Nazi-Era Provenance Research Resources at the National Archives

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National Archives and Records Administration (NARA)
Records of Federal Agencies

- Agencies transfer legal custody to NARA
- Record Groups
- Series
Selected Record Groups Relevant for Provenance Research

- RG 226 – Office of Strategic Services (OSS)
- RG 239 – American Commission for the Protection and Salvage of Artistic and Historic Monuments in War Areas (Roberts Commission)
- RG 260 – US Occupation Headquarters, World War II
Selected Record Groups Relevant for Provenance Research

- RG 59 – Department of State
- RG 84 – Foreign Service Posts of the Department of State
- Holocaust-Era Assets: A Finding Aid to Records at the National Archives at College Park, Maryland
Holocaust-Era Assets Records Microfilming Project (HRP)

2001 – NARA staff met with art historians and curators to identify NARA's relevant holdings concerning art provenance and restitution claims research.

HRP created to identify, preserve, describe and microfilm records regarding Nazi looted art and post-war restitution efforts.

- Facilitate Access
- Ensure preservation of the records
2009 – Footnote created a Holocaust Collection

Holocaust Era Assets Section (HRP Records)

Digitization Partnership with NARA
Using Fold3

- Browse images by Microfilm Publication
  - Scroll through every page
- Searchable by keyword (e.g., name, place)
- http://go.fold3.com/holocaust/

Michelangelo’s Madonna of Bruges

May 5, 2011 - Signing Ceremony in Washington DC

Currently 18 participating institutions

International Research Portal for Records Related to Nazi-Era Cultural Property

ARRANGEMENT for PARTICIPATION

MISSION

The International Research Portal is a collaboration of national and other archival institutions with records that pertain to Nazi-Era cultural property. These archival institutions, along with expert national and international organizations, are working together to extend public access to the widely dispersed records through a single Internet portal. The portal is designed to enable families and institutions to research their losses, provenance researchers to locate important documentation, and historians to study newly accessible materials on the history of this period. This collaborative project was established to fulfill the 1998 Washington Conference Principles on Nazi-Confiscated Art, the 2000 Vilnius Forum Declaration, and the 2009 Terezin Declaration on the importance of making such records publicly accessible.

The portal links researchers to archival materials consisting of descriptions of records and, in many cases, digital images of the records themselves that relate to cultural property that was stolen, looted, seized, forcibly sold, or otherwise lost during the Nazi Era. Cultural property documented in these records covers a broad range, including artworks, books and libraries, religious objects, antiquities, archival documents, carvings, silver, and more.
International Research Portal Goals

- Extend public access to the widely-dispersed records through a single internet portal.

- Describe, digitize, index, and make available online records and information about records in member institutions.
Member Institution Pages

Links to descriptions and where available, digitized images of records

Other Resources

http://www.archives.gov/research/holocaust/international-resources/
Over 2.3 million pages of documents created or received by the U.S. Government during and after World War II as part of its investigations into cultural assets that were looted or otherwise lost during the war

- Descriptions of the records
- Links to digital images on Fold3 or NARA’s Online Public Access (OPA)

http://www.archives.gov/research/holocaust/international-resources/nara/
Planning a Research Visit

• Contact Information
  • Inquire@nara.gov
  • Archives2reference@nara.gov

• http://www.archives.gov/research/start/plan-visit.html

• Online Public Access (OPA) - http://www.archives.gov/research/search/