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TUESDAY, 29 JUNE, 1937

Whitehall, June 29, 1937.

The following Address was presented to The KING on the occasion of the opening by His Majesty of the Modern Sculpture Gallery at the Tate Gallery on the 29th June, 1937:—

To The King's Most Excellent Majesty:

May it please Your Majesty:—

The Trustees would beg leave to remind Your Majesty that the Tate Gallery was opened forty years ago in 1897 by King Edward VII, when Prince of Wales.

The original building comprised ten separate Galleries, and contained two hundred and twelve works of art. To-day there are thirty-six separate galleries, and the works of art number two thousand three hundred.

This spectacular rate of development is entirely due to the liberality of private persons.

Indeed the Gallery has been the object of benefactions so generous and so opportune that, without any form of public grant and without cost to the State, it has hitherto been enabled successfully to meet the requirements imposed by its growing importance.

Nearly all the most notable works which the Gallery contains have come to it through the generosity of donors interested in modern art and its representation in this place.

Among these donors special mention is due to Mr. Samuel Courtauld, to the National Art Collections Fund, and to the Contemporary Art Society.

Originally founded by Sir Henry Tate as a National Gallery of British Art in all its

branches, it received its first important addition in 1910, when the Turner Gallery was presented to the nation by the late Sir Joseph Duveen.

At that time there was no building in London devoted to the display of Modern Foreign Art. But in the year 1920 his son, the present Lord Duveen, declared his willingness to make good this deficiency by an addition to the Tate which should also include a Gallery to contain works by John Sargent. In June 1926 those Galleries were opened by his late Majesty King George V.

But it still remained a reproach to London that there was no adequate opportunity of studying the work of Modern British and Foreign Sculptors. From to-day that reproach will no longer be valid.

In the magnificent Sculpture Galleries which Lord Duveen is presenting to the nation, such works will in future be seen, under conditions as favourable as the resources of modern architecture and scientific knowledge can contrive.

We cannot fail gratefully to recognise that nothing could in the same degree encourage the spirit of private generosity, which has made the Tate Gallery one of the foremost of its kind in Europe; as the gracious presence of Your Majesties at this inaugural ceremony.

(Signed) *Evan Charteris,*
Chairman of the Trustees.

29th June, 1937.

To which Address His Majesty was pleased to return the following Gracious Answer:—

It gives The Queen and myself much pleasure to be here to-day, and to renew the close association which has for so long existed between the Tate Gallery and my Family.