Cultural Heritage Agency
Ministry of Education, Culture and Science

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.

Various objects in National Art Collection returned to heirs

The Minister of Education, Culture and Science, Eppo Bruins, decided over the last few months to restitute several objects in the National Art Collection. In all cases this was on the recommendation of the Restitutions Committee.

Two ceramic figurines

Minister Eppo Bruins decided on 7 November 2024 to restitute two glazed porcelain ceramic figurines (NK933A-B) to the beneficiaries of the estate of Aron Salomon Hiegentlich. In its report the Restitutions Committee concluded that it is highly likely that the objects came from the collection of antiques dealer Aron Salomon Hiegentlich and that he probably involuntarily lost ownership of them due circumstances directly related to the Nazi regime. Hiegentlich's antiques business was wound up by the Nazi authorities on 17 October 1941. The committee arrived at its decision based on provenance research carried out by the Cultural Heritage Agency (RCE) on the Netherlands Art Property Collection (NK Collection) in the context of the Programme to Accelerate WWII Cultural Goods Restitution Policy. You can read the report of the Restitutions Committee here.



Maker unknown, a pair of figurines of a standing woman and a standing man, 1763-1790,NK933-A-B.

Two Women's Heads

Eppo Bruins decided on 16 December 2024 to restitute the drawing of Two Women's Heads (RP-T-1947-25) to the heirs of Arthur Feldmann and Gisela Hofmann. Based on research by the Expertise Centre for the Restitution of Cultural Goods and World War II, at the NIOD (Institute for War, Holocaust and Genocide Studies), the Restitutions Committee concluded that it is highly likely that this drawing was the property of the Czech Jewish art collector Arthur Feldmann and it is sufficiently conceivable that Feldmann involuntarily lost ownership of the drawing as a result of circumstances directly related to the Nazi regime. The art collection of the Feldman family was confiscated by the Gestapo during the German invasion of Czechoslovakia on 15 March 1939. At the time the Feldmann couple were unable to bring any of their property to safety. You can read the recommendation of the Restitutions Committee here.



PHOTO: RIJKSMUSEUM AMSTERDAM

Two Women's Heads by an anonymous artist

A Dutch oak cabinet

Minister Eppo Bruins also decided on 16 December 2024 to restitute a 17th century Dutch two-door oak cabinet (NK260) to the heirs of Mozes Mogrobi and Zilia Mogrobi-Jacobi. Based on research by the RCE and ECR, the Restitutions Committee reached the conclusion that the cabinet most likely came from the collection of Mozes Mogrobi, proprietor of the 'Kunsthandel Mozes Mogrobi' (Mozes Mogrobi Art Gallery) in Amsterdam and that it is also sufficiently reasonable to assume that during the occupation he involuntarily lost ownership of the cabinet due to circumstances directly related to the Nazi regime. You can read the report of the Restitutions Committee here.



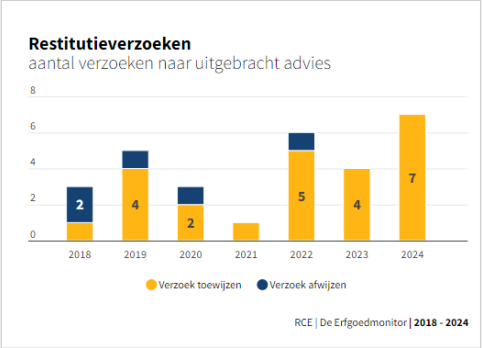
NK260 – a seventeenth-century Dutch two-door oak cabinet

The back end of provenance research: marks and the object itself as a research source

The Cultural Goods 1933-1945 Platform will meet for the second time on Thursday 5 June 2024. At this meeting we will be discussing the vital importance of object investigation as part of provenance research on art and utilitarian objects that have a link with the Second World War. The investigation starts with the artwork itself: the physical properties of the object often provide valuable clues. Overpainting and restorations carried out on artworks can also yield surprising insights. When a thorough examination of the front and back of the painting or object is carried out, any markings, stamps or labels found can help to discover new provenance information and important connections with the war years. Would you like to attend and meet other provenance researchers and people with an interest? You can register via the RCE website.

Internships in Cultural Goods 1933-1945

The RCE has internships available for enthusiastic students. The internship consists of making short descriptions of Dutch art dealers who were active in the period 1933-1945, for inclusion in the RCE Knowledge Database. In addition to providing articles for the Knowledge Database this could be followed up with a more comprehensive paper for a journal or other publication, for example.



Knowledge Base

The Cultural Heritage Agency's Knowledge Base provides more in-depth information about the WWII 1933-1945 Cultural Objects Programme, among other things, where you can also read about:

> Art dealers and auction houses Cultuurgoederen WOII (1933-1945) - kunsthandel en veilinghuizen | Rijksdienst voor het Cultureel Erfgoed
> The history of the Netherlands' restitution policy Cultuurgoederen WOII (1933-1945) - geschiedenis Nederlands restitutiebeleid | Rijksdienst voor het Cultureel Erfgoed
> Collecting Points and locations Cultuurgoederen WOII (1933-1945) - Collecting Points en vindplaatsen | Rijksdienst voor het Cultureel Erfgoed

WWII restitution data for 2024 entered in the Erfgoedmonitor (Heritage Monitor)

The Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands presents facts and figures on heritage - including the restitution of cultural goods with a World War II background - in its Erfgoedmonitor (Heritage Monitor). The figures for 2024 are now available online. The webpage lists the number and types of applications/recommendations per year, whether an application was granted or rejected and how many objects a restitution application related to.

Mini display in the Library on Smallepad



Part of the Netherlands Art Property Collection (NK Collection) is kept at the Netherlands Collection Centre (CC NL). Several display cases have been set up in the RCE library - that is open to the public - with objects from the NK Collection. A first glance immediately shows how varied the collection is: from paintings and ceramics, to glass and silverware. The complete selection of this mini-exhibition can be found here.

Survey

This newsletter has now been going for three years and is published in three languages. We would like to hear from you what you think and any recommendations you may have to improve this communication channel. We have drawn up a survey for that. We would like to ask for your input. Completing the survey takes only two minutes.

NEWS IN BRIEF

> The European Holocaust Research Infrastructure (EHRI) was officially launched as a permanent European research organisation on Sunday 26 January 2025. EHRI is a partnership of 25 archives, libraries, museums and research institutions. Its headquarters will be housed at NIOD.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

> Monday 2 June 2025 – Kennisdag Collecties en Connecties, (Collections and Connections), provenance research workshop
> Thursday 5 June 2025 – Platform Cultuurgoederen 1933-1945 (Cultural Goods 1933-1945 Platform Meeting)

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.

We are glad to be of service.

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.

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