

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION





WELCOME

The Smithsonian Institution is an independent federal establishment devoted to public education, basic research, and national service in the arts, science, and history. It is the world's largest museum complex and an important center for research. Its 12 museums and the National Zoo possess more than 70 million objects and specimens. About one percent of the total is on public display, with the rest used for research.

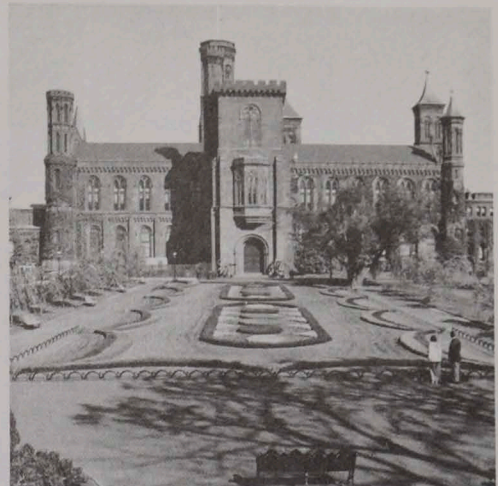
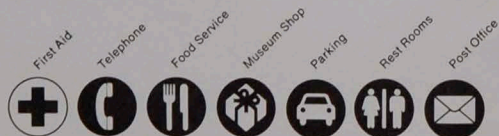
Seven Smithsonian museums are located on the National Mall between the Washington Monument and the Capitol. Four other museums and the National Zoo are located elsewhere in Washington. The only Smithsonian museum outside Washington is the Cooper-Hewitt Museum of Design and Decorative Arts in the restored Andrew Carnegie Mansion at 2 East 91st Street, New York City.

Smithsonian scientists and scholars conduct research in the museums and in research centers elsewhere in Washington and in Arizona, Florida, Maryland, Virginia, and the Republic of Panama. Field stations are operated in a number of countries and scientific expeditions visit nations round the world.

The Smithsonian also includes three entities, separately administered by their own boards of trustees: the National Gallery of Art and the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, both on the Mall, and the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts at 2700 F Street, NW.

The Smithsonian was established in 1846 by an act of the United States Congress with funds bequeathed by James Smithson, an English scientist who had never visited this country. Responsibility for administering the Smithson trust is vested in the Board of Regents and the Secretary of the Smithsonian. The Secretary is appointed by the Board whose members include the Chief Justice, the Vice President, three members of the Senate, three members of the House of Representatives, and nine citizen members.

The symbols shown below indicate which services are available at each museum. In sequence they are:



The Castle seen from the Victorian Garden

Richard Farrar



SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION BUILDING

To many visitors, this building — popularly known as the Castle — symbolizes the entire Smithsonian. It was the Institution's first building. Designed by James Renwick, Jr., the Castle was completed in 1855. Today it is the home of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars and the Institution's administrative offices. The Great Hall houses the Visitor Information and Associates' Reception Center as well as a lounge for Smithsonian Associates. A Crypt Room contains the tomb of James Smithson and a selection of memorabilia.

Hours: Smithsonian museums in Washington are open daily except Christmas Day. Regular hours are 10 am to 5:30 pm, except where noted. Extended summer hours are determined annually.

Transportation: Mall buildings are served by the Smithsonian Station of the Washington Metro subway. Metro stops for Smithsonian museums located elsewhere in Washington are noted in the text. For information on Metrobuses serving the museums, call 637-2347.

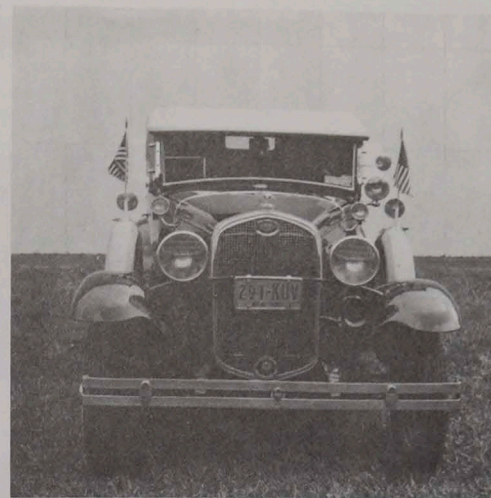
Accessibility: Most museums have at least one entrance that is accessible to disabled visitors. Guards can provide wheelchairs and further assistance.

Questions: For more information, phone 381-6264 between 9 am and 5 pm or call Dial-a-Museum at 737-8811.





Sheep, by Chao Měng-fu, Chinese, 1254-1322



Model-A Ford



FREER GALLERY OF ART

The Freer houses one of the world's finest collections of Oriental art as well as a major group of 19th- and early 20th-century American works. Highlights of this collection include paintings, drawings, and prints by James A. McNeil Whistler. His opulent Peacock Room, created in oil color and gold on leather and wood, is permanently installed here. Also among the American collection are works by Winslow Homer, Albert Pinkham Ryder, and John Singer Sargent.

Oriental collections include works from the Far East — China, Japan, Korea, and Tibet; from India and Indo-China; and from the Near East — Iran (Persia), Iraq, Syria, Asia Minor, Byzantium, and Egypt. Permanent galleries display paintings, sculptures, manuscripts, screens, and other objects of stone, wood, metal, lacquer, jade, pottery, glass, porcelaine, bronze, gold, and silver. Changing exhibitions emphasize particular aspects of the collections.



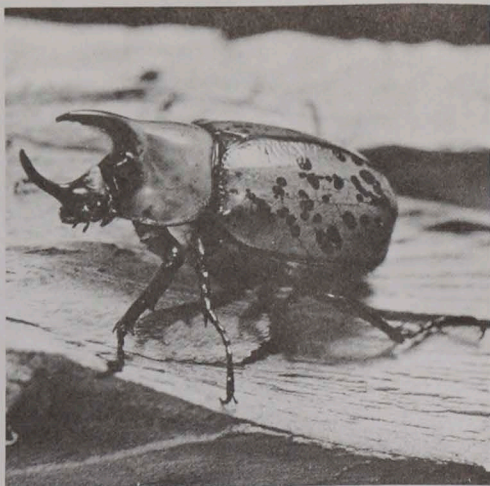
NATIONAL MUSEUM OF HISTORY AND TECHNOLOGY

The nation's major historic, scientific, cultural, and technological achievements are explored through an exciting variety of exhibits. Highlights include the First Ladies' gowns, George Washington's uniform and tent, the "Star-Spangled Banner," and milestones of American invention: Bell's telephone, Ford's Model T, and Whitney's model of the original cotton gin. Visitors can buy stamps in a general store and post office; watch old newsreels in a Trans-Lux theater; study a log cabin interior; and listen to antique musical instruments. On the ground floor, a Foucault pendulum demonstrates the earth's rotation.

Other displays center on folk art, clocks, tools, textiles, scientific instruments, coins, glass, ceramics, and stamps as well as the history of medicine, mathematics, machinery, bridge building, railroads, printing, and photography. Halls of electricity, maritime enterprise, news reporting, and underwater exploration follow these technologies to the present.

An 18th-century European apothecary shop is among the displays on foreign contributions to American development. The "Person to Person" exhibit tells about the telephone, and "Atom Smashers" outlines the history of high energy physics research. "We the People" traces this country's political history, and "A Nation of Nations" tells the story of America's immigrants.





Chip Clark

A unicorn beetle in the Insect Zoo.



NATIONAL MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

With more than 60 million objects in its research collections, the Museum is a fascinating resource on people and their natural surroundings. Exhibits range in size from the mounted African bush elephant, dinosaur skeletons, and the 92-foot model of a blue whale to the Hope Diamond and the bones of a tiny pocket mouse. Visitors can learn about glaciers and Ice Age mammals. A diorama of a Neanderthal burial helps to recount man's earliest history. Cultures of Africa, Asia, the Pacific, and the Americas are explored in dioramas of daily life. Western civilization is traced to its roots in Egypt, Mesopotamia, Greece, and Rome.

In the halls of mammals, birds, amphibians and reptiles, and sea life, visitors can study thousands of natural specimens in lifelike settings. There are exhibits on minerals, gems and jades, meteorites, moon rocks, and the earth's formation. The Hall of Physical Anthropology treats the themes of human origin and variation. "Our Changing Land" shows alterations since the Ice Age at a site in Washington, D.C. Even those who don't appreciate insects will enjoy the Insect Zoo, and "Splendors of Nature" celebrates the beauty of the world around us. The Naturalist Center, for visitors with special research interests, and the Discovery Room are available for further study of Museum specimens.



The Lincoln Gallery, National Collection of Fine Arts



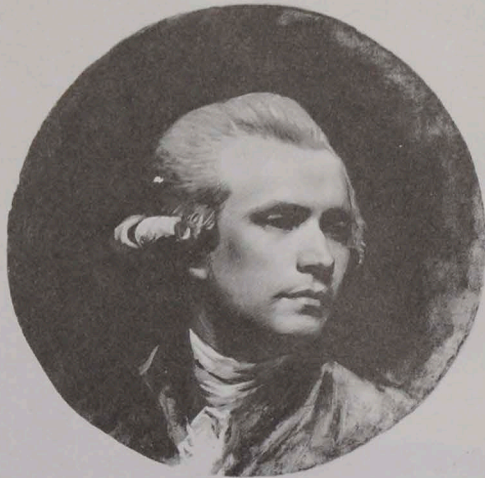
NATIONAL COLLECTION OF FINE ARTS

This collection of about 22,000 works, mostly of American paintings, sculpture, and graphic art from the 18th century to the present, evolved from the first national art collection. Housed in the old Patent Office Building, which it shares with the National Portrait Gallery and the Archives of American Art, the museum is a center for the study and presentation of American art. Among its holdings are 18th-century paintings by such masters as Gilbert Stuart and Benjamin West. The 19th-century collection includes more than 400 likenesses of American Indians by George Catlin and the original plaster models of Hiram Powers as well as paintings by Albert Pinkham Ryder and Winslow Homer.

Visitors can see contemporary paintings by such artists as Franz Kline, Robert Rauschenberg, and Helen Frankenthaler and sculpture by masters including Alexander Calder, Seymour Lipton, and George Rickey. The European and Asian collections include paintings by Rubens and Guercino and objects from the 11th century B.C. to the 18th century. Two special galleries help young people explore the sensory and imaginative aspects of art. Many temporary exhibitions and publications are produced by the museum, and varying selections from the collection are always on view.

8th and G Streets, NW — Metro Stop:
Gallery Place





Self-portrait, by John Singleton Copley, c. 1760-1784

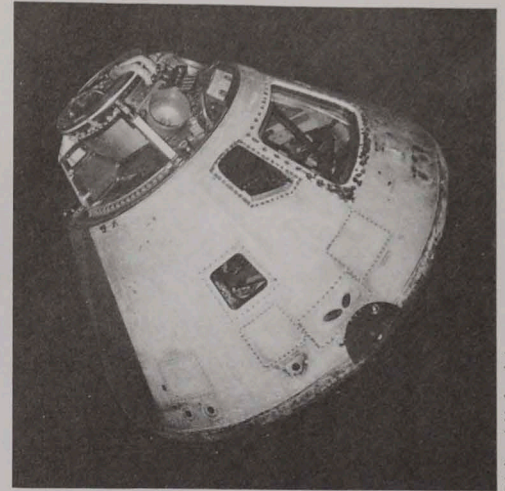


NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY

Beginning in the Hall of Presidents with the full-length portrait of George Washington by Gilbert Stuart, visitors can trace United States history through representations of the men and women who contributed to its political, scientific, literary, artistic, and military development. Portraits of more than 500 people ranging in time from Pocahontas to Jimmy Carter are on display. The Gallery is housed in the beautiful old Patent Office Building, sharing this landmark with the National Collection of Fine Arts and the Archives of American Art. As an introduction to the collection, a film, "The Faces of Freedom," is shown daily.

In addition to painting and sculpture, the collection encompasses prints and drawings, silhouettes, and a growing collection of photographs from daguerreotypes to modern images. Special exhibits highlight specific historical themes, periods, and personalities. A wide variety of programs, materials, and services is available to schools and teachers, adult groups, and the general public through the Portrait Gallery's Department of Education.

8th and F Street, NW — Metro Stop:
Gallery Place



Apollo Command Module Skylab 4

Richard Hofmeister

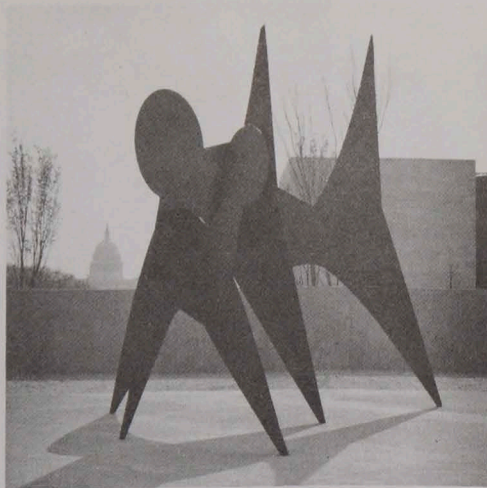


NATIONAL AIR AND SPACE MUSEUM

The Museum is a showcase for the evolution of aviation and space technology. It is also a celebration of flight. The 23 galleries feature history makers from the 1903 Wright Flyer and the Spirit of St. Louis to John Glenn's Friendship 7 and the Apollo 11 command module. Visitors can see the docked Apollo-Soyuz spacecraft, a model of Explorer I, and Gemini 4. There is the Skylab Orbital Workshop to enter and a moon rock to touch. Galleries display sounding rockets, satellites, astronaut suits, and an F-1 engine from the Saturn 5 that launched men to the moon.

Thematic aviation galleries cover vertical flight, flying for fun, general aviation, exhibition flight, sea-air operations, and balloons and airships. The story of World War I aviation is told through aircraft and equipment set against a simulated 1918 frontline airstrip. Fighter craft from five countries are displayed in the World War II gallery. Other exhibits treat the history and evolution of flying machines with a look to future trends and applications of flight technology. An art gallery, puppet shows, and film presentations are Museum highlights. Special films on flight are projected onto a five-story movie screen in the Museum theater, and visitors can view planetarium presentations in the Albert Einstein Spacearium.





Two Discs, by Alexander Calder, 1965

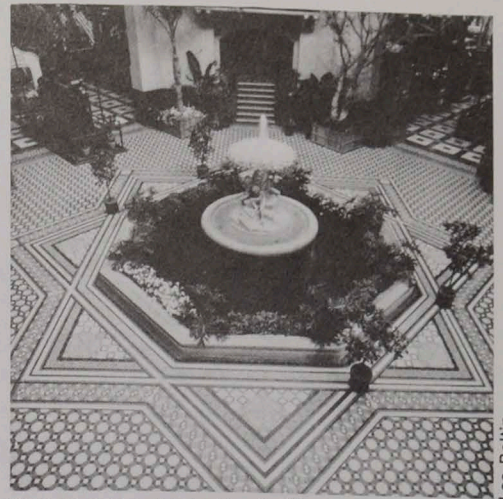


HIRSHHORN MUSEUM AND SCULPTURE GARDEN

The distinctive circular building, plaza, and sculpture garden house a collection of art that reflects changing styles of painting and sculpture from the late 19th century to the present. Based on a gift to the nation from Joseph H. Hirshhorn in 1966, the collection includes sculpture in a wide variety of materials by such artists as Edgar Degas, Auguste Rodin, Henry Moore, Pablo Picasso, Henri Matisse, Alberto Giacometti, David Smith, and Alexander Calder.

The painting collection contains European works of the past three decades, but the primary focus is on modern American art ranging from the Ashcan School and its precursors to Abstract Expressionism and Pop, Minimal, and the New Realist art. Thomas Eakins, Arshile Gorky, Willem de Kooning, Hans Hofmann, Franz Kline, and Morris Louis are among the painters whose works may be seen. The Museum also presents a continuing program of loan exhibitions devoted to artists and movements of the 20th century.

Summer Only



Rotunda, Arts and Industries Building

Lee Boltin



ARTS AND INDUSTRIES BUILDING

The dynamic spirit of America 100 years ago is recaptured in this, the second oldest Smithsonian building on the Mall. It was used for President James Garfield's inaugural ball in 1881 and today houses "1876: A Centennial Exhibition." The great exhibit halls have been restored to their original appearance, recalling the ambience of the late 19th-century Victorian period. More than 25,000 objects are displayed in the style of the Philadelphia Exposition of 1876. Many of the objects came to the Smithsonian when the fair ended.

The exhibit is one of the most extensive collections of Victorian Americana ever presented in an original setting. Working steam engines, a Baldwin locomotive of 1876, and a 51-foot model of the Naval sloop-of-war Antietam are among the exhibition highlights. Displays of furniture, glass, silver, clothing, tools, and manufactured goods showcase the finest examples of Victorian craftsmanship and illustrate the growth of industry in the 19th century. Flowers and plants in the rotunda surround a period fountain and are reminiscent of the fair's horticulture exhibits. Just outside the building visitors can stroll through a Victorian garden inspired by the plantings at the Philadelphia Exposition.





Martin Curry

Stair Hall, Second Floor, Renwick Gallery



RENWICK GALLERY

Changing exhibitions of contemporary and historic American crafts, decorative arts and design, as well as frequent shows on the arts of other cultures, are the fare at the Renwick Gallery, a curatorial department of the National Collection of Fine Arts. Designed in 1859 by architect James Renwick, Jr., but not completed until 1874, the building housed Washington's first private art museum, the Corcoran Gallery.

The Renwick's principal rooms have been restored and refurnished in the style of the late 19th century, with the Grand Salon, the entrance foyer, the grand staircase, and the Octagon Room recalling the elegant tastes of that period. Paintings in the Grand Salon, on loan from the Corcoran, include many of those displayed there a century ago. After the new Corcoran Gallery was opened in 1897, the original building was used by the United States Court of Claims. It was not until 1965, when it was threatened with demolition, that the Renwick was transferred to the Smithsonian to be restored as a public museum. Renamed for its architect, it opened in January 1972.

Pennsylvania Avenue at 17th Street, NW
Metro Stop: Farragut West



Michael Fischer

Children at the Anacostia Neighborhood Museum



ANACOSTIA NEIGHBORHOOD MUSEUM

The Museum, a center for black heritage in the historic Anacostia section of Southeast Washington, has occupied a converted movie theater since 1967. With its board of directors made up of Anacostia residents, the Museum supplements its traveling exhibitions on Afro-American history and culture with education programs that are of interest to the community. Among the major exhibitions which have been researched and produced at the Museum are "Black Women: Achievements Against the Odds," "The Anacostia Story, 1608-1930," and "The Frederick Douglass Years."

The Museum research center is another resource for information about the community. In addition to printed material, it includes oral history archives of taped interviews with Anacostia residents. The research center also provides support for the 450-member Anacostia Historical Society which sponsors lectures and other public events.

2405 Martin Luther King Avenue, SE
Metrobus routes: A-2, A-4, A-8, 92, 94
Hours: 10 am-6 pm weekdays; 1-6 pm weekends.





Max Hirschfeld

Hsing-Hsing, one of the Zoo's giant pandas



NATIONAL ZOOLOGICAL PARK

More than 2,000 animals representing about 500 species live at the Zoo, located about 20 minutes by bus from the National Mall. Its most famous residents are the giant pandas, Ling-Ling and Hsing-Hsing, gifts to the United States from the People's Republic of China. Other favorites include Smokey Bear, white Bengal tigers, and Atlas lions. A system of five trails directs visitors past every animal exhibit in the park. Along the trails are displays of African and Asian elephants, Indian rhinos, giraffes, and Nile and pygmy hippos. There are monkeys, apes, and reptiles; waterfowl, polar bears, and sea lions; bears, zebras, and kangaroos. Unusual species such as the golden marmoset, Galapagos tortoise, and bald eagle are being studied in a national effort to preserve species threatened with extinction in the wild. Visitors are not permitted to feed the animals at the Zoo, but they may watch the keepers distribute scheduled meals.

Entrances: 3000 block of Connecticut Avenue, NW; junction of Harvard Street and Adams Mill Road; off Beach Drive (Rock Creek Parkway). There is limited parking at \$1.50 per car. Bus Routes: L-2, L-4, L-6, and H-2. Building Hours: 9 am-4:30 pm except summer hours April 1-September 30: 9 am-6:30 pm. Grounds open at 6 am and close one hour after buildings close throughout the year.



Ginevra de' Benci, by Leonardo da Vinci, c. 1480



NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

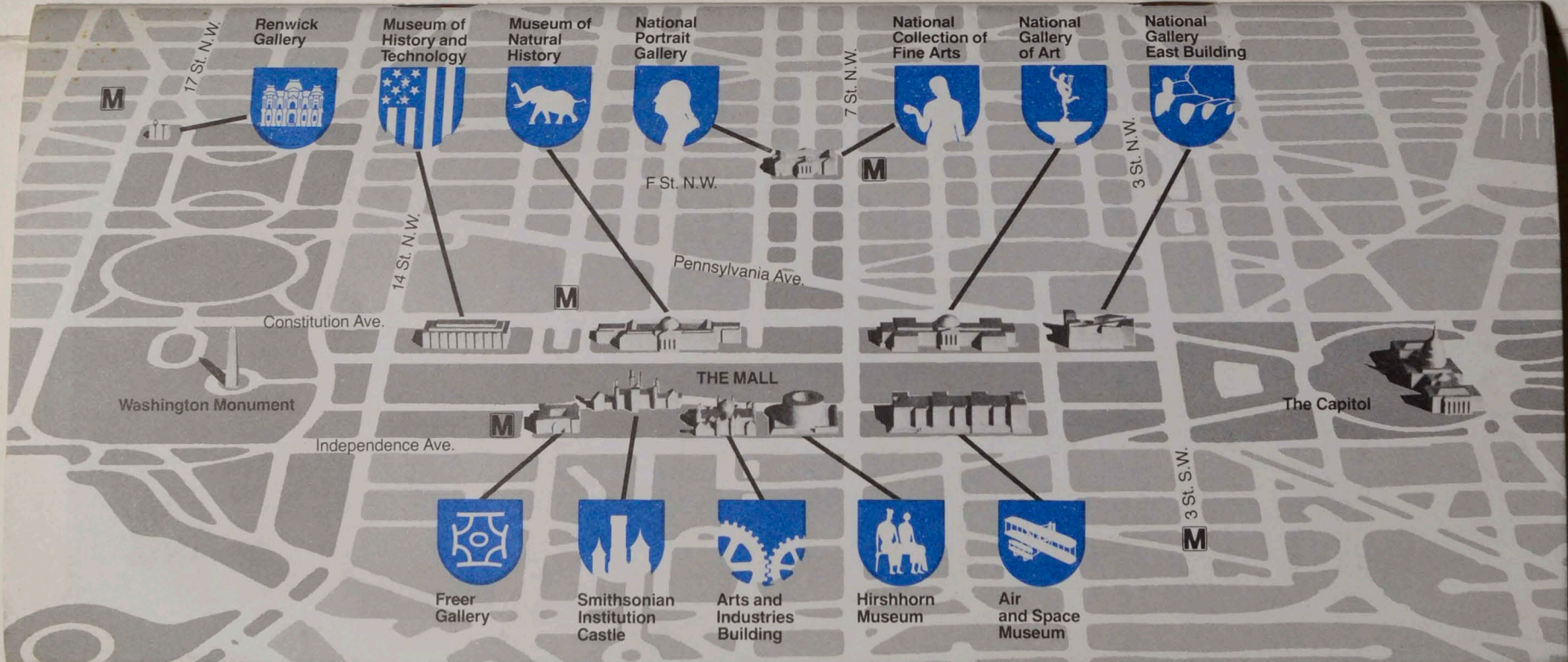
The National Gallery of Art contains one of the world's finest collections of European and American paintings, sculpture, and graphic arts from the 13th century to the present. The National Gallery offers the most comprehensive survey of Italian painting and sculpture in the western hemisphere, including the only painting outside Europe generally acknowledged to be by Leonardo da Vinci. It also has a rich group of paintings by Rembrandt, exceptional examples by French impressionists, and outstanding examples of American, British, German, Flemish, and Spanish art. All the works have been given by private citizens or purchased with their donated funds.

The Gallery's West Building was the gift of Andrew W. Mellon, former Secretary of the Treasury, in 1937. The East Building, which opened June 1, 1978, is the gift of Paul Mellon, the late Ailsa Mellon Bruce and The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

The National Gallery of Art was created as a bureau of the Smithsonian and is separately governed by its own board of trustees.

6th Street at Constitution Avenue, NW
Hours: Monday-Saturday, 10 am-5 pm
(Summer to 9 pm); Sunday, noon-9 pm.
Closed Christmas and New Year's Day.





Renwick Gallery



Museum of History and Technology



Museum of Natural History



National Portrait Gallery



National Collection of Fine Arts



National Gallery of Art



National Gallery East Building



Constitution Ave.

Pennsylvania Ave.

Independence Ave.

THE MALL

The Capitol

Washington Monument



Freer Gallery



Smithsonian Institution Castle



Arts and Industries Building



Hirshhorn Museum



Air and Space Museum

3 St. S.W.

3 St. N.W.

7 St. N.W.

17 St. N.W.

14 St. N.W.

F St. N.W.

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