

Holocaust Era Research Collections

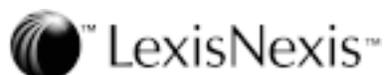
ART LOOTING AND NAZI GERMANY: RECORDS OF THE FINE ARTS AND MONUMENTS ADVISER, ARDELIA HALL, 1945–1961

Part 1: Country Files for Austria, Italy, and Germany

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SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The events of World War II led to the greatest displacement of works of art in history. By early 1943, art specialists in the Allied nations were quite aware of the Nazi confiscations and purchases of art objects, and their governments declared all such activity illegal. They realized also that these objects, as well as the national collections of all the belligerents, would be in great danger in the planned invasion of Europe. It was only with considerable difficulty that military commanders were persuaded to attach a small group of art officers to their staffs. The primary duty of these officers was to prevent damage to historic monuments and to salvage and secure movable works of art.

In the Western European countries, responsibility for movable works of art was returned to the local authorities as soon as those areas were liberated from German control. But the situation within the Third Reich was quite different, for here the arts officers were required to deal with the vast quantities of cultural objects confiscated within Germany and brought from other countries. The objects were found in thousands of hiding places and refuges. Under the most arduous conditions they were secured and gradually taken to collecting points set up by each Allied command within its zone of occupation. Despite endless international meetings, no coordinated Allied policy was ever developed to deal with these objects. The restitution policies of the Western Allies and the USSR were very different.

Why loot objects of art? The Nazis used art instrumentally as a part of their larger political and ideological program. Their policies with respect to art were inextricably linked to efforts to seize power within Germany, to conquer the European continent, and to execute their social programs. The Nazis' project of seizing artworks from foreign lands that they viewed as Germanic was an expression of their geopolitical goals. The "Poland is really Germany" school of thought, which sought to seize objects deemed German and eradicate indigenous Polish culture, is but one example. In short, the Nazis' cultural policies, and specifically their efforts to loot artworks, were inextricably bound with the war and the Holocaust.

Ardelia Hall Records

During and after World War II, Ardelia Hall served as a Monuments, Fine Arts, and Archives adviser to the State Department and as a Monuments, Fine Arts, and Archives officer in occupied Europe. These files reflect the extent of German art looting in Austria, Italy, and Germany itself. The records include files relating to the recovery of cultural objects dispersed during World War II and the programs for the

return of historic objects to countries of origin. These files consist of correspondence, memoranda, and minutes of interdepartmental committees and international conferences relating to looted art, disposition of Austrian and German Jewish libraries, settlement of cultural properties under U.S. control, and international protection of artistic and historic property. Also included are reports that refer to Ardelia Hall's expert advice and guidance on a variety of cultural concerns throughout Austria, Germany, and Italy.

SOURCE NOTE

Microfilmed from the holdings of the National Archives, College Park, Maryland, Record Group 59: Records of the Department of State, Records Maintained by the Fine Arts and Monuments Adviser, 1945–1961 (“Ardelia Hall Collection”), Lot File 62D-4, Entry 3104A. The documents reproduced in this publication are among the records of the U.S. Department of State in the custody of the National Archives of the United States. No copyright is claimed in these official records.

ACRONYM LIST

The following abbreviations are used throughout this guide.

ALIU	Art Looting Investigative Unit
CCP	Central Collecting Point
HICOG	Office of the U.S. High Commissioner for Germany
MCCP	Munich Central Collecting Point
MFA&A Section	Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives Section
OMGB	U.S. Office of Military Government, Bavaria
OMGH	U.S. Office of Military Government, Hesse
OMGUS	Office of Military Government for Germany, U.S.
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization
USFA	United States Forces, Austria
USSR	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

REEL INDEX

Entries in this index refer to specific folders within *Art Looting and Nazi Germany: Records of the Fine Arts and Monuments Adviser, Ardelia Hall, 1945–1961, Part 1: Country Files for Austria, Italy, and Germany*. The folders in this microform collection are grouped under three headings: Austria, Italy, and Germany. There is some overlap between headings. This index denotes significant issues, events, actions, and policy decisions under the heading *Major Topics*. The four-digit number on the far left is the frame number at which a file folder begins. Where applicable, the foreign-language file titles have been retained. Information in brackets has been added by the publisher.

Reel 1

Frame No.

Austria

- 0001 **Conversations with Vienna Restitution, July 1955 [April 1954–July 1957].** 53 frames.
Major Topics: Restitution of artwork; cultural property identified for restitution; shipment of looted rugs and silverware to Austria; restitution of regalia of Holy Roman Empire to Austria.
- 0054 **Proposed International Jewish Trustee Corporation, July–November 1946.** 22 frames.
Major Topic: Jewish cultural treasures in Germany, Austria, and Czechoslovakia.
- 0076 **Austria, Alt Aussee: Unidentified Items, 1951–1952, [Section 1].**
177 frames.
Major Topics: Restitution of looted Nazi art treasures to Austria; rules and regulations for restitution of property to ex-enemy nations; disposition of art objects and scientific works under USFA control; investigation of takeover of property of Peruvian citizens by Americans in Austria; transfer of unidentified works of art to U.S. military authorities in Austria.
- 0253 **Austria, Alt Aussee: Unidentified Items, 1951–1952, [Section 2].**
94 frames.
Major Topics: Restitution of looted Nazi art treasures to Austria; Austrian legation note on cultural restitution; transfer of unidentified works of art to U.S. military authorities in Austria; compensation for Austrian assets in Hungary; identification and restitution of art treasures in Austria.

Frame No.

- 0347 **Austria, Alt Aussee: Unidentified Items, 1951–1952, [Section 3].**
77 frames.
Major Topics: Referral of cultural claims to Federal Republic of Germany; restitution of looted Nazi art treasures to Austria; transfer of unidentified works of art to U.S. military authorities in Austria; release of art objects to Austria for disposition; restitution of looted art treasures to France; restitution of Holy Roman Empire regalia to Austria; German works of art in Austria.
- 0424 **Austria, [1951–1953].** 235 frames.
Major Topics: Photographs of artworks; Rembrandt paintings offered for sale; Hungarian cultural property in U.S. custody; problems relating to cultural restitution; transfer of unidentified works of art to U.S. authorities in Austria; disposition of art objects and scientific works under USFA control; Austrian information bulletins; Alt Aussee collection; identification of paintings under U.S. control; insurance list of drawings and works of graphic art; relocation of artworks belonging to the Museum of the City of Lubeck; return from Vienna of the Kassel collection.
- 0659 **Austria, [1945–1954].** 217 frames.
Major Topics: Inventory of artworks in U.S. custody; return of German artworks; Castle Thurnthal paintings; pictures from the Bavarian state art collection; Alt Aussee collection; transfer of unidentified works of art to U.S. authorities in Austria; identification and restitution of works of art; paintings and cultural objects sent to Salzburg; Linz collection; Schloss collection; paintings restored to France.

Reel 2

Austria cont.

- 0001 **Kassel-Kiel-Lubeck Collections in Vienna, [1950–1954].** 134 frames.
Major Topics: Photographs of paintings; inventory lists in German; paintings liable to restitution under U.S. control in Linz and Salzburg; UNESCO intergovernmental conference on protection of cultural property in event of armed conflict; restitution of Hungarian art objects; transfer of unidentified works of art to U.S. authorities in Austria; “Sven Hedin” Library materials.
- 0135 **Kassel-Kiel-Lubeck Collections in Vienna, [1945–1954].** 120 frames.
Major Topics: List of artworks stored in Salzburg; Schleswig-Holstein art collection; inventories of the Lubeck and Kiel collections; restitution of Kiel and Lubeck collections.
- 0255 **HICOG Efforts at Recovery, [1951–1953].** 45 frames.
Major Topics: Restitution of Italian art treasures seized by the Nazis; Leader and Specialist Program; efforts to obtain return of German-owned art objects from Italy.

- 0300 **Photostats of Correspondence Pertaining to Austrian Repositories Evacuated to M CCP, Section 1, [1945–1949].** 85 frames.
Major Topics: Bavarian State Coin Collection; liquidation of USFA captured artworks at M CCP; restitution policy and procedure; OMGUS–USFA fine arts agreement; processing of cultural materials from Austrian repositories; MFA&A Section activities in Austria and Germany; identification of property originating in Austria; German property in Austria; USFA jurisdiction over materials at M CCP; Austrian claims for restitution of art objects.
- 0385 **Photostats of Correspondence Pertaining to Austrian Repositories Evacuated to M CCP, Section 2, [1945–1949].** 81 frames.
Major Topics: Restitution of Austrian art treasures; MFA&A Section activities in Austria and Germany; USFA jurisdiction over materials at M CCP; OMGUS–USFA–OMGB agreements concerning cultural objects located at M CCP; identification of property originating in Austria; restitution policy and procedure; processing of cultural materials from Austrian repositories.
- 0466 **Photostats of Correspondence Pertaining to Austrian Repositories Evacuated to M CCP, Section 3, [1946–1949].** 77 frames.
Major Topics: List of artworks and historic property looted from Germany by U.S. personnel; liquidation of USFA fine artworks at M CCP; restitution of Austrian art treasures; MFA&A Section activities in Austria and Germany; processing of cultural materials from Austrian repositories; USFA jurisdiction over materials at M CCP.
- 0543 **Vienna, Kassel Pictures, [1946–1951].** 45 frames.
Major Topics: Joint Property Control Commission, Vienna Inter-Allied Command meetings dealing with Kassel paintings in Kunsthistorisches Museum; request for release of Kassel paintings; restitution of German cultural materials; inventory of Kassel collection.
- 0588 **Kassel Collection, [1947–1952].** 26 frames.
Major Topics: Request for release of Kassel collection; Alt Aussee collection; U.S. Military Government, Germany expenses for exhibition of Kassel paintings; restitution of cultural objects to Soviet government; German works of art in Austria.
- 0614 **Kassel Staatl. Samml., [1943–1946].** 84 frames.
Major Topics: Lists of paintings at Laar, Stammen, and Hohenborn repositories; photographs of paintings.
- 0698 **Austria [Documents in German], [1951].** 142 frames.
- 0840 **Austria, Alt Aussee, Unidentified Items, 1949–1950.** 93 frames.
Major Topics: MFA&A Section activities in Germany; restitution of Austrian art treasures; disposition of unidentified art objects found in Austria.

Reel 3

Italy

- 0001 **Protests on Return to Italy, [1948–1951].** 87 frames.
Major Topics: Italian claims for restitution of artworks; German protests over return of artworks to Italy.
- 0088 **Italian Claims (Art), [1954].** 120 frames.
Major Topics: Restitution of art treasures to Italy; inventory and photographs of artworks.
- 0208 **Folders Received on Loan from the Kansas City Record Center, Folder 1 of 4, [1958].** 2 frames.
Major Topic: Restitution of art treasures to Italy.
- 0210 **Folders Received on Loan from the Kansas City Record Center, Folder 2 of 4, [1945].** 10 frames.
Major Topic: Bad Wildungen collection.
- 0220 **Folders Received on Loan from the Kansas City Record Center, Folder 3 of 4, [1945–1948].** 45 frames.
Major Topics: German looting of Greek art objects; Greek claims for restitution of art objects.
- 0265 **[Folders Received on Loan from the Kansas City Record Center, Folder 4 of 4, 1945–1948].** 21 frames.
Major Topic: German looting of Greek art objects.
- 0286 **Restitution—Italy, [1946–1985].** 139 frames.
Major Topics: Restitution of art treasures to Italy; library and photo collection of German Archeological Institute in Rome; removal of German libraries from Italy; list of Italian artworks sold unlawfully to Germany; list of unidentified artworks in Austrian repositories.
- 0425 **Restitution—Italy, [1954–1958].** 77 frames.
Major Topics: Restitution of art treasures to Italy; inventories of artworks; removal of German libraries from Italy.

Germany

- 0502 **ALIU [Art Looting Investigative Unit] File, [1946].** 28 frames.
Major Topic: Interrogation reports relating to Hitler Museum and Library in Linz.

Frame No.

- 0530 **Wildenstein Case, [1953–1959].** 120 frames.
Major Topics: Claim of Wildenstein and Company, Inc. for artworks confiscated by Soviet authorities in Berlin; paintings and drawings deposited in custody of National Gallery in Berlin; Gerstenberg collection; photographs of paintings.
- 0650 **Claimants in Germany, [1947–1961].** 200 frames.
Major Topics: Request for return of Field Marshal Maximilian von Weich's baton; requests for return of paintings and art objects belonging to German citizens and institutions; request for compensation for seizure of flags of Bavarian Veterans Associations; Italian, Greek, and Czech claims for restitution of artworks; restitution claims of Julius Fulton for the Fulda coin collection; inventories of Italian artworks recovered in Germany; U.S. cultural restitution policy.
- 0850 **A/AM Protocols, [1951–1954].** 31 frames.
Major Topics: Restitution of art treasures to Italy; inventories of Italian art objects.

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Germany cont.

- 0001 **Inventory of Property of Grand Duke of Saxe-Weimar, [1955–1957].**
76 frames.
Major Topics: Inventory of jewels and silver of Grand Duke Carl August of Saxony-Weimar; MFA&A Section activities.
- 0077 **German Restitution Problem, [1953–1957].** 121 frames.
Major Topics: German Federal Restitution Law; monetary claims of former Nazi persecutees; internal restitution status in western Berlin; restitution and property control; restitution of German cultural properties.
- 0198 **German Restitution Problem, [1949–1957].** 551 frames.
Major Topics: Bonn Agreements of 1952; Paris Protocols of 1954; termination of the occupation of West Germany; North Atlantic Treaty protocol on accession of West Germany; convention on relations with West Germany; Federal Compensation Law claims; restitution reports; external restitution program; West German government assumes direct control over cultural objects in possession of HICOG; monetary restitution claims against Germany; disposition of Latvian and Estonian cultural properties in Germany; disposition of Russian ecclesiastical art objects in Germany; Soviet claims for cultural objects.
- 0749 **Lists, [1951–1952].** 64 frames.
Major Topics: MFA&A Section and OMGH files; Wiesbaden CCP files; Offenbach Archival Depot files; art objects returned from the U.S. National Gallery of Art to HICOG; custody receipt forms; German claims at the Central Filing Agency in Bad Nauheim; art objects claimed under Law 59.

Frame No.

- 0813 **Lists, [1956].** 79 frames.
Major Topic: Index of cultural claims by Austria, Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, England, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Palestine, Poland, Rumania, Switzerland, the United States, the USSR, and Yugoslavia.
- 0892 **Lists/Indexes/Receipts, [1956].** 40 frames.
Major Topics: Austro-German agreement on German assets in Austria; cultural claims by Austria, Belgium, Czechoslovakia, France, Hungary, Poland, the USSR, Switzerland, Yugoslavia, and Germany.
- 0932 **Lists, [1957].** 6 frames.
Major Topics: Return of German assets; completed claims.

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Germany cont.

- 0001 **Lists/Indexes/Receipts, [1951–1956].** 154 frames.
Major Topic: Cultural claims by Yugoslavia, Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, England, France, Greece, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Palestine, Poland, Rumania, Switzerland, the United States, and the USSR.
- 0155 **Transmittal of Claims to Federal Republic of Germany and Other Claimant Governments, [1956].** 50 frames.
Major Topic: Cultural claims by Austria, Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, France, Great Britain, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, the USSR, and Yugoslavia.
- 0205 **Coin Collection in HICOG, [1957].** 4 frames.
Major Topic: Munich Numismatic Collection.
- 0209 **Rothschild Jewels, [1947–1948].** 10 frames.
Major Topic: Request for restitution of Rothschild jewels.
- 0219 **Monte Cassino Altarpiece Returned to Italy, [1951–1952].** 30 frames.
- 0249 **Aubusson Rug (Mrs. Mayer-Fuld), [1945–1955].** 112 frames.
Major Topic: Lucie Mayer-Fuld cultural claims including Aubusson rug.
- 0361 **Ownership, [1947–1953].** 219 frames.
Major Topics: Second National Exhibition of Works of Art Recovered in Germany; restitution of art treasures to Italy; Dutch claims for paintings lost during World War II; Italian and Greek claims for restitution of looted artworks.

Frame No.

- 0580 **Focke Claims, Germany, [1949–1953].** 119 frames.
Major Topics: Albrecht Focke cultural claims; inventories of Focke collections.
- 0699 **E.S. Safehaven Cases, [1945–1947].** 82 frames.
Major Topics: Dutch paintings looted by the Germans; Alois Miedl art collection; Goudstikker collection; American Commission for the Protection and Salvage of Artistic and Historic Monuments in War Areas (Roberts Commission); looted art in Switzerland and Spain.
- 0781 **Perls Claim, [1946–1955].** 44 frames.
Major Topic: Hugo Perls cultural claim for restitution of painting.
- 0825 **Receipts for Cultural Objects, [1948–1951].** 109 frames.

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- 0001 **Individual Restitutions, [1951–1952].** 140 frames.
Major Topics: Restitution of art objects to individuals; restitution of Monte Cassino altarpiece.
- 0141 **List of Photographs Made by Wiesbaden CCP, [Undated].** 9 frames.
- 0150 **Objects of Art Discovered in American Zone in Germany and Austria, [Undated].** 2 frames.
Major Topic: Summary of outstanding depositories of art objects discovered in U.S. Zone in Germany and Austria.
- 0152 **MFA&A: Cooperation with Roberts Commission, [1945].** 11 frames.
Major Topic: Minutes of Roberts Commission conferences held in the U.S. National Gallery of Art.
- 0163 **Roberts Commission, [1943–1946].** 119 frames.
Major Topics: Roberts Commission functions, activities, and membership; Rockefeller Foundation support; military measures for the protection of cultural treasures in Rome; ALIU reports; Russian removal of artworks from Germany; opposition to removal of German artworks to the United States; Vaucher Committee of the Conference of Allied Ministers of Education.
- 0282 **American Commission [Roberts Commission], Final Report, [1945–1946].** 149 frames.
Major Topic: Final report of the American Commission for the Protection and Salvage of Artistic and Historic Monuments in War Areas (Roberts Commission).
- 0431 **Jewish Manuscript of Darmstadt Library, [Undated].** 3 frames.

Frame No.

- 0434 **Gjertsen Claim for Lohr Library, [1951].** 5 frames.
Major Topic: Dorothy Gjertsen cultural claim on behalf of Otto Lohr.
- 0439 **Thorak Claim, [1947–1956].** 36 frames.
Major Topic: Hilda Thorak claim for restitution of artworks.
- 0475 **Art Dealer Fritz Weber, [1948–1950].** 17 frames.
Major Topic: Investigation of unlicensed art dealer Fritz Weber by the Intelligence Division of OMGH.
- 0492 **List of Photographs Made by Photo Marburg at the Wiesbaden Central Collecting Point, 1946–1947, [Folder 1].** 64 frames.
- 0556 **List of Photographs Made by Photo Marburg at the Wiesbaden Central Collecting Point, 1946–1947, [Folder 2].** 75 frames.
- 0631 **Various Correspondence, Badgastein/W. Blum/Schulte-Mattler, [1949–1951].** 98 frames.
Major Topics: Inventory of Freiherr Maximilian von Goldschmidt-Rothschild collection; art objects released by city of Badgastein; inventory of German property from U.S. Zone of Austria.
- 0729 **Newspaper Clippings [in German], [1951].** 7 frames.
- 0736 **MCCP, French, Dutch, Austrian, and Canadian Shipments, 1950–1951.** 156 frames.
Major Topic: Canadian, Dutch, French, and Austrian claims for restitution of cultural objects.
- 0892 **Receipts for Washington, [1951].** 108 frames.
Major Topics: Receipts issued for return of cultural objects; inventory of Nazi-related materials.

SUBJECT INDEX

The following index is a guide to the major subjects in this microfilm publication. The first number after each entry refers to the reel, while the four-digit number following the colon refers to the frame number at which a particular folder containing information on the subject begins. Hence, 2: 0543 directs the user to the folder that begins at Frame 0543 of Reel 2. By referring to the Reel Index, which constitutes the initial segment of this guide, the user will find the folder title and a list of major topics, arranged in the order in which the material appears on the film.

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