

ROYAL LEAMINGTON SPA
ART GALLERY



AN EXHIBITION OF
ART TREASURES OF
WARWICKSHIRE

FAIR AUGUST 2ND TO SEPTEMBER 30TH, 1951

AP 15
ROY

INTRODUCTION

The re-staging of a previously successful show is sometimes a greater act of faith than the first performance. The 1948 "Art Treasures of Warwickshire" Exhibition was a great success. In deciding that the 1951 Festival of Britain Exhibition should take for its theme the same subject, the sponsors of the idea felt that the riches of the County's Treasures could well be displayed for a second time.

The 1951 "Art Treasures of Warwickshire" Exhibition demonstrates for the second time the riches of the County's Collections, both in large homes and small. I would like to take this opportunity of thanking the owners who have been so generous in lending, many of them for the second time, some of them harrassed by calls to lend to other Festival Exhibitions, all of them with a willingness which has taken little heed of empty spaces in rooms or on walls, or the loss for a time of heirlooms and favourite treasures.

Three things are perhaps emphasised by the 1951 Exhibition—the strength of the County's Tudor, Stuart and Georgian Collections, the remarkable wealth of English portraiture in Warwickshire, and the number of both the great family Collections, and of the specialising Collectors. A period or subject Exhibition would not have been hard to arrange, but, since this is Festival Year, an Exhibition as general as possible within the framework of Leamington's small but well designed gallery seemed the most fitting and the most timely.

Most of the items are being displayed for the first time, but there are some which were included in the previous Exhibition. The visiting public may like to renew acquaintance with these. At least all who come to the Exhibition may be assured of material for the pleasure of their eye, and for the exercise of their critical gifts.

OSWALD RAE DAVIDSON,
Mayor,
Royal Leamington Spa.