



*John Russell Pope's Sketch for the National Gallery of Art in Washington  
Designed in the Classic style, it will face on North Mall Drive*

## **Nation Awaits Congressional Acceptance of Mellon Art Collection**

A LONG, LOW, CLASSIC STRUCTURE, tailored in lines that harmonize with the neighboring white Beaux-Arts buildings, will house the new National Art Gallery made possible for the nation's capital by Andrew W. Mellon. The plans, designed by John Russell Pope have already been accepted by the Fine Arts Commission and construction—a matter of two or three years—will get underway as soon as congressional authorization is made. A message warmly recommending acceptance of the Mellon gift and all its provisions has been sent to Congress by the President and a bill authorizing acceptance has been introduced by Senator Connally of Texas. Since there is no way of cutting through the red tape of formal legislative acceptance, authorization may not be made for several months.

Cost of the building, which will be borne entirely by Mr. Mellon, is estimated at \$9,000,000. The proposed location, on the north side of the Mall along Constitution Avenue will necessitate the closing of Sixth Street, across the Mall, and the only contest expected at the acceptance hearings will be on this point. The plans call for a roughly rectangular structure, 800 feet in length (nearly 3 city blocks) with simple, dignified stone masses. In order to minimize the so-called "museum fatigue" it will be only one story high. In elevation, the building will appear as a domed central unit flanked on either side with wings terminating in masses of lighter accents. The central unit, approached by wide stairs, is a colonnaded portico surmounted by a pediment of raking cornices which opens into a main, domed hall. The connecting wings will be relieved on the exterior by repeated rectangular niches. Details of the type of stone to be used have not as yet been announced, though the exterior will be white to conform with other Washington buildings.

Mr. Mellon has refused to permit his name to be inscribed on the structure which is to be known simply as the "National Gallery."