

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

SG MR. FEIDLER

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NEWS RELEASE

SIXTH STREET AT CONSTITUTION AVENUE NW WASHINGTON DC 20565 • 737-4215 extension 224

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Washington, D. C. October 29, 1968. The public is invited to first day ceremonies for the 1968 Christmas stamp on Friday (November 1) at 11:30 a.m. at the National Gallery of Art. The new six-cent stamp reproduces a portion of The Annunciation, the only painting by Jan van Eyck (1380/1400-1441) in the National Gallery, and one of the few in this country by the 15th-century Flemish master.

Frederick C. Belen, Deputy Postmaster General, and James A. Porter, Head of the Department of Art at Howard University, will speak, and there will be music by the Camerata Chorus of Washington, Joan Reinthaler, Conductor.

Instead of moving the delicate 500 year-old painting to the auditorium for the program the curators have decided to substitute on the stage a large photographic reproduction. After the ceremony the audience will be invited by the National Gallery Director John Walker to walk upstairs to see the original in Gallery 39.

First day cancellations of the Christmas stamp and National Gallery Christmas cards reproducing The Annunciation will be sold at the Gallery.