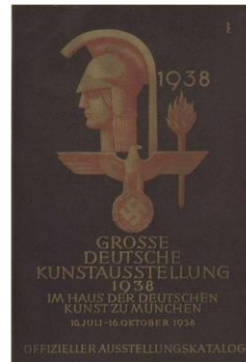
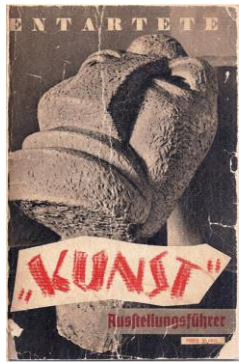


Spencer Art Reference Library

Library Guide

Discriminating Thieves: Nazi-Looted Art and Restitution



Resource List | 2019

During World War II, the Nazis waged a cultural battle as well as a physical one. One aspect of the cultural war was the looting of art on a large scale from German institutions, individuals and occupied countries. Looted works might be deemed “degenerate” and sold or destroyed or valued because Hitler believed they reinforced the Nazi’s ideological beliefs. After the war, many looted works of art were found and returned to their owners by the Allies while the complex histories of others are still being researched today. This bibliography, compiled to accompany the exhibition *Discriminating Thieves: Nazi-Looted Art and Restitution*, includes books about art and World War II, the Monuments Men, and titles on provenance research. Also included are relevant materials held by the Museum Archives.

If you have questions, please contact the reference staff at the Spencer Art Reference Library (telephone: 816.751.1216). Library hours and services are listed on the Museum’s website at www.nelson-atkins.org

Selected by:

Roberta Wagener | *Library Assistant, Public Services* & Tara Laver | *Archivist*

Items in the Exhibition

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Chanel, Gerri. *Saving Mona Lisa: The Battle to Protect the Louvre & Its Treasures During World War II.* Poughkeepsie: Heliopa Press, 2014.
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Ronald, Susan. *Hitler's Art Thief: Hildebrand Gurlitt, the Nazis, and the Looting of Europe's Treasures.* New York: St. Martin's Griffin, 2017.
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Simpson, Elizabeth. *The Spoils of War: World War II and its Aftermath: The Loss, Reappearance, and Recovery of Cultural Property*. New York: H.N. Abrams in association with the Bard Graduate Center for Studies in the Decorative Arts, 1997.
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Smyth, Craig Hugh. *Repatriation of Art from the Collecting Point in Munich After World War II: Background and Beginnings with Reference Especially to The Netherlands*. Maarsse: Gary Schwartz, 1988.
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Materials in the Museum Archives
Annual reports to the Board of Trustees, 1935-1988: reports acquisitions for each year and contains an overview from the director and reports from each department in the museum. (1989 and thereafter embargoed 30 years from date of creation.)

RG 80/10, J.C. Nichols Nelson Trust Office Files, 1926-1950 (3 linear ft.)

J.C. Nichols served as chair of the trustees of the William Rockhill Nelson Trust 1929-1950. His files include correspondence regarding objects offered for purchase, objects acquired by the trust, applications for museum positions, and negotiations with dealers, as well as correspondence with expedition organizers, art advisors, museum directors, lawyers, property managers, architects and builders. Of note for the World War II era is correspondence with Director Paul Gardner and Curator of Oriental Art Laurence Sickman, who served overseas, and Acting Director Ethlyne Jackson.

RG 01/01, Office of the Director Records. Paul Gardner Records, 1932-53 (6 linear ft.)

Founding Director of the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Gardner held the role from 1933-1953. Ethlyne Jackson served as Acting Director from November 1942 until January 1946 while Gardner served in the American Armed Forces during World War II. Comprised of subject files and correspondence with dealers and other museums. Subject files include, among other topics, gifts, loans and purchases, admission reports, publicity, Friends of Art, gallery furnishing and installation and opening events, and museum administration. Of note for World War II are files on art from domestic and international dealers and collectors stored and sometimes displayed at the museum during World War II, labor, wartime programs and activities.

RG 72, Scrapbooks Collection, 1926-2001 (67 volumes)

Contains newspaper and magazine clippings that relate in some way to the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art. Exhibitions, lectures, programs, events, acquisitions, and museum operational developments are featured. To a lesser extent, articles cover the general Kansas City art scene. World War II-era scrapbooks relate museum activities and reflect the exhibition of art transferred to the museum for safekeeping.

MS 001, Laurence Sickman Papers, 1848-1989, bulk: 1932-1987 (24 linear ft.)

First Curator of Oriental Art, 1935-78, second Director of The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, 1953-78. Studied at Harvard's Fogg Art Museum. Served in the U.S. Army Air Force in China, India

and Japan during and after WWII. The personal papers of Laurence Sickman include correspondence, study materials, journals, address books, programs, memorabilia, teaching material, military documents and photographs and negatives documenting his personal, academic and professional life between 1930 and 1988, including his time of study in China in the 1930s, wartime service, and collecting for the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art.

MS 002, Paul Gardner Papers, 1916-1950, bulk: 1917-1938

The First director of the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, 1933-53, Gardner studied at Harvard's Fogg Art Museum and George Washington University, danced and taught ballet in Washington D.C., served in the U.S. Army Coast Artillery Corp during World War I and in World War II as Director of the Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives Section ("Monuments Men") of the Allied Military Government in Italy. Letters, school papers, catalogues, programs, and photographs. The papers document Gardner's personal and academic life and some aspects of his professional life. Besides a sign used to protect historic sites in Italy and a few photographs, little from his service in World War II is found in the collection.

MS 006, Jane Rosenthal Scrapbook, 1933-1968 (1 volume)

Jane Rosenthal began volunteering at the museum not long after it opened in 1933, and by 1938 she had become a staff member in the Junior Education Division, managing much of the music and film public programming. From 1953-1964 Rosenthal was Head of Programs and Public Relations, and 1965-1968 she served as Executive Secretary of the Friends of Art. She left the gallery in 1968. The scrapbook, compiled by Rosenthal, largely contains clippings and photographs about museum activities during World War II and the professional and personal experiences of its heavily female staff at that time. Also included are letters from Museum Director Paul Gardner during his military service in World War II as Director of the Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives Section ("Monuments Men") of the Allied Military Government in Italy and

clippings about his wartime work preserving the art treasures in jeopardy of destruction because of the war and Nazi looting of art.

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