FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MAJOR PUBLICATION TO ACCOMPANY
TREASURE HOUSES OF BRITAIN EXHIBITION

WASHINGTON, D.C. June 21, 1984. The Treasure Houses of Britain: Five Hundred Years of Private Patronage and Art Collecting, opening in the National Gallery of Art's East Building November 3, 1985, will be the largest and most ambitious exhibition ever undertaken by the National Gallery. The catalogue accompanying the exhibition will be a major publication with essays by leading experts on different aspects of life and possessions in the British country house.

The catalogue will illuminate the historical importance, evolution, and role of country houses in Britain and provide, as well, a complete overview of British art collecting.

Edited by Gervase Jackson-Stops, curator of the exhibition, the catalogue will contain an introductory essay entitled "The Country House as a Work of Art" by J. Carter Brown, Director of the National Gallery. Mr. Jackson-Stops in his essay "Temples of the Arts" will explore the personalities behind the country houses, in particular the relationships between owners, architects, and craftsmen.

Mark Girouard, author of Life in the British Country House, will describe the economic background of the country house, its political importance and the machinery that supported it "Behind the green baize door."

(MORE)
Other contributors will include John Cornforth ("The Backward Look," heritage and tradition as continuing themes in the country house); Sir Oliver Millar ("Portraiture in the Country House"); Sir Brinsley Ford ("The Country House and the Grand Tour"); and Professor Francis Haskell ("The British as Collectors").

Individual entries on objects in the exhibition will be prepared in consultation with members of the Advisory Committee, composed of leading scholars in the various fields represented. They include:

Sir Geoffrey Agnew  
Michael Archer  
Dr. Charles Avery  
Nicholas Barker  
Anna Somers Cocks  
John Cornforth  
Geoffrey de Bellaigue  
Sir Brinsley Ford  
Mark Girouard  
Sir Nicholas Goodison  
John Hardy  
St. John Gore  
Donald King  
David Learmont  
John Mallet  
Sir Oliver Millar  
John Nevinson  
A.V.B. Norman  
Nicholas Penny  
Anthony Radcliffe  
Graham Reynolds  
Francis Russell  
John Walker  
Sir Ellis Waterhouse  
Sir Francis Watson

Paintings  
Delft and other ceramics  
Sculpture  
Books and documents  
Metalwork  
Interior decoration/ textiles  
Sèvres and Meissen, French furniture  
Grand Tour  
Architecture and social history  
Ormolu  
English furniture and clocks  
National Trust pictures  
Tapestries  
National Trust for Scotland  
English and other ceramics  
17th century portraits  
16th century textiles  
Armour  
Sculpture  
Sculpture  
Miniatures  
Other paintings  
Paintings  
18th century portraits  
French furniture

END

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION or photographs contact Anne Hartzell (Deputy Information Officer), or Ellen Stanley, Information Office, National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C. 20565 (202) 842-6353.