

A Luncheon

Statuary Hall

January Twenty-first

Nineteen Hundred Eighty-five

### MUSICAL PROGRAM

The music chosen for the Inaugural Luncheon comes from the early days of the republic when nearly every public event included a mixture of "Celebrated Airs" and homegrown dance tunes. Pieces composed for our earliest Presidents include "Washington's Toast," "Madison's Whim," and "Money Musk Reel," all found in Thomas Jefferson's library, as well as "The President's Waltz" written for James Monroe.

This repetoire of domestic and imported tunes also includes "The Merry Strollers," "La Poule," "Rural Felicity," "The New Tartan Pladdie" and "Rickett's Hornpipe" performed today on original instruments from the 18th and 19th centuries.

#### THE SMITHSONIAN CHAMBER PLAYERS

James Weaver Kenneth Slowik DIRECTORS

James Weaver Forte Piano
Kenneth Slowik Cello
Tina Chancey Fiddle
Judson Griffin Violin
Christopher Krueger
Scott Reiss Plageolet and Hammered
Dulcimer
Jaap Schroeder Violin



A LINE DRAWING OF SHEAVES OF WHEAT DESIGNED IN 1814
FOR THE FIREPLACE MANTELS IN THE OLD SENATE CHAMBER, AND
REPRODUCED ON THE MANTELS IN STATUARY HALL.

LUNCHEON:
GLORIOUS FOOD, WASHINGTON AND NEW YORK CITY

LUNCHEON SETTING AND FLOWERS:

JOHN FUNT AND CHRIS GIFTOS, NEW YORK CITY

# AUTUMN--ON THE HUDSON RIVER

by Jasper Francis Cropsey (American, 1823-1900) Canvas, signed and dated 1860

In the middle of the nineteenth century, landscape was by far the most popular subject in American art. As Americans saw special meaning in the uniquely unspoiled freshness, magnitude, and beauty of American nature, so nature became the symbol of American nationality, and landscape painting became America's national art.

The place that embodied the distinctive beauty and meaning of American nature more clearly by far than any other was the valley of the Hudson River above New York City. American landscape painters depicted it so often that they came to be called the Hudson River School. Jasper Cropsey was one of the most successful members of the group.

Cropsey painted Autumn--On the Hudson River in 1860. It is his largest and greatest painting. It is also a masterpiece of American national art, a grandly conceived pictorial summation of America—an epitome of felicitous human enterprise in perfect harmony with natural power and beauty. The Hudson, depicted at one of its widest points, moves majestically through a panoramic landscape of indomitable scope and scale. Along the river's banks are several villages, while beside a stream leading from the foreground are hunters and their dogs, a log cabin, grazing sheep, wading cattle, and children at play—all signs of man's peaceful, pleasurable, and profitable habitation of nature. There is no doubt that this is American nature, for it is bathed in the brilliant colors of autumn that had, as Americans were proudly aware, no counterpart in Europe, and which they read as a visible declaration of divinely sanctioned purpose.

Autumn--On the Hudson River was given to the National Gallery of Art by the Avalon Foundation in 1963. It is on loan to the Congress for this Inaugural Luncheon through the courtesy of the Trustees of the National Gallery.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

On behalf of the Congress and the American people, the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies is presenting to the President and Vice President of the United States crystal bowls designed by Paul Schulze, Vice President of Design, Steuben Glass. The bowls reflect the classic design made in silver by Paul Revere shortly before the American Revolution.

The President's crystal bowl, engraved with his name and the date of his Second Inaugural, rests on a seven-inch circular brushed aluminum base on which are inscribed the purposes of government as enunciated in the Preamble to the Constitution of the United States: a more perfect union • justice • domestic tranquility • common defense • general welfare • blessings of liberty.

The Vice President's bowl, inscribed with his name and the Inaugural date, rests on a similar base. It is engraved with words written by Thomas Jefferson in 1774: "The God that gave us life gave us liberty at the same time; the hand of force may destroy but cannot disjoin them."

The Joint Committee is presenting to the other participants in the Inaugural Ceremony crystal paperweights in the form of a tetrahedron on which is etched the Cloud Burst, a detail from the Great Seal of the United States, as well as the Inauguration date. This striking ornament, enhanced by captured light, was designed by Paul Yenawine of Steuben Glass.

## STATUARY HALL

This domed, semicircular room, with its sandstone walls and breccia marble columns, was designed by Benjamin Latrobe as the original Chamber of the House of Representatives. Gutted on August 24, 1814, when the British burned the Capitol during the War of 1812, the Chamber was rebuilt under Latrobe's supervision and reoccupied by the House in 1819. It served as the House Chamber until 1857 when the House moved to its present Chamber.

In 1797, John Adams was the first President to take the oath of office in this imposing Hall. Adams' Inauguration marked the first transfer of executive power in America's history and established the precedent for openness and order which was manifest in this morning's ceremony.

The original House Chamber was also used as a meeting place for scientific, educational and patriotic organizations. It was a regular place of worship. And, during the Civil War, the Old Hall, as the Chamber became known, was used both as a billeting area for Union soldiers and as an emergency hospital. In addition, it became a vendor's paradise, where oranges, doughnuts, calendars, guidebooks and almost any item an enterprising or destitute victim of "the war" could think of were hawked.

In 1864, Congress terminated such unintended use of the old House Chamber, and by Act authorized each state to place here statues of no more than two of its outstanding citizens "worthy of national commendation." Thus, Congress created Statuary Hall as it is known today.