



Association of Art Museum Directors

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INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON WWII PROVENANCE RESEARCH TO BE HELD IN WASHINGTON, DC ON MAY 6-7

Speakers Will Explore Challenges to Art and Archival Research,
And Use of New Web Portal & Database of Archival Materials from US & Europe

Washington, DC—May 4, 2011—On May 6 and 7, 2011, the Association of Art Museum Directors (AAMD) is sponsoring a seminar on World War II art provenance research, timed to the public launch of a new web portal that will link researchers to archival materials from around the world.

Speakers at the seminar include:

- Lynn H. Nicholas, independent scholar and author of the *Rape of Europa*
- Nancy H. Yeide, National Gallery of Art, author of *Beyond the Dreams of Avarice: The Hermann Goering Collection*
- Greg Bradsher, U.S. National Archives, author of *Holocaust-Era Assets: A Finding Aid to Records at the National Archives*
- Representatives from the Archives of American Art, the Getty Research Institute, the Frick Center for the History of Collecting in America, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, AAMD, and the Zentralinstitut für Kunstgeschichte in Munich

In addition to AAMD, the seminar is sponsored by the United States National Archives, the American Association of Museums, and the Smithsonian Institution, with additional support provided by The Samuel H. Kress Foundation.

“Good provenance research is the key to resolving Holocaust- and World War II-related claims to works of art,” said Anita Difanis, Director of Government Affairs for AAMD. “However, this research is typically expensive, time consuming, and difficult to do. We are supporting this seminar because we recognize the need for greater education among the museum community about how to conduct WWII era provenance research, and how best to use the new web portal that has been launched. Ultimately, we believe these steps will lead to the more effective and efficient resolution of claims.”

The new World War II provenance web portal is a collaborative effort of the United States National Archives, the German Bundesarchiv, the National Archives of the United Kingdom and several other international partners who will present the portal to seminar attendees. Archival materials accessible through the portal consist of descriptions of records from participating repositories and digital images of the records themselves. The seminar will also include representatives of important art historical archival repositories who will discuss newly digitized records and plans for future projects. Experts in provenance research will guide discussions on how to best utilize these materials.

For more information about the World War II provenance portal, see the main site: <http://aam-us.org/WWII.cfm>. Additional information about the seminar, including biographies of speakers and abstracts from their work, can be found at: <http://ww2provenanceseminar.wordpress.com/speakers/>

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