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Whitehall, April 5, 1933.

The following Address was presented to The KING on the occasion of the opening by His Majesty of the new wing of the National Portrait Gallery on the 30th March, 1933.

THE TRUSTEES OF THE NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR MAJESTY.

The Trustees would beg leave to remind Your Majesties that the National Portrait Gallery was founded in response to a humble address from the House of Lords to the Queen in 1856.

The collection of portraits then formed was first opened to the public in a house in Great George Street and consisted of 56 pictures.

Forty years later it was moved to the building in St. Martin's Lane, presented by William Henry Alexander. The new wing is an extension of this building.

At that time the collection numbered 1,036 individual portraits, to-day it comprises nearly 3,000. And as it commemorates those who have attained eminence in all branches of national activity, it must continue to expand and need further space for its display.

In recognition of this need plans for an extension were drawn up as long ago as 1914, when the walls of the old Gallery were already so crowded that it was difficult to exhibit the pictures to advantage. The scheme, however, had to give way to more urgent demands. In 1928 the Royal Commission on Museums and Galleries reported that among the most pressing requirements was an enlargement of the National Portrait Gallery. It was then that

Lord Duveen, who had already given an addition to the National Gallery and a new wing to the Tate besides other public benefactions in the cause of Art, offered to present to the Nation an extension to this Gallery, and also new galleries to the British Museum and the Tate Gallery, provided that the other work recommended by the Royal Commission were undertaken by Your Majesty's Government. The undertaking was given, and all the three buildings recommended by the Royal Commission, and for which Lord Duveen has made himself responsible, are now either in being, in progress or in plan. The present building is the first to be completed, and it is anticipated that for a generation at least the claims of this collection dedicated to national achievement will be satisfied.

The increase in the number of portraits exhibited during 77 years has been specially noteworthy from the fact that more than half of our great collection has reached us by gift or bequest.

In the present year under the will of Lord Dillon, who was for 20 years Chairman of the Trustees and whose interest in the Gallery was unremitting, we have received four portraits of the first importance. To-day we are able to announce that in celebration of Your Majesty's visit Lord Wakefield has offered to the Nation through the Trustees of the National Portrait Gallery a munificent gift of modern portraits, and the National Art-Collections' Fund has acquired from Messrs. Knoedlers and presented to the Gallery a picture of outstanding artistic and historic interest.

Through such continuing public spirit the Gallery has attained a position unique in the