PROVENANCE RESOURCES
AT THE
ARCHIVES OF AMERICAN ART

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To illuminate scholarship of the history of art in America through collecting, preserving, and making available for study the documentation of this country's rich artistic legacy.

[Charles Green Shaw gouache sketch for World's Fair motorized piece], ca. 1940 / Charles Green Shaw, artist. Painting on board : 1 item ; 33 x 20 cm. Charles Green Shaw papers, 1686, 1833-1979, bulk, 1909-1974. Archives of American Art
What do we collect?

- Personal papers of individuals and the records of organizations that include letters from, or references to, prominent figures in American cultural history; a significant body of unpublished manuscript material; and documentation on major American artists or major art trends and events that have substantial evidential and intrinsic value.

- The visual arts include painting, sculpture, drawing, illustration, printmaking, photography, crafts and decorative arts, conceptual art, performance art, video art, and installation and environmental art.
Extent of holdings

• 5,800 discrete collections
• 14,000 linear feet
• 2,212 oral history interviews
• described by:
  • Brief catalogue record for every collection
  • Finding aids for about 500 collections, covering 6,000 feet of material

Provenance Research at AAA

- Dealers
- Galleries
- Monuments Men
- Institutions

Collections

- Carnegie Institute, Museum of Art records
- Jacques Seligmann & Co. records
- Schaeffer Galleries
- World House Galleries records
- Victor Spark papers
- J. B. Neumann
- Perls Galleries records
Monuments Men

- George Leslie Stout papers
- James J. Rorimer papers
- Otto Wittmann papers
- Thomas Carr Howe papers
- S. Lane Faison papers
How to access AAA collections

- AskUs form
- Search Images
- Collections Online
- Reading rooms
  - Manuscript
  - Microfilm

SAMUEL H. KRESS FOUNDATION GRANT PROJECT

Increasing Access to the Archives of American Art’s collections that support WWII Art Provenance Research
Samuel H. Kress Foundation provides funds to enhance access to the Archives' World War II provenance research collections

PROJECT SUMMARY

The Archives of American Art has been awarded $100,000 by the Samuel H. Kress Foundation's Digital Resources grant program to support a project to preserve, arrange and create Web-readable online electronic finding aids for eleven archival collections that are central to provenance research for the history of art during World War II.

The Archives will create detailed online finding aids for the historical records of Schaeffer Galleries and World House Galleries, as well as the personal archives of museum professionals, art historians and World War II Monuments Men S. Lane Faison, Walter Horn, Thomas Carr Howe, J.B. Neumann, Perry Townsend Rathbone, James J. Kostmr, George Leslie Stout and Otto Wittmann, substantially enhancing the amount of information that is currently available to researchers about the contents of these collections. Selected highlights from each of these collections will be digitized and made available online. In addition, the papers of New York City art dealer Victor Spark will be digitized in their entirety and made available on the Archives' website.

Once completed, this body of resources will provide additional contextual online access via a dedicated webpage. These newly available World War II art provenance research resources will become easily accessible to millions of worldwide users who consult the Archives of American Art's website. The webpage will provide brief summary descriptions of each of the individual collections processed during the project with links to their respective online finding aids, as well as links to relevant oral history interviews and related collections at the Archives, such as the records of Parke Bernet, Galerie Georges Pelletier, and Galerie Stieglitz & Co. The Archives will contract with a renowned provenance scholar to write content for the webpage and provide scholarly insight to relevant collections among the Archives holdings that have proven to be critical for provenance research for US and international scholars.

This project also complements the Smithsonian Institution's on-going Provenance Research Initiative and website which also offers many new online resources, including a comprehensive workbook, "Guidelines and Procedures for World War II Provenance Issues." This project will continue to build on the tremendous international exchange and successful outcomes engendered by the "New Era of Collaboration and Digitized Resources: World War II Provenance Research Seminar," held in Washington, D.C. in 2007.

http://www.aaa.si.edu/collections/projects/kressWWII
Jacques Seligmann & Co. Records
http://www.aaa.si.edu/collections/jacques-seligmann--co-records-9936

Jacques Seligmann & Co. records, 1904-1978, bulk 1913-1974

Series 1: Correspondence
Series 2: Collectors Files
Series 3: Auction Files
Series 4: Exhibition Files
Series 5: Reference Files
Series 6: Inventory and Stock Files
Series 7: Financial Files and Shipping Records
Series 8: Contemporary American Department
Series 9: De Hanke & Co., Inc., Records
Series 10: Modern Paintings, Inc., Records
Series 11: Gesler Corp. Records
Series 12: Germain Seligmann's Personal Papers

Jacques Seligmann & Co.
This site provides access to the records of Jacques Seligmann & Co. in the Archives of American Art, which were digitized in 2010. The bulk of the collection has been scanned, and totals 350,752 images.
Processing of the collection was funded by the Getty Grant Program; digitization of the collection was funded by the Samuel H. Kress Foundation and the Terra Foundation for American Art.

Donate Now
Help us ensure that significant records and untold stories documenting the history of American art are preserved and shared with the world.

Terra Foundation Center for Digital Collections
Recently Digitized Collections
Ladd, Anna Coleman Wals
McCoy, Esther
Lipconitz, Jacques
Fricke, Robin
Shinn, Everett
Brooks, Ramsilo
Bowitch, Nancy Douglas
Modern Paintings, Inc., Records: Consignment Invoices 1941-1950

Consignment Invoice

No. 7890

Gris, Juan (1887-1927)

"Flask and Glass"

Oil and collage on canvas: 12 1/4 x 15"

Painted in 1914.

Signed on back of canvas: "Juan Gris".


Exhibited: Juan Gris Exhibition, Buchholz Gallery, March 30-April 28, 1944, No. 8 (reproduced in the catalogue).

Price: $1,990.00

Less 10%
Development of Emil G. Buehrle collection

http://www.aaa.si.edu/collections/jacques-seligmann--co-records-9936/more#section_1
TO:  COLLECTOR OF CUSTOMS
     PORT OF NEW YORK

Your Reference #3427

I, GERMAIN SELIGMANN, President of Jacques Seligmann & Co., Inc., hereby declare that the enamel Triptych, marked #3501 and carrying Entry #557600, which was imported at the port of New York by TWA Plane #44546, which arrived on May 24, 1948, is the property of Mr. John Mortimer Schiff, partner of Jahn, Leeb & Company, 52 William Street, New York 8, N.Y., who has inherited it from his father, the late Mortimer L. Schiff.

Said Triptych was included in the sale of the works of art, the property of Mr. John Mortimer Schiff, held at Christie's in London on June 21, 1948, at which time it was bought in by him. Mr. Schiff subsequently consigned this Triptych to us for sale, and we in turn consigned it in 1933 to Jacques Seligmann & Cie., Paris, France, in whose custody it has been up to its recent importation to the United States.

Since the above item was returned free of duty under Paragraph #3511, we hereby request that the information as to original date and from whom purchased be waived.

JACQUES SELIGMANN & CO., INC.

New York, N.Y.
June 22, 1948

GERMAIN SELIGMANN
President
Smithsonian Institution Provenance in the World War II era website
http://provenance.si.edu/jsp/provenance_sites.aspx

Provenance Websites

For further research on World War II / Nazi-era cultural property, explore additional museum and institution provenance Web sites with information pertaining to paintings, sculptures, and jewelry.
(Updated March 2010)

Museum Provenance Websites

AAM Nazi Era Provenance Internet Portal Project
Provides a searchable registry of objects in U.S. museum collections that changed hands in Continental Europe during the Nazi era (1933-1945).
http://www.aam-us.org/

Art Institute of Chicago
http://www.aic.dms.edu/collection/provenance/

Boston Museum of Fine Art
http://www.mfa.org/master/sub.asp?key=418&subkey=342

Cleveland Museum of Art

The Detroit Institute of Arts
http://www.dia.org/the-collection/provenance_information/index.asp

J. Paul Getty Museum
http://www.getty.edu/museum/research/provenance/

Los Angeles County Museum of Art
http://www.lacma.org/art/Provenance.aspx

Metropolitan Museum of Art
http://www.metmuseum.org/Works_of_Art/provenance/

Museum of Modern Art
http://www.moma.org/explore/collection/provenance/

National Gallery of Art
http://www.nga.gov/collection/provfast.shtml

Philadelphia Museum of Art

Princeton University Art Museum
http://artmuseum.princeton.edu/art/provenance/

Saint Louis Art Museum
http://www.slam.org/
Monuments Men papers

Rothschild furniture and decorative arts collections discovered at the Buxheim Monastery. James Rorimer papers, Archives of American Art.