



# Newsletter Cultural Goods World War II

In this *Newsletter* we present information on Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands (RCE) activities regarding cultural goods in the Netherlands that were stolen, confiscated, or sold under duress before or during World War II. We also refer to other information of interest offered by organizations we closely work with, such as the Restitutions Committee and the NIOD Institute for War, Holocaust and Genocide Studies.

## Can you help? Provenance assistance

The RCE also seeks the public's help in conducting provenance research. In the new monthly series of blog posts entitled *Provenance assistance*, we highlight an object that is currently the subject of provenance research. This month's object is a striking money chest with the inscription: 'Die wat spaert intijts vindt wat inde pot'. If you have any information about this money chest, including its provenance, we would like to hear from you. Click [here](#)

to read more about this object and how you can help us.

Dutch iron money chest, 17th century, NK 245.



PHOTO: MUSEUM BELFORT IN SLUIS

## New light on illegible information

Modern photography techniques can be used to reveal new information. That was also shown in the case of the painting titled *Herberg vol mensen* (Tavern Full of People), which is currently housed at the Netherlands Open Air Museum and is described in [the database of museum acquisitions](#). The painting is taken from an estate confiscated after World War II. Research undertaken in 2014 stumbled upon virtually invisible writing on the back of the painting. In 2021, the Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands photographed the painting in high resolution using special cameras, allowing some of the wording to be read. Read more about this case [here](#).

## Rediscovery

In 1949, this table ornament in the shape of a wild boar entered the NK collection ([NK3154](#)). It belonged to the collection of Jewish couple Fritz and Louise Gutmann, who were forced to sell their entire art collection to the Nazis during the war. However, when the request for restitution

Table ornament, bronze wild boar, first half 19th century, inv. no. from 1949 to 2004 NK3154, thereafter R12744



PHOTO: RCE

submitted by the Gutmann heirs was granted, the wild boar could not be returned as it had somehow been lost. Its rediscovery several years later made it possible to return the ornament, but an agreement was reached with the heirs for it to remain in the national art collection. The wild boar ornament was highlighted as an [artwork of the month](#).

## Six objects returned to heirs of Emma Budge

Last December, State Secretary for Culture and Media Gunay Uslu decided that two salt cellars in the national art collection, which were created by master craftsman Johannes Lutma, should be returned to the heirs of Emma Budge (1852-1937). Uslu's decision is in line with the recommendation of the Restitutions Committee, which found that it was sufficiently plausible that the salt cellars were involuntarily lost by the heirs of Emma Budge, a Jewish woman from Hamburg, following her death. After Budge's death in 1937, the Jewish executors appointed by her were unable to execute the wills relating to her art collection which she had had drawn up after the Nazis came to power in Germany. Under pressure from the Nazi regime and against Emma Budge's last wishes, the salt cellars went under the hammer in 1937 in Berlin at the Paul Graupe auction house, which had meanwhile been 'Aryanized'.

PHOTO: RIJKSMUSEUM AMSTERDAM



Two silver salt cellars, silver, parcel gilt, created by Johannes Lutma, 1639.

The Restitutions Committee simultaneously issued a binding opinion regarding two similar salt cellars by Lutma which were acquired by the City of Amsterdam in 1960 as well as a goblet holder and a pottery dish acquired by the Municipality of The Hague in 1937. The objects are described in [Museale Verwervingen](#), the database of museum acquisitions from 1933. Click on the following links for the [opinion Budge \(National Art Collection\)](#), [the binding opinion Budge \(City of Amsterdam\)](#), [the binding opinion Budge \(Municipality of The Hague\)](#) and the [news release](#) by the Restitutions Committee.

### Missing or lost objects

The RCE lends works from the NK collection to public institutions to raise the visibility of the collection and ensure a higher profile. Greater visibility may lead to more requests for restitution. On several occasions in the past, objects loaned to non-museum institutions have gone missing. In order to prevent items from being lost or going missing in the future, the RCE has therefore decided not to lend any more objects from the NK collection to non-museum institutions. Approximately 200 objects in the NK collection are currently missing or lost. That figure also includes objects that were last seen in the 1950s. They may have been transferred administratively, although not physically, to the RCE or its predecessors. In the coming years, relevant archives will be studied in search of leads.

### Returned to the NK collection

It was a special moment when the Cramas brought a pastel chalk drawing to the CollectieCentrum Nederland (CC NL). Having originally bought *Molen uit Leiden* (Watermill, Leiden) in a charity shop several years ago, they recently discovered it was actually a work from the NK collection, which had been missing since 2006. There was no doubt in their minds that the painting should be returned to the NK collection. You can read Harold Crama's [story](#) about the discovery of a missing drawing here.



PHOTO: RCE

Harold Crama (l) and Pieternel Fleskens, head of Art Collections (r), placing drawing NK2790-C in the depot of CC NL

### Loans from the NK collection

The Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands is keen to make the NK collection accessible to a wide audience by lending objects to museums. By doing so, we can tell the history of these objects and possibly also obtain new information from or through museum visitors that might lead to requests for restitution. To ensure that loans continue to be facilitated during the intensification of provenance research, the conditions of loan have been updated. The updated conditions of loan can be found on the [RCE website](#).

### SHORT NEWS

- > The 15th issue of the [Newsletter](#) of the Network of European Restitutions Committees on Nazi-Looted Art was published in January.
- > The Restitutions Committee made a short [documentary](#) about the maiolica dishes that were part of the Gutmann family collection and about how the Gutmann family heirs and Museum Boijmans van Beuningen reached a special agreement together.
- > Dick Oostinga was appointed vice-chair of the Restitutions Committee on 1 February 2023. Click [here](#) to read the news release. The direction of the restitutions policy and the work undertaken by the [Restitutions Committee](#) remain unchanged.

### Meet ...

In the previous Newsletter, we presented the newly appointed committee responsible for supervising provenance research. Prof Rudi Ekkart (chair) and Henrike Hövelmann MA introduced themselves to you in that newsletter. In this issue, you can meet the other two committee members, [Dr Christiaan Ruppert](#) and [Dr Gerdien Verschoor](#).



PHOTO: RUBEN SCHIPPER

The supervisory committee with Henrike Hövelmann, Christiaan Ruppert, Gerdien Verschoor and Rudi Ekkart (from left to right).

### Archives transfer of museum acquisitions

On 15 February, the Museums Association transferred the archives of the projects *1940-1948 museum acquisitions* and *museum acquisitions from 1933* to the RCE. The results of both projects will be entered in the RCE's databases over the coming months. Until then, the website [musealeverwingen.nl](#) will remain online. Any questions you may have can be emailed to [restitutie@cultureelerfgoed.nl](mailto:restitutie@cultureelerfgoed.nl).



PHOTO: CATHARINA GERRITSEN

Signing of the deed of transfer by Vera Carasso (director, Museums Association, r) and Susan Lammers (general director, RCE, l), in the presence of Rudi Ekkart (st l) and Marise Voskens (st r).

### Subscriptions

Would you like to stay informed of developments in the area of cultural heritage objects and restitutions in relation to the Second World War? You can [subscribe to the newsletter here](#).

### Questions or submit a request?

Are you looking for information on restitution or the NK collection? To facilitate restitution requests, the RCE is the primary contact for potential interested parties, collection managers and curators as regards restitution policies, procedures, and provenance research. Researchers can ask for advice on provenance research, and be referred to existing archives and organizations that may be of help. The RCE itself publishes information on its [website](#), where you can also find information on how to submit a restitution request. Interested parties, museums, researchers, students and others can email their questions to: [restitutie@cultureelerfgoed.nl](mailto:restitutie@cultureelerfgoed.nl).

We are glad to be of service.