

September 14, 1956

NEWS RELEASE

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

Republic 7-4215 - ext. 244

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, September 14: John Walker, Director of the National Gallery of Art, announced today the appointment of Perry B. Cott, as Chief Curator of the Gallery. Mr. Cott has served for the past seven years as Assistant Chief Curator. Before that he was Associate Director of the Worcester (Massachusetts) Art Museum. Mr. Cott was born in 1909 at Columbus, Ohio. He is a graduate of Princeton University, A.B. 1929; Ph.D. 1938. During World War II Mr. Cott served as a Monuments and Fine Arts officer in Italy and Austria.

Mr. Walker also announced the appointment of Mrs. Fern Rusk Shapley as Assistant Chief Curator. Mrs. Shapley's association with the National Gallery began in 1943, when she came as Research Assistant. Since 1947 she has been the Curator of Paintings. She had lived for many years in Florence, Italy, where she devoted her studies chiefly to Italian painting and sculpture. Her university work was done at Bryn Mawr and the University of Missouri. From the latter she received the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in 1916.

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