

FUTURE RELEASE

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GERMAN-OWNED ART TO BE RETURNED
AFTER NATIONAL GALLERY SHOWING

More than 200 priceless paintings, brought to the United States in 1945 for safekeeping, will be returned to the United States Occupation Zone of Germany in the near future, Secretary of the Army Royall announced today.

The 202 paintings, including a large number by such masters as Fra Angelico, Brueghel, Hals, Raphael, Rembrandt and Titian, will be displayed for about three weeks at the National Gallery of Art before being shipped to Germany some time in April. Dates of the showing will be set by the Gallery.

The paintings are the pre-war property of the German government, and are positively established as not having been among the large quantity of art objects looted by the Nazis from their rightful owners. The paintings will be held in the custody of the American occupation authorities in Germany pending final peace settlements.

The art objects were brought to this country after the U. S. Military Government had surveyed the American zone without finding an adequate storage place. While in this country, they were under the care of the National Gallery. Recently, General Lucius D. Clay, American commander in Germany, reported that several suitable storage places had been made available in the U. S. Zone, and the decision was made to return the paintings to Germany. It has not been definitely decided which of several possible storage places will be used.

Investigation after the war indicated that the paintings were moved by the Germans from a museum in Berlin near war's end and stored underground in the western part of Germany. The art treasures were found by American authorities, and, as a result of an agreement with the National Gallery of Art, the Army shipped the paintings to this country for storage.

Nearly every school of European art is represented in the collection. Some of the art is identified as having been painted as early as the thirteenth century. Fifteen of the 202 paintings are the work of Rembrandt.

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(NOTE TO EDITORS:

... 202 paintings showing creator and name of each,