EUROPEAN LOANS FOR THE DIAMOND JUBILEE

By FRANCIS HENRY TAYLOR

The Metropolitan Museum is especially proud that its 75th Anniversary has been marked by the co-operation of our colleagues in Europe in sending to the United States for exhibition works of art to represent their respective countries. At the final audience to the American delegation attending the recent consistory at the Vatican, His Holiness Pope Pius XII announced that he would lend from the Lateran Museum the celebrated statue of The Good Shepherd, a cornerstone in the history of Christian art. This statue and Michelangelo's tondo of the Madonna and Child from the National Museum of the Bargello in Florence have just arrived in this country, having been brought from Europe through the courtesy of the State and Navy Departments on the U. S. S. Missouri. These two works will be presented to the public at a reception on May 23 at which His Eminence Francis, Cardinal Spellman, Archbishop of New York, and His Excellency the Most Reverend Amleto Giovanni Cicognani, Archbishop of Laodicea, Apostolic Delegate to the United States, will speak on behalf of the Vatican, together with representatives of the Italian Embassy and Dr. Doro Levi of the Italian Ministry of Public Instruction and Fine Arts.

On this occasion the Museum's mediaeval collections, which have been completely rearranged in newly decorated galleries, will be placed on exhibition. The installations will include the smaller sculpture from the Morgan, Blumenthal, and other collections, selected masterpieces of ivory carving, enamel- and metalwork, jewelry, ceramics, and glass, and important textiles and tapestries. Many of these objects have not been shown since they were put away for safekeeping after the outbreak of the war. It is especially fitting that their return to exhibition should have been arranged at this time by Mr. Forsyth, as it will serve as an appropriate welcome to Captain Rorimer, who has just come back to the Museum after two years in France and Germany.

At the same reception Delacroix's great painting of Liberty Leading the People (ill. p. 222), which the French Government has sent to New York to mark the 75th Anniversary of the Museum, will be unveiled by Georges Salles, Director of the Louvre and of the French National Museums, and Jean Cassou, Director of the Museum of Modern Art in Paris. This painting, which is a symbol of the French Resistance and which was the first painting to be shown at the Louvre after the liberation of Paris, has been especially selected as a token of French gratitude for the role of the armies of the United States in the liberation of Europe.

Other important loans from foreign governments will be announced during the course of the year as soon as the difficulties of transportation under present conditions have been overcome.

A winter feature in this series of exhibitions will be presented in January and February, when, with the collaboration of the Art Institute of Chicago and the Foreign Office of the United Kingdom, the Metropolitan Museum will show some thirty paintings of the English school, drawn from the Royal Collection and the public galleries in London. These works, including notable paintings by Hogarth, Constable, and Turner, will be incorporated into a retrospective exhibition of English painting.

To the foreign governments, whose recognition of this institution as a cultural bridge between the old world and the new has been marked so splendidly by these events, and to their embassies in Washington, and particularly to certain individuals, the Trustees of the Museum owe a deep debt of gratitude. To Professor Charles Rufus Morey, Cultural Attaché of the American Embassy in Rome, we are indebted for having acted on the Museum's
The Good Shepherd, lent by His Holiness Pope Pius XII from the collection of the Lateran Museum. One of the earliest Christian statues known, it is believed to have come from one of the Catacombs of Rome and to date from the end of the 11th century.
The Madonna and Child with little Saint John the Baptist, marble relief of about 1505, by Michelangelo. From the Bargello in Florence. Lent by the Italian Government.

On behalf in regard to the loans from Italy. To Jacques Jaujard, Director General of Arts and Letters for the French Government, and to Claude Lévi-Strauss, Cultural Attache of the French Embassy in the United States, we are grateful for co-operation and assistance. Finally our thanks must go to the Chief of Naval Operations and the officers of his staff and to Captain Hillenkoetter, Commander of the U. S. S. Missouri.