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NEWS RELEASE

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART
WASHINGTON, D. C.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, APRIL 6: David E. Finley, Director of the National Gallery of Art, announces the opening on April 9th of a special exhibition of Recent Acquisitions to the Rosenwald Collection. Lessing J. Rosenwald will lecture on Adventures in Collecting, at the National Gallery of Art at 4:00 p.m., in the auditorium of the Gallery, at the opening of the exhibition.

The Rosenwald Collection of prints and drawings was presented to the Gallery in 1943. Since that time, through the great generosity of the donor, the collection has continued to grow. The exhibition provides an opportunity to see a number of the most interesting of the recent accessions. It is not possible to show all the new things at this time.

The selection includes fourteen illuminated single manuscript pages which date from the eleventh to the fifteenth century. Two leaves are outstanding: a large Italian Bible page made c. 1140, and a first page of a Commentary on the Apocalypse with the figures of Saint John and Saint Bede. Both illuminations were, until very recently, in the Thyssen Collection. Also shown for the first time in Washington are a splendid group of old master drawings, which were formerly in the Liechtenstein Collection at Vaduz. The most important single drawing in the lot is a very beautiful large representation of The Death of the Virgin, of Franco-Flemish origin about 1390-1400. Another outstanding object in the exhibition is a large Gothic printed textile with a composition of The Marriage at Cana, which was originally made in the Tirol c. 1400. Such early printed cloths are very rare and important documents for the early history of the woodcut in Europe.

The little-known Danube school of print-makers is represented by a number of magnificent impressions of landscape etchings by Lautensack and Hirschvogel, which came recently from the famous Harrach Collection in Vienna.

The exhibition continues with fine examples chosen from artists of the seventeenth century to the present day. An illustrated catalogue of the exhibition has been prepared by Elizabeth Mongan, Curator of Graphic Arts.