

2 C Mona Lisa Being Conditioned for Showing in U.S.

Washington — (UPI)—The Mona Lisa, one of the world's greatest masterpieces, remained sealed in a vault beneath the National Gallery of Art today while experts wondered whether she could still smile after her journey from France.

Leonard Da Vinci's 456-year-old classic arrived at the gallery, down Constitution ave. from the Capitol, at mid-afternoon Wednesday. It was brought here by truck from New York following its trans-Atlantic trip aboard the S.S. France.

Special Exhibition

No one has laid eyes on the Mona Lisa since she was crated in the Louvre museum in Paris for the journey to the United States and a special exhibition that will open Jan. 8.

But museum experts planned to take the aluminum and plastic wraps off today and let the fragile lady get adjusted to her new surroundings.

The painting will remain in the vault until Jan. 8.

Because the portrait is so fragile, special precautions have been taken to prevent it from being subjected to strange temperatures. The vault is being kept at a temperature of 62 degrees, with the humidity at 45 per cent, to match that of the Louvre.

Portrait Guarded

Throughout its stay in the vault the portrait will be guarded by Secret Service men, who were ordered on the job by President Kennedy. By watching a closed-circuit television set from the outside, monitors can see what is going on inside the vault.

The U. S. government, it was clear, was taking no chances with such a priceless masterpiece. The last time the Mona Lisa left France was in 1911, when it was stolen and taken to Italy.

After a three-week stand in Washington, the painting will be shown at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York.

Eulogy Read at Laughton Rites

Hollywood — (UPI)—Charles Laughton was a man who had "extraordinary powers as an actor" and who "put his audiences in touch with the spirit of Shakespeare."

The words were part of an eulogy delivered at the famed character actor's funeral services Wednesday by British author Christopher Isherwood.

Laughton, 63, died of cancer Saturday.

Isherwood read Laughton's favorite passages from the Bible and Shakespeare at the services at the Church of the Reconciliation, Forest Lawn Hollywood Hills Memorial Park.

"Our revels now are ended. These our actors, as I foretold you were all spirits, and are melted into air, into thin air . . . we are such stuff as dreams are made of, and our little life is rounded with a sleep."

Isherwood read these words from Prospero's farewell speech from "The Tempest" at the request of the actor's widow, actress Elsa Lanchester.

Dr. John Cantelon, chaplain of the University of Southern California, conducted the non-denominational religious rites.

Liberty Amendment Group Organized

Portland — (UPI)—A group of Oregon businessmen Wednesday announced formation of the Liberty Amendment Committee of Oregon, an organization dedicated to passage of the amendment and the fight against increased taxes.

The so-called Liberty Amendment would restrain the federal government from interfering in the free enterprise system, its backers contend.

Will Henry, former general manager of the Dairy Cooperative Association, was named chairman of the committee. Dan Santry was elected vice chairman and Clarence W. Walls secretary-treasurer. All are from Portland.

Henry said a board of directors and an advisory committee will be selected later.

Diners Club Seeks

Linda Darnell's Funds

New York — (UPI)—Actress Linda Darnell ran up a \$380 liquor bill at a Los Angeles store last summer and has not paid, the Diners Club said here Wednesday in a state Supreme Court suit.

Papers filed by the club, through attorney Philip Adelman, asked the court to attach any funds Miss Darnell may have in New York. She lives in Beverly Hills, Calif.

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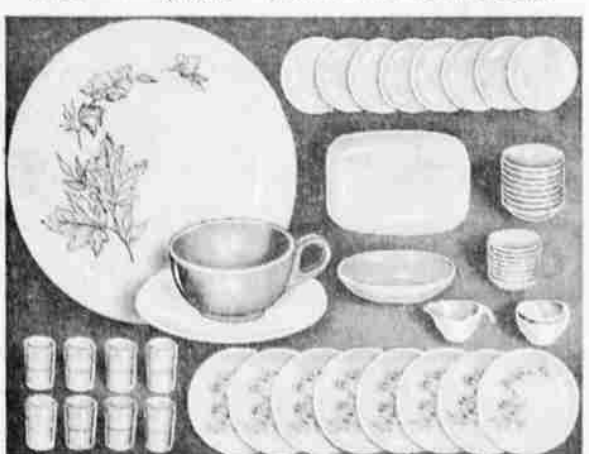
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