M1927

RECORDS OF THE
MONUMENTS AND FINE ARTS BRANCH OF THE
U.S. ALLIED COMMISSION FOR AUSTRIA (USACA) SECTION,
1945–1950

Matthew Olsen prepared the Introduction and arranged these records for microfilming.

National Archives and Records Administration
Washington, DC
2003
INTRODUCTION

On the 14 rolls of this microfilm publication, M1927, are reproduced the individual claims processed by and general records of the Monuments and Fine Arts Branch of the United States Element, Allied Commission for Austria (USACA) Section, 1945–1950. These records are part of the Records of United States Occupation Headquarters, World War II, Record Group (RG) 260.

Background

The U.S. Allied Commission for Austria (USACA) Section was responsible for civil affairs and military government administration in the American section (U.S. Zone) of occupied Austria, including the U.S. sector of Vienna. USACA Section constituted the U.S. Element of the Allied Commission for Austria. The four-power occupation administration was established by a U.S., British, French, and Soviet agreement signed July 4, 1945. It was organized concurrently with the establishment of Headquarters, United States Forces Austria (HQ USFA) on July 5, 1945, as a component of the U.S. Forces, European Theater (USFET). The single position of USFA Commanding General and U.S. High Commissioner for Austria was held by Gen. Mark Clark from July 5, 1945, to May 16, 1947, and by Lt. Gen. Geoffrey Keyes from May 17, 1947, to September 19, 1950. USACA Section was abolished following transfer of the U.S. occupation government from military to civilian authority. This was marked by President Harry Truman’s appointment of Walter J. Donnelly as Envoy (later Ambassador) to Austria and U.S. High Commissioner for Austria on September 20, 1950. Ambassador Llewelyn E. Thompson, Jr., succeeded Donnelly on July 17, 1952. The U.S. occupation government in Austria officially terminated on July 27, 1955, as a result of the State Treaty for the Re-establishment of an Independent and Democratic Austria, signed May 15, 1955.

The Reparations, Deliveries, and Restitutions (RD&R) Division of USACA Section was organized into branches. Initially, the Property Control Branch and the Monuments and Fine Arts Branch shared the division’s work. However, by February 1946, the work of the Monuments and Fine Arts Branch was substantially completed, and it was disbanded. A new branch called the Reparations and Restitutions Branch was activated at that time to handle general restitution matters as well as any subsequent work related to monuments and fine arts. One additional branch called the German External Assets Branch was organized on October 12, 1946.

The organizational structure and policies used by the division were based largely on similar work performed by the Office of the Military Government, United States Zone (Germany)(OMGUS). The general posture of USACA policy in Austria, however, was intended to achieve a balance between the complete control exhibited by OMGUS and the cooperative atmosphere in the formerly occupied countries of northwest Europe.
The Monuments and Fine Arts (MFA) Branch existed as an independent branch for a short time, though the work of the branch continued after its transfer into the Reparations and Restitutions Branch. The function of the MFA was to facilitate the restitution of monuments, objects of art, and archives looted by the Nazis. During this facilitation the branch was also charged with preventing damage to and preserving these monuments, works of art, and archives.

**Records Description**

The records of the Monuments and Fine Arts Branch are divided into three series. The first, General Records of the Monuments and Fine Arts Branch, 1945, consists of general correspondence, lists, and maps of the areas in which investigations took place. The correspondence and lists are arranged by subject heading and thereunder, numerically. The maps are arranged numerically and preceded by an “M” and. A folder list for these records is in Appendix A.

The second series, Claims and Receipts of Property, Monuments and Fine Arts of Various Countries, 1932–1950, consists of individual claims as well as information on locations, such as the looted art depot found in the salt mines at Alt-Ausee. Many of the individual claims are identical to claims found in the Reparations and Restitutions Branch documents. The folders that contain these claims and reports are numbered in an indiscernible manner. Therefore, a folder list is provided in Appendix B.

The third and final series, Monuments and Fine Arts Lists, Receipts, and Reports of Objects for Restitution to Legal Ownership, 1945–1950, consists of information on specific collections and art depots discovered in Austria, as well as random reports, letters, and circulars. The folders are arranged numerically and are listed in Appendix C.

The disorganization of the documents likely is due to the transfer of the MFA Branch into the Reparations and Restitutions Branch. Many of the documents in this publication have Reparations and Restitutions Branch letterhead, adding to the potential confusion.

**Related Records**

**Textual records in the Records of the United States Occupation Headquarters, World War II, RG 260**

**Records of the Director of the U.S. Allied Commission for Austria (USACA)**

Records related to the Monuments and Fine Arts Branch are interspersed throughout these files.

- Files of the Director, 1946–1951
- Decimal Files, 1946–1951
Records of the Reparations, Deliveries, and Restitutions Division [of USACA]

The three branches listed below combined with the Monuments and Fine Arts Branch compose those of the Division:
- Reparations and Restitutions Branch, 1945–1950
- German External Assets Branch, 1945–1950
- Property Control Branch, 1945–1951

Records of the United States Forces Austria (USFA) Historical Division
Folders 250–276, USFA “Historical File”

Researchers should also consult Holocaust-Era Assets: A Finding Aid to Records at the National Archives at College Park, Maryland, compiled by Greg Bradsher (Washington, DC: National Archives and Records Administration, 1999). This finding aid includes information on specific areas within military records, such as War Department and Occupation records, as well as civilian records such as those of the State Department, that contain information on looted assets.

Additional information concerning the Holocaust may be located on our web site at www.archives.gov.
APPENDIX A

FOLDER LIST, GENERAL RECORDS OF THE MONUMENTS AND FINE ARTS BRANCH, 1945

This folder list provides the subject headings that appear on folders within the branch’s general records. Files identified by an "M" indicate maps. These files are reproduced on roll 1 of this publication.

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# 35 Correspondence Concerning Masterpieces to be Used for an Exhibition from the Salt Mine at Lauffen
# 36 Frick Regional Maps–Austria
# 37 Frick Town Plans of Innsbruck, Austria
# 38 Correspondence from the Austrian–American Institute of Education
# 39 Draft Agenda from Allied Commission for Austria for the Monuments and Fine Arts Meeting of October 1, 1945
# 40 Inventory of Polish Archives at Schloss Fischorn
# 41 Correspondence Pertaining to the Return of Cultural and Scientific Libraries to Vienna
# 42 Correspondence Relating to the Art Treasures and Archives Looted at Salt Mine Lauffen
# 43 Miscellaneous Photos of Austrian Buildings that Were Bombed
# 44 Photos of Bomb Damage at the Kunstgewerbemuseum
M-12 (Austria) Burgenland (Province)
M-13 (Austria) Carinthia (Province)
M-16 (Austria) Salzburg (Province)
M-17 (Austria) Salzburg (Town)
M-18 (Austria) Steiermark (Province)
M-19 (Austria) Graz (Town)
M-20 (Austria) Tirol (Province)
M-21 (Austria) Innsbruck (Town)
M-22 (Austria) Upper Austria (Province)
M-23 (Austria) Linz (Town)
M-24 (Austria) Vorarlberg (Province)
M-25 (Austria) Linz (Fuhrer Museum)
M-26 Harvard List–Austria
M-27 (Austria) Lower Austria (Province)
M-28 (Austria) Vienna (Inner City)
APPENDIX B

FOLDER LIST, CLAIMS AND RECEIPTS OF PROPERTY, MONUMENTS AND FINE ARTS OF VARIOUS COUNTRIES, 1932–1950

This folder list provides the subject headings that appear on folders within the branch’s claims and receipts records. These files are reproduced on rolls 2–9 of this publication.

58/1 Salt Mine Depot Alt-Ausee
58/2 Surveying Instruments
58/4 French Restitution Claim
58/5 Hungarian Claim for Motor Car
58/6 One Painting “Almabtrieb”
58/7 Zieh, Walter; Linz, Huttengelände
58/8 Liberta–Lathe
58/9 Yugoslav Claim–Pencil Sketches, Request for Location and Investigation of Hans Buch
58/10 Claims Without Numbers
58/11 Release of One Magnetophon from USA
59/1 Hungarian Horses; Paintings, Property of Dr. Reinprecht
59/2 Paintings by Spitzweg “The Disturbed Night,” Dental Equipment
59/3 Komersa–Societe A Responsabilite Limitee, Receipt and Agreement for Delivery of Goods–Claims
59/4 Property from the Bad-Ausee, Property from Italian, Poland Claim
59/5 Hitler Library–Shipment from Grudlsee
59/6 Lenzinger Zellwoll Und Papierfabrik
59/7 Transmittal of Papers, Wittelsbacher Ausgeichsfond
59/8 Steyr 100 Grax Cabriolet, Engine and Body (Wolfgang von Freidherr, Linz, Promenade 25)
59/9 Release of Two Trucks to Standard Oil Company (Mr. Ernst Schnabel)
59/10 1 Electric Locomotive, Stern & Hafferl (Gmunden)
59/11 Transmittal of Receipts
59/12 France–Painting Receipt
59/13 Czech Claim for Books of Matios Solvenska–Bratislava
59/14 Yugoslav Claim for Machine Tools at Steyr and Linz
60/1 Heirlooms of the Late Mrs. Worafka; Helene Heim–USA; Victor Riedl– Riedenstein
60/3 Request for Release of Vehicle
60/4 Property of Mr. Ernest Stiasni, 20 Broad Street, New York City–Collection of Pictures
60/5 Unidentified Pictures from Castle Ennsegg
60/6 Release of Custodianship
60/7 Milan Meguschar–Gmunden–Custodian of Parts of Radio Sets, Former Army Goods
60/8 EWM Outboard Motor
60/9 Passenger Car Steyr 220, License No. IV B 155052
61/1 Property Interest of Leo Rechnitzer
61/2 Belgian Claim #34 for Two Bulldozers
Confirmation of Property Rights in Property Restituted under Belgian Claims 23–24–29

Grappling Crane in Austria, Belgian Claim #6

Belgian Claim #13

Belgian Claim #14–Old Books of Great Value

Belgian Claim #15

Belgian Restitution Claim #22

Belgian Claim #24–3 Machines at United Iron and Steel Works, Linz

Belgian Restitution Claim #26

Belgian Restitution Claim #28

Belgian Claim #27

Property of Belgian Government–Belgian Claim #32

Belgian Restitution Claim #22

Belgian Claim #33–3 Trailers on Caterpillars at the Firm Stuag, Linz–Salzburgerreichsbade 28

Belgian Claim #36

Belgian Claim #37

Belgian Claim #40–Release of Custodian

Belgian Claim #38

Belgian Claim #55

Belgian Claim #30

Belgian Claim #49

Belgian Claim #51 List:128

Belgian Claim #53

Belgian Claim #60

Belgian Claim #62

Belgian Claim #56

Czech Claim #397

Czech Restitution Claim #332–1–for 2 Machine Tools

Czech Claim #457

Czech Claim #449 One Tractor Duetz Diesel, 28 HP

Czech Claim #111–25 kg. of Morphine Confiscated by U.S. Authorities in Upper Austria

Schwarzenberg Restitution Claim

Property of Prince Schwarzenberg in Hatschek Villa

Czech Claim #3–1/52

Czech Claim #438

Czech Claim #396

Czech Claim #395

Czech Claim #456

Czech Claim #3–2

Czech Claim #424

Czech Claim #473

Czech Claim #472

Polish Claim #257

Polish Claim #239–for Restitution of Polish Horses

Polish Claim #211–for Personal Effects

Polish Claim #124–Purchase of Machines
63/5  Polish Claim #227–Polish Restitution Claim for 1 Lathe
63/6  Polish Restitution Claim #113
63/7  Polish Claim #161
63/8  Restitution of 1 Painting “Tribute to Scipio”–Dutch Claim #145
63/9  Netherlands Claim #44
63/10 Dutch Claim #85
63/11 3 Missing Articles on Dutch Claim #70
63/12 Norwegian Claim #3
63/13 Norwegian Claim #2853 MD
63/15 Iranian Claim for Passenger Car–BMW
63/16 Automobile Owned by Turkish National–Sadullah Birsel
63/17 Looted Art Treasures of Jewish Owners
63/18 Possible Evacuated Jewish Property
63/19 Paintings Claimed by Miss Irene Carlin
63/20 Kostenvoranschlag–Estimate of Costs
63/21 Greek Claim for Four Boxes of Toys
63/22 Greek Claim Concerning 200 Boxes of Toilet Paper
63/23 Property Claim of the Greek Firm Georges Kalkanis
63/24 Property of Doudikis, Athens, Greece
63/25 Greek Claim #5
63/25 Greek Restitution Claim #3–Paintings, Property of Mr. Rene Berlincourt
63/26 German Claim #16
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63/28 Release of German Property in Stift, St. Florian
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63/31 Looted French Paintings, Furniture and Art Objects, File 76-78
63/32 French Claim #408
63/33 French Claim #223–Transformer at Ranshoffen
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64/2  Claim for Rumanian Fire Fighting Equipment
64/3  Rumanian Restitution Claim #4–Refers to Vehicles
64/4  Rumanian Claim #18 for Machines
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64/17 U.S. Restitution Claim #25—Subject Claim Refers to Paintings
64/18 U.S. Restitution Claim #26
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64/25 U.S. Claim #29, Painting “Bastelbinder” by J.S. Reiter
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64/27 “Alt” Watercolors Claimed by F.B. Pollock Run #16
64/28 Property Claim of Leon Karp
64/29 Ladungen Von 7 Donauschleppern
64/30 Yugoslav Claim #341
64/31 Yugoslav Claim #339
64/32 Yugoslav Claim for Restitution of Horses
64/33 Property of Firm Jadran, Zagreb
64/34 Yugoslav Claim #299
64/35 Yugoslav Claim #95
64/36 Yugoslav Claim #64 for Danube Barge Material
64/37 Yugoslav Claim 11–1 Vereinigte Aluminum–Werke A.G.
65/1 Italian Vehicles
65/2 USSR Union Soviet Socialist Republics
65/3 Soviet Claim #5
65/4 Russian Claim #7
65/5 Soviet Machinery at Steyr–Daimler–Puch
65/6 Soviet Claim #16 for Scientific Instruments
65/7 Russian Claim #19 Property Belonging to Dr. Richard Koch
65/8 Soviet Tank Wagons of Ebensee
65/9 Proposed Visit of Soviet Restitution Mission to U.S. Zone
65/10 Soviet Restitution Claim #24–4 Paintings at Karl Piringer–Gmunden
65/11 Russian Claim #6 for Railroad Material
65/12 Claim #21 for Property at Aluminum Works–Braunau
65/13 Proposed Visit of Soviet Restitution Mission to U.S. Zone
65/14 Soviet Restitution Claim #28–6 Tractors Make Stalinec ay Mr. Franz Faram Linz/Donau
65/15 Soviet Claim #29
65/16 Russian Restitution Claim #18
65/17 Soviet Claim #34 for 27,000 Tons of Ore at Linz
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65/19 Claims Receivable–Lager Schorgenhub
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APPENDIX C

FOLDER LIST, MONUMENTS AND FINE ARTS LIST, RECEIPTS, AND REPORTS OF OBJECTS FOR RESTITUTION TO LEGAL OWNERSHIP, 1945–50

This folder list provides the subject headings that appear on folders within the branch’s records on lists, receipts, and reports. These files are reproduced on rolls 10–14 of this publication.

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408-1/A Monuments and Fine Arts–Salzburg Festivals
408-1/B Monuments and Fine Arts–Art Depots
408-2 Monuments and Fine Arts–Depots in Land Salzburg
408-2/A Monuments and Fine Arts–Depots in Land Salzburg
408-3 Monuments and Fine Arts–Reports, Letters, Circulars
408-3/A Monuments and Fine Arts–Reports, Letters, Circulars
408-17 Monuments and Fine Arts–Inventory Lists of Art Depots
408-18 Monuments and Fine Arts–Khorassani Collection Salzburg Church Bell
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      From: 58/1 Salt Mine Depot Alt–Ausee  
      To: 60/9 Passenger Car Steyr 220, License No. IV B 155052 |
| 3    | From: 61/1 Property Interest of Leo Rechnitzer  
      To: 62/14 Czech Claim #473 |
| 4    | From: 62/15 Czech Claim #472  
      To: 63/31 Looted French Paintings, Furniture and Art Objects, File 76-78 |
| 5    | From: 63/32 French Claim #408  
      To: 64/35 Yugoslav Claim #95 |
| 6    | From: 64/36 Yugoslav Claim #64 for Danube Barge Material  
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| 7    | From: 66/1 Liberta Lathe  
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| 8    | From: 67/1 Restitution Claim  
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| 10   | Monuments and Fine Arts Lists, Receipts, and Reports of Objects for Restitution to Legal Ownership, 1945-1950  
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