

NEWS RELEASE

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART
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"MASTERPIECES OF GRAPHIC ART" EXHIBITION
AT NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

WASHINGTON, December 21: David E. Finley, Director, announces the opening of a special exhibition, "Masterpieces of Graphic Art" from the Rosenwald Collection, at the National Gallery of Art.

The exhibition includes prints and drawings from the fifteenth through the seventeenth centuries. In the first section, there is a splendid series of early anonymous woodcuts which are brilliantly colored. Then follow examples of prints made by such great masters of graphic art as Schongauer, Dürer, van Leyden, Hans Baldung (Grien), Holbein, Mantegna, and Rembrandt. More than a dozen of the prints on exhibition are the only recorded impressions. One outstanding French print representing the Battle of Fornovo, is the earliest known French engraving. It was discovered recently in Europe and is now shown for the first time. Also on view are drawings by Schongauer, Dürer, Campagnola, Rembrandt, and the Masters of the Danube School, Huber and Hirschvogel.

The Rosenwald gift was presented to the National Gallery of Art in 1943. At that time, the collection contained about 8,000 prints and drawings. Now, eleven years later, the collection numbers more than 21,000.

When Dr. Anna Spitzmüller of the famous Albertina Collection in Vienna, who is visiting in this country on a State Department invitation, saw the exhibition, she said, "It is incredible what a variety of sensations the Rosenwald Collection can provide . . . and a surprise that, whatever is shown, the quality is so fine."

In January, five additional galleries containing prints and drawings from the seventeenth to the nineteenth centuries from the Rosenwald Collection, will be opened to the public.

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