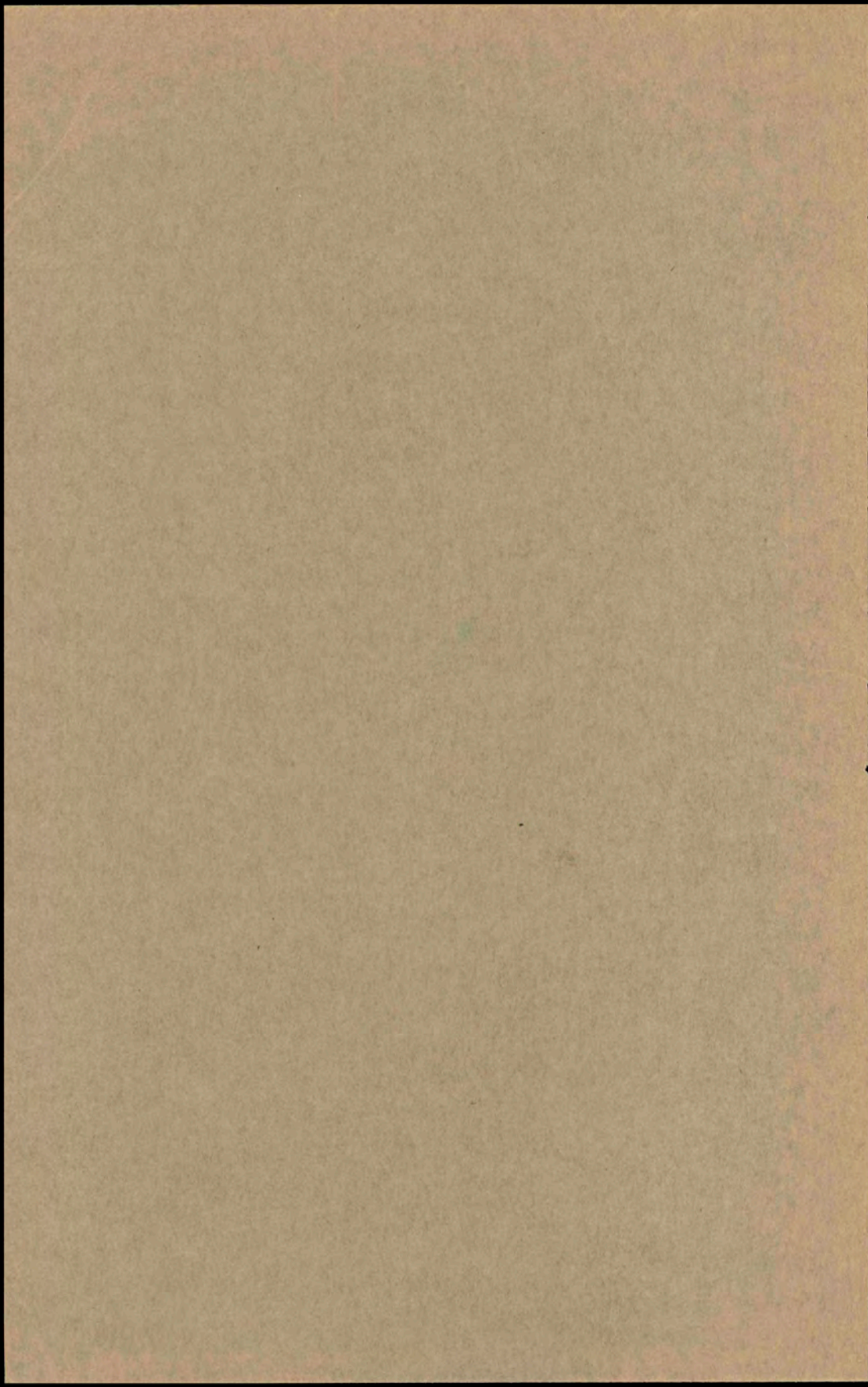


REPORT ON THE
NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

1941

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
WASHINGTON
D. C.



REPORT ON THE
NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

FOR THE
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1941

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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 fourth annual report of the Board covering its operations for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1941.

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 this act 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, 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; also, 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, free of charge.

COMPLETION AND OCCUPATION OF THE GALLERY BUILDING

Formal notice of the completion of the National Gallery of Art project, calling for the construction of the Gallery building and the landscaping of the area appropriated for the site of the National Gallery of Art, in accordance with plans and specifications approved by the Commission of Fine Arts, was given by the Trustees of The A. W. Mellon Educational and Charitable Trust under date of November 30, 1940, to the Trustees of the National Gallery of Art and the Smithsonian Institution, and as provided in the trust indenture

dated June 24, 1937, the legal title to the building was deemed forthwith to be vested in the Smithsonian Institution, of which the National Gallery of Art is a bureau, and the maintenance and administration of the building and site became the exclusive and sole obligation of the Trustees of the National Gallery of Art. A copy of the notice of completion is attached to this report, as exhibit A (not printed).

The Gallery building was turned over to the Trustees of the Gallery on December 1, 1940, and following inspection and upon certification by Eggers and Higgins, successors of John Russell Pope, architect for the Gallery, as to the final completion of the project, the Trustees of the Gallery, at a meeting held December 10, 1940, formally accepted the Gallery project. Copy of the architect's certificate is attached to this report, as exhibit B (not printed). At this meeting the members of the Board expressed great satisfaction with the construction of the Gallery building, as finally completed, and their appreciation of the efforts of the Trustees of The A. W. Mellon Educational and Charitable Trust, the surviving Trustees being Paul Mellon, Donald D. Shepard, and David K. E. Bruce, in the erection of a Gallery building of such monumental character and such outstanding architectural merit.

The Trustees have been apprised that the total cost of the Gallery, including approaches and the landscaping of the site, amounted to \$15,035,597.50.

The small nucleus of the Gallery staff, which was housed in offices furnished by The A. W. Mellon Educational and Charitable Trust, moved into the building on November 27, 1940, and proceeded with the work of installation of furnishings and equipment. By December 1, 1940, the nuclear staff, consisting of curatorial and clerical employees, mechanical, guard, and cleaning force, had been organized sufficiently to take over the administration and maintenance of the Gallery building by the Trustees.

During the first days of January 1941, the works of art in the Mellon Collection were moved into the building, and during January, February, and March the works of art in the Kress Collection were received from New York.

Installation of the works of art in the two collections in the galleries prepared for them was undertaken immediately upon their receipt in the new building, and was completed the first week of March.

DEDICATION CEREMONIES AND OPENING OF THE GALLERY TO THE PUBLIC

On the evening of March 17, 1941, 8,822 invited guests attended the opening ceremonies. Included among the invited guests were the members of the Cabinet, Senate, and House of Representatives,

Government officials, the diplomatic corps, artists, art critics, heads of educational institutions, persons generally interested in art, and other distinguished guests.

The ceremonies, a half-hour program, with Chief Justice Charles Evans Hughes as the presiding officer, began at 10 o'clock, with an invocation by the Reverend ZeBarney Thorne Phillips, Chaplain of the Senate. Following a brief talk by the Chief Justice on the object and purposes of the Gallery project, Paul Mellon, son of the late Andrew W. Mellon, the donor of the Gallery, on behalf of his father and the Trustees of the Mellon Trust, presented the Gallery and the Mellon Collection to the Nation. Samuel H. Kress then presented the Kress Collection of Italian paintings to the Gallery. The President of the United States accepted the Gallery and the Mellon and Kress Collections on behalf of the people of the United States. A copy of the President's address, and that of Chief Justice Hughes, are attached to this report, as exhibit C (not printed). The ceremonies closed with the National Anthem, led by the United States Marine Band. During the early part of the evening, there was a preview of the Gallery collections. Orchestras played in the garden courts, decorated with the famous Widener collection of acacias, which had been given to the Nation for the joint use of the Gallery and the United States Botanic Garden, and tropical plants.

On the following day, March 18, 1941, the Gallery was opened to the public and was viewed by large crowds. In accordance with the decision of the Board of Trustees, the Gallery building is open every day in the year, except Christmas and New Year's day. The hours are 10 a. m. to 5 p. m. on week days and 2 p. m. to 5 p. m. on Sundays.

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, 1941, were David K. E. Bruce, Duncan Phillips, Ferdinand Lammot Belin, Joseph E. Widener, and Samuel H. Kress. In May 1941 the general trustees elected Ferdinand Lammot Belin, whose term of office would expire on July 1, 1941, to succeed himself as a general trustee, to serve as such until July 1, 1951. At the meeting of the Board held on June 20, 1941, the resignation of Chief Justice Charles Evans Hughes was accepted by the Trustees with great regret, to take effect July 1, 1941, and in doing so the Board adopted the following resolutions:

Whereas the Honorable Charles Evans Hughes has resigned as Chief Justice of the United States and has consequently tendered his resignation as Chairman

of the Board of Trustees of the National Gallery of Art, effective July 1, 1941;

And whereas the Board of Trustees has learned of his resignation with profound regret;

Therefore, be it resolved, That the members of the Board of Trustees record their sense of the loss which the Gallery has sustained in being deprived of the services of Chief Justice Hughes;

And be it also resolved, That the Board hereby expresses its grateful appreciation for the devotion with which he has carried out his duties as Chairman, and for the wisdom and unfailing courtesy with which he has guided the affairs of the National Gallery during the critical years of its formative period;

And be it further resolved, That the Board wishes to express to him its high regard and best wishes that he may enjoy many years of health and happiness after his long career of distinguished public service to his country.

Pursuant to the provision of the act of March 24, 1937, the newly appointed Chief Justice of the United States, the Honorable Harlan F. Stone, who succeeds Chief Justice Hughes, will serve as an ex officio trustee of the Gallery.

The Board at its annual meeting held February 10, 1941, reelected David K. E. Bruce, President, and Ferdinand Lamot Belin was reelected Vice President of the Board to serve for the ensuing year. The executive officers who continued in office were Donald D. Shepard, Secretary-Treasurer and General Counsel; David E. Finley, Director; Harry A. McBride, Administrator; John Walker, Chief Curator; and Macgill James, Assistant Director. Other officers of the Gallery continuing in office were Charles Seymour, Jr., curator of sculpture; George T. Heckert, assistant to the administrator; and Sterling P. Eagleton, chief engineer and building superintendent. During the year Charles Zinsner was appointed assistant treasurer and the following honorary officers were appointed by the Board: Alexander R. Reed, building consultant; Alfred Geiffert, Jr., consultant landscape architect; and William A. Frederick, consultant horticulturist.

The three standing committees of the Board, provided for in the bylaws, as constituted at the annual meeting of the Board, held February 10, 1941, were:

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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

FINANCE COMMITTEE

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

ACQUISITIONS COMMITTEE

David K. E. Bruce.
 Duncan Phillips.
 Joseph E. Widener.
 Ferdinand Lamot Belln.
 David E. Finley.

Other standing committees appointed by the Board during the year: A committee to make recommendations as to the acceptance or rejection of gifts of property other than works of art, monies, and securities; a committee on public relations; and a committee on the building.

During the first half of the year all of the civil service positions for the Gallery staff had been classified and by March 1, 1941, practically all of the initial staff of the Gallery, including the curatorial, clerical, custodial, and maintenance personnel had been employed. On June 30, 1941, 229 civil service employees were on the Gallery staff. Among such employees were the chief docent, the librarian, and the registrar.

The cataloging of the works of art was completed so that it was possible to issue the first catalog of the National Gallery by March 17, 1941, the date of the opening.

The guard force was organized to assure not only efficiency in the protection of the works of art and of the building and grounds, but also to assure a high quality of service to the public.

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 ending June 30, 1942, the sum of \$533,300. Of the \$300,000 appropriated by Congress for the period July 1, 1940, to June 30, 1941 (54 Stat. 137), \$298,543.14 was expended or encumbered, in the following detailed amounts, for personal services, printing and binding, and supplies and equipment, leaving an unencumbered appropriation of \$1,456.86. This appropriation was based, of course, upon part-year operation and expenditures were made therefrom as follows:

EXPENDITURES AND ENCUMBRANCES

Personal services.....	\$171, 786. 18
Printing and binding.....	7, 352. 51
Supplies and equipment.....	119, 404. 45
Total	\$298, 543. 14

ATTENDANCE

The total attendance from March 17 to June 30, the end of the fiscal year, was 798,156, an average of 7,529 persons per day. The greatest number of visitors in any one day was 24,745 on March 23, 1941.

A booklet of general information on the Gallery, containing a check list of paintings and sculpture and floor plans, supplied from Government funds, has been found of great assistance to the visitors to the Gallery. There is no charge for this booklet and a copy is given to visitors who request one.

PUBLICATIONS FUND

Through the Publications Fund it was possible to have ready for the opening of the Gallery, not only a catalog, but also a complete Book of Illustrations of all the works of art in the collections of the National Gallery; color reproductions; and postcards, both in color and in black and white. These publications are on sale at moderate cost in the Information Rooms.

ACQUISITIONS

GIFTS OF PRINTS

On March 13, 1941, the Board of Trustees accepted from Miss Ellen T. Bullard and three anonymous donors a number of important prints; and again on June 20, 1941, the Board accepted a number of additional important prints from one of the anonymous donors who had previously made a gift of prints to the Gallery, all of which are listed in exhibit D (not printed). Also on June 20, 1941, the Board accepted as a gift from Lessing Rosenwald of Jenkintown, Pa., a collection of important engravings, etchings, and woodcuts, which are listed in exhibit D (not printed).

GIFTS OF PAINTINGS

On February 10, 1941, the Board of Trustees accepted from Mrs. Felix M. Warburg the gift of two valuable paintings:

Triptych attributed to the School of Pietro Lorenzetti
"The Preaching of Savonarola," by Domenico Morone

as a memorial to her husband, the late Felix M. Warburg. The paintings have been received and will be exhibited with the Permanent Collection.

On June 20, 1941, the Board of Trustees accepted from Duncan Phillips, a trustee of the Gallery, the gift of an important painting

by Honoré Daumier, entitled "Advice to a Young Artist," for exhibition with the Permanent Collection. Also on June 20, 1941, the Board accepted from Mrs. David K. E. Bruce the gift of a portrait of her father, the late Andrew W. Mellon, by Oswald Birley, which has been hung over the mantel in the Founder's Room.

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 to be desirable acquisitions for the Permanent Collection as contemplated by section 5 of the act of March 24, 1937 (50 Stat. 51).

OTHER GIFTS

During the year there were also gifts to the Gallery of furnishings, equipment, materials and supplies, ornamental trees and plants, books and publications, from the Trustees of The A. W. Mellon Educational and Charitable Trust and others.

SALE OR EXCHANGE OF WORKS OF ART

During the year no works of art belonging to the Gallery were sold or exchanged.

LOANS OF WORKS OF ART TO THE GALLERY

During the year the following works of art were received on loan:
An anonymous loan:

20 Rembrandt prints—listed on the attached exhibit D (not printed).

From Dr. Horace Binney, of Milton, Mass.:

A portrait of his ancestor, the Honorable Horace Binney, by Gilbert Stuart.

From Chester Dale, of New York, the following paintings of the American School:

<i>Artist</i>	<i>Subject</i>
John Smibert.....	Portrait of Oxenbridge Thacher of Milton.
Thomas Sully.....	The Sicard David Children—Julia, Ferdinand, and Stephen.
Jeremiah Theus....	Portrait of a Woman in Red Dress.
John Neagle.....	Portrait of John Rush.
Thomas Sully.....	Portrait of Mrs. William Griffin.
S. F. B. Morse.....	Portrait of Mrs. Henry John Auchmuty.
Do.....	Portrait of a Lady.

From Samuel H. Kress and the Samuel H. Kress Foundation:

43 paintings and 22 pieces of sculpture, listed in exhibit D (not printed).

From The A. W. Mellon Educational and Charitable Trust:

187 paintings, many of which were formerly in the Clarke Collection, for an indefinite period to be held for study, exhibition, or use as may be provided by the acquisitions committee. (See exhibit D, not printed.) The following paint-

ings from the collection have been placed on exhibition as loans :

<i>Artist</i>	<i>Subject</i>
Robert Feke.....	Williamina Moore.
Gilbert Stuart.....	Richard Yates.
Do.....	George Washington
Do.....	George Pollock.
Do.....	Joseph Anthony.
John Wollaston.....	Mary Walton Morris.

From Duncan Phillips, a trustee of the Gallery :

<i>Artist</i>	<i>Subject</i>
Corot.....	The Dairy Farm.
Courbet.....	The Rocks at Ornans.

From John Cooper Wiley :

Russian icon of the thirteenth century, for study and exhibition in the collection if considered desirable.

LOAN OF WORKS OF ART BY THE GALLERY

During the year no works of art belonging to the Gallery were placed on loan.

RESTORATION AND REPAIRS TO WORKS OF ART

During the year, as authorized by the Board and with the approval of the Director and the Chief Curator, Stephen Pichetto, consultant restorer to the Gallery, has undertaken such work of restoration and repair of paintings and sculpture in the collection as has been found to be necessary.

Prior to the opening of the Gallery to the public, the work was done at Mr. Pichetto's studio in New York, and all works of art have been returned in excellent condition. Since March 17, 1941, such work has been carried on in the restorer's rooms at the Gallery.

CURATORIAL DEPARTMENT

The curatorial work during the first part of the year consisted in installing the National Gallery collections and completing the work on the catalog. The catalog was issued at the opening of the Gallery, and contains brief biographies of all the artists, descriptions of the works of art, and notes indicating the date or approximate date of the paintings and sculpture with such factual information as may be of interest to the student. A book of illustrations of the paintings and sculpture in the National Gallery was also issued under the supervision of the curatorial staff.

During the year 619 works of art were submitted to the acquisitions committee with recommendations as to the acceptability for

the collection of the National Gallery; 16 visits were made to private collections by various members of the staff in connection with offers of gift or loan; expert opinion on 61 works of art was given verbally to various members of the public; and 101 letters were written to persons asking for historical data or other information regarding works of art in their possession.

The curatorial staff also supervised the arrangement of temporary exhibitions held by the Gallery and assisted in the work of the Educational Department.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

The docent staff has been organized so that there are at least two public gallery tours every day and two auditorium lectures every week. This program of instruction for the public has been found to meet a definite need. During the period from March 18 to June 30, 1941, 11,324 persons came to the Gallery as members of special groups or organizations desiring special guidance by members of the docent staff. Many of these were school and college groups, including both instructors and students, from practically every State in the Union.

Two thousand eight hundred and eighty-two individuals have been conducted through the Gallery by members of the docent staff in special gallery tours, available to the general public. Two thousand four hundred and eighty individuals have attended auditorium lectures on the collection presented twice a week by members of the docent staff, beginning April 8, 1941.

In addition, members of the docent staff have conducted private and group conferences for 288 teachers and other individuals interested in and learning about the Gallery and the collection.

LIBRARY

Books and catalogs to the number of 162 were presented to the Gallery; 196 publications were acquired through exchange; and 51 books were purchased.

PHOTOGRAPHIC DEPARTMENT

Since February 16, 1941, 6,356 prints have been made by the photographic laboratory. Many were used in connection with the opening of the Gallery on March 17, 1941. Others are on file in the library, where they are for sale and for the use of the Gallery staff. Lantern slides made for use in connection with free public lectures in the Gallery numbered 341.

EXHIBITIONS

From May 15 to June 5, 1941, an exhibition was held in the central gallery on the ground floor, of 200 American water colors selected by John Marin, Charles Burchfield, Buk Ulreich, and Eliot O'Hara from a National Competition for the Carville, La., Marine Hospital, held by the Section of Fine Arts, Federal Works Agency, Public Buildings Administration. This was the first loan exhibition held at the Gallery and proved a popular one both with the public and with the critics.

MEMORIAL TABLET

At the annual meeting of the Board, on February 10, 1941, the Board authorized the erection of a memorial tablet to the late Andrew W. Mellon, with an inscription in the wording appearing immediately below, under a bas-relief portrait of Mr. Mellon to be done in marble:

ANDREW WILLIAM MELLON

1855-1937

He gave the Building, with
his Collection, for the founding
of this National Gallery of Art.

For the whole earth is the sepulchre of
famous men; and their story is not graven
only on stone over their native earth, but
lives on far away, without visible symbol,
woven into the stuff of other men's lives.

This tablet was installed, prior to the opening of the Gallery, between the then two free standing pillars in the lobby, facing the Constitution Avenue entrance of the Gallery. The bas-relief portrait was executed by Jo Davidson. The cost of the work was contributed by The A. W. Mellon Educational and Charitable Trust.

COMMEMORATIVE TABLET ON THE ERECTION OF THE BUILDING

Also prior to the opening of the Gallery, the Board authorized, and there was installed in the building, a bronze tablet recording the history of the erection of the building, with the names of the donor and others who rendered valuable aid toward the completion of the Gallery project.

MEMORIAL PANELS TO BENEFACTORS OF THE NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

At the annual meeting of the Board, held February 10, 1941, the Board set aside the four marble panels on the east and west walls

of the Constitution Avenue entrance lobby for the names of important donors to the Gallery, and arranged for the carving at the top of one of the panels the words, "Principal Benefactors of the National Gallery of Art," and beneath, the names "Andrew William Mellon" and "Samuel Henry Kress." The Board further authorized having such names carved in future as may be authorized by it. The carving authorized by the Board was completed before the opening of the Gallery.

AUDIT OF PRIVATE FUNDS OF THE GALLERY

An audit has been made of the private funds of the National Gallery of Art for the year ended June 30, 1941, by Price, Waterhouse & Co., a nationally known firm of public accountants, and the certificate of that company on its examination of the accounting records maintained for such funds has been submitted to the Gallery. The financial statement referred to above is attached to this report, as exhibit E (not printed).

Respectfully submitted.

F. L. BELIN, *Vice President.*

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





