

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

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NEWS RELEASE

SIXTH STREET AT CONSTITUTION AVENUE NW WASHINGTON 25 DC • REpublic 7-4215 extension 247

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, D.C., February 23, 1961: John Walker, Director of the National Gallery of Art, announced today that on Sunday, February 26, a distinguished visitor from Paris, M. Pierre Verlet, Chief Curator of Objects of Art at the Louvre Museum, will disclose in a lecture at the National Gallery of Art the steps that led him to the discovery that a gilt and inlaid table in the Widener Collection in the National Gallery had once belonged to Marie Antoinette. Designed and constructed especially for the queen in the course of her fashion-setting redecoration of her private apartments on the eve of the French Revolution, the table will be shown to be an authentic work of Jean-Henri Riesener, the most celebrated designer-craftsman of his age.

M. Verlet's talk is entitled "Marie Antoinette and the Art of Her Time", and will touch also on other French decorative arts in the National Gallery's Widener Collection. The lecture will be given in French at 4:00 p.m. in the auditorium. A repetition of the lecture will be given in English at 5:15 p.m. by Mr. Daniel Robbins of the Gallery staff. Admission to the lectures is free. Mr. Verlet, author of several books on French decorative arts, is generally considered the outstanding authority on royal French furniture of the 18th Century.

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