



# 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.

### Mobile Workshop Provenance Research in Action 1933-1945

The Advisors Cultural Assets World War II have developed a mobile version of the Provenance Research in Action 1933-1945 workshop. This makes it possible to deliver workshops on location instead of at the National Archives. The workshop enables participants to undertake their own provenance research into two artworks, using the available source material to trace the route taken by each artwork. On 8 May, the advisors brought their workshop to the meeting 'Roerend in de Regio - Editie Limburg' at Museum W in Weert. Amongst the comments were: "It was really interesting and instructive to see the actual process of provenance research for a restitution. Research that is needed to ensure



PHOTO: RCE

Participants of the Mobile Workshop Provenance Research 1933-1945 in Museum W

the artwork can eventually be handed over to its rightful owner."

### Review of International Provenance Research Day 12 April 2023

In 2019, the Arbeitskreis Provenienzforschung in Germany declared the second Wednesday in April as International Provenance Research Day. The RCE has decided also to participate in this initiative and organized a number of activities for novice provenance researchers from the museum sector for the first time this year. Participants came from various organizations and museums, including students from different programmes as well as self-employed professionals. The Research Day featured several plenary sessions. The National Archives gave a lecture focusing on the role of the largest war archives and their importance for research on artworks obtained during World War II. The Hoogsteder Museum Foundation explained how



PHOTO: CATHARINA GERITSEN

Object research during the International Provenance Research Day 12 April 2023

provenance researchers gather information and looked at the many different stories they can encounter during their research. The afternoon programme included a series of practical workshops organized by the Netherlands Institute for Art History (RKD) and the RCE. Break-out sessions saw the participants work in groups on various case studies. They discovered that provenance research can be used to find out what route an artwork has taken, and that it can often be difficult to reconstruct an object's provenance. All in all, it was an inspiring day with plenty of room for discussion and reflection.

### Specialization Restitution Studies

From next September, the University of Amsterdam will offer the new specialization Restitution Studies, as part of the [Master's in Heritage Studies](#). The programme has been developed in association with the Expertise Centre Restitution of the NIOD Institute for War, Holocaust and Genocide Studies and several partners, including the Allard Pierson Museum. The RCE has agreed to offer internships to

students of this Master's programme on a permanent basis. During their internship, students undertake five months of full-time practical provenance research into objects linked to World War II, illicit trade or the colonial past, or conduct scientific research into issues surrounding looting and restitution. This Master's programme will help to train a new generation of provenance researchers.

## Proposals by Advisors Cultural Assets WWII (section in RCE magazine)

The second issue of the RCE Magazine this year features an interview with Annelies Kool, Nina Wijsbek and Perry Schrier (Advisors Cultural Assets World War II). Describing their work, Annelies Kool said among other things: “We provide information on artworks that were lost during the Nazi regime. In this way, we support people in their search for artworks that belonged to their families.” Click the following link to read the interview on [page 15 \(only in Dutch\)](#).

Click the following link to read a [previous article](#) entitled ‘Artwork in search of an heir’.



PHOTO: RUBEN SCHIFFER

Annelies Kool, Nina Wijsbek and Perry Schrier in the art depot of the Cultural Heritage Agency. Many of these paintings have returned from Germany after WW II.

## In pursuit of provenance blog posts for February, March, April and May

*In pursuit of provenance* is a [monthly blogs series](#) focusing on provenance research into an object from the Netherlands Art Property Collection (NK Collection). The collection consists of artworks that were returned to the Netherlands after World War II, including paintings, works on paper and applied arts such as furniture and ceramics. By giving a significant boost to research, we hope to uncover new provenance information. The February blog post highlights a traditional Zeeland pocket knife, the March blog post examines a wool Karabakh runner rug with a floral motif, a seascape with sailboat is the subject of the April blog post and the May blog post focuses on a glass goblet.



Hans von Bartels, *Zeegezicht*, 1904.  
Objectnumber NK3282, 17,5 x 22,2 cm.

## SHORT NEWS

- > The 16th issue of the [Newsletter](#) of the Network of European Restitutions Committees on Nazi-Looted Art was published in April.
- > Prof. dr. Rudi Ekkart received on an honorary membership of the [Association of Dutch Art Historians](#) last June 8, 2023. He receives this for his contribution to the public visibility of art history and for his role in the provenance investigation and restitution of looted art during World War II.
- > The Restitutions Committee has appointed a new chairman and member. Prof. dr. A.I.M. van Mierlo is appointed as chairmand and prof. dr. C.J.H. Jansen has been appointed as member. [Click here to read more.](#)

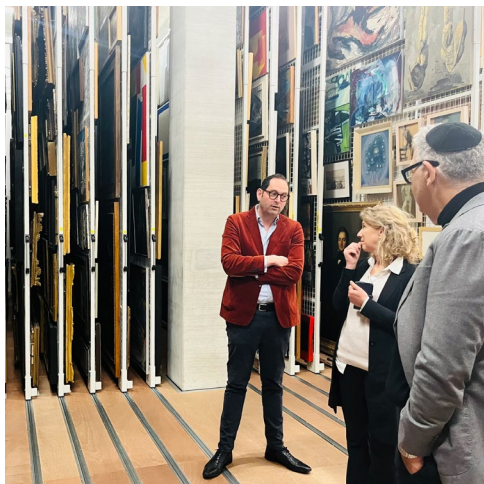


PHOTO: RCE

From left to right: Dave Heilbron, Susan Lammers and Chanan Hertzberger in the Netherlands Collection Centre depot

## CJO visit to CCNL on 1 May

On 1 May, Chanan Hertzberger (chairperson) and Dave Heilbron (treasurer) of the Central Jewish Council in the Netherlands (CJO) were welcomed to the Netherlands Collection Centre (CCNL) by Susan Lammers (RCE general director) and Iris Looman (head of the department of movable heritage). Mr Hertzberger and Mr Heilbron were given an explanation of Dutch restitution policy and viewed several objects from the Netherlands Art Property Collection.

## 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.