

NEWS RELEASE

National Gallery of Art
Washington, D. C.

RELEASE: February 21, 1945

WASHINGTON, February 21: The Trustees of the National Gallery of Art announced yesterday that, at the annual meeting held on February 12th, at which the Chairman, Chief Justice Stone, presided, Mr. Samuel H. Kress, a member of the Board of Trustees, was elected President of the National Gallery.

Mr. Kress, who makes his home in New York, is a distinguished figure in both art and business circles in this country. He is the founder and head of the great mercantile enterprise bearing his name and, in spite of his many business activities, has found time to bring together his celebrated collection of paintings and sculpture, mostly of the Italian and French Schools. He is a Trustee of many philanthropic and educational institutions, including the Metropolitan Museum in New York, and has included this and other museums, as well as the National Gallery, in his donations of important works of art.

The collection of Italian paintings, which he has given to the National Gallery, is one of the few outside of Italy which presents a complete and systematic survey of the Italian School of painting, with fine examples of the greatest masters. In addition, he has given to the National Gallery works of many of the greatest French and Italian sculptors and an entire room of paintings by important French Eighteenth Century artists. These generous donations have greatly contributed to the rapid development of the Nation's Collection at Washington.