

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.

- # 01 Staatsoper
- # 02 Stefans Kirche
- # 03 Albertina
- # 04 Belgian Cultural Material
- # 05 Belgian List of Cultural Items
- # 06 Austrian Bells at Ilsenburg
- # 07 Views on French Proposal
- # 08 German Archeological Institute at Rome
- # 09 Art Objects and Collections Taken by Germans in France
- # 10 Art Objects–Linz
- # 11 Policy Correspondence of the Archives Office
- # 12 Ministerial Business (Lists of Personnel)
- # 13 Miscellaneous Correspondence
- # 14 Tibetan Collection in Castle at Mittersill
- # 15 Correspondence Relating to Munich and Austria (Buildings and Art Objects)
- # 16 Correspondence Relating to Project Staatsdenkmalamt
- # 17 French List of Art Treasures in Austria
- # 18 List of Art Objects Stored at Schloss Kogl, St. Georgen
- # 19 Kremsmuenster
- # 20 Deposits (Location of Contents)
- # 21 Correspondence
- # 22 List of Protected Monuments–Vienna
- # 23 Correspondence Relating to the Crown Jewels of the Holy Roman Empire
- # 24 Correspondence Relating to Deposits at Bad Ausee (Churches) and Salt Mines at Alt-Ausee and Lauffen
- # 25 Various Austrian Maps
- # 26 Plan of a Tobacco Building
- # 27 Notes Concerning United States Forces Austria and United States Allied Command Austria Functions
- # 28 Kardex Equipment
- # 29 Correspondence Concerning the St. Florian Monastery
- # 30 Correspondence from Field Office Salzburg
- # 31 Correspondence Pertaining to Art Objects–Land Salzburg
- # 32 Vienna–Votivkirche
- # 33 Art Object List–Salzburg
- # 34 Correspondence Pertaining to Roman Statue from Salonik

- # 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) Voralberg (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 Ausgleichsfond
- 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 Stiassni, 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

- 61/3 Confirmation of Property Rights in Property Restituted under Belgian Claims 23–24–29
- 61/4 Grappling Crane in Austria, Belgian Claim #6
- 61/5 Belgian Claim #13
- 61/6 Belgian Claim #14–Old Books of Great Value
- 61/7 Belgian Claim #15
- 61/8 Belgian Restitution Claim #22
- 61/9 Belgian Claim #24–3 Machines at United Iron and Steel Works, Linz
- 61/10 Belgian Restitution Claim #26
- 61/11 Belgian Restitution Claim #28
- 61/12 Belgian Claim #27
- 61/13 Property of Belgian Government–Belgian Claim #32
- 61/14 Belgian Claim #33–3 Trailers on Caterpillars at the Firm Stuag, Linz–Salzburgerreichsbade 28
- 61/15 Belgian Claim #36
- 61/16 Belgian Claim #37
- 61/17 Belgian Claim #40–Release of Custodian
- 61/18 Belgian Claim #38
- 61/19 Belgian Claim #55
- 61/20 Belgian Claim #30
- 61/21 Belgian Claim #49
- 61/22 Belgian Claim #51 List:128
- 61/23 Belgian Claim #53
- 61/24 Belgian Claim #60
- 61/25 Belgian Claim #62
- 61/26 Belgian Claim #56
- 62/1 Czech Claim #397
- 62/2 Czech Restitution Claim #332–1– for 2 Machine Tools
- 62/3 Czech Claim #457
- 62/4 Czech Claim #449 One Tractor Duetz Diesel, 28 HP
- 62/5 Czech Claim #111–25 kg. of Morphine Confiscated by U.S. Authorities in Upper Austria
- 62/5 Schwarzenberg Restitution Claim
- 62/6 Property of Prince Schwarzenberg in Hatschek Villa
- 62/7 Czech Claim #3–1/52
- 62/8 Czech Claim #438
- 62/9 Czech Claim #396
- 62/10 Czech Claim #395
- 62/11 Czech Claim #456
- 62/12 Czech Claim #3–2
- 62/13 Czech Claim #424
- 62/14 Czech Claim #473
- 62/15 Czech Claim #472
- 63/1 Polish Claim #257
- 63/2 Polish Claim #239–for Restitution of Polish Horses
- 63/3 Polish Claim #211–for Personal Effects
- 63/4 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 Birsal
 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
 63/27 German Claim #45–Steinway Baby Grand Piano Located in Gutshof
 Nettingsdorf
 63/28 Release of German Property in Stift, St. Florian
 63/29 German Property File #P–860
 63/30 Documents and Property of Deutscher Gemeindetag
 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
 63/34 French Claim #579
 64/1 Rumanian Restitution Claim #12
 64/2 Claim for Rumanian Fire Fighting Equipment
 64/3 Rumanian Restitution Claim #4–Refers to Vehicles
 64/4 Rumanian Claim #18 for Machines
 64/5 Rumanian Restitution Claim #21
 64/6 Rumanian Restitution Claim #1
 64/7 Rumanian Claim #17
 64/8 Rumanian Claim #19
 64/9 Soviet Claim #33
 64/10 Soviet Claim #17
 64/11 Russian Claim #9–Soviet Union
 64/12 USA Claim #O–527, Property of Peter Paul Agoston
 64/13 Property Interests of Dr. Walter v. Feldau, U.S. Citizen
 64/14 U.S. Restitution Claim Run #3
 64/15 Property of Richard Pfefferkorn, U.S. Citizen (U.S. Claim #20)
 64/16 U.S. Restitution Claim #4

64/17 U.S. Restitution Claim #25–Subject Claim Refers to Paintings
 64/18 U.S. Restitution Claim #26
 64/19 U.S. Restitution Claim #27
 64/20 U.S. Restitution Claim #28
 64/21 U.S. Restitution Claim–Mannfred Nachmann
 64/22 U.S. Restitution Claim (Jacob Isar)
 64/23 U.S. Restitution Claim #22
 64/24 U.S. Restitution Claim #13
 64/25 U.S. Claim #29, Painting “Bastelbinder” by J.S. Reiter
 64/26 Painting “Prof. Billroth, Lecturing at the Surgical Clinic” by Seligmann
 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
 65/18 Russian Transformers
 65/19 Claims Receivable–Lager Schorghub
 66/1 Liberta Lathe
 66/2 Restitution Claims
 67/1 Restitution Claim
 67/2 Restitution Claim Greece–Germany–Italian–Netherlands–Russia–Belgium
 68/1 Immigration Funds
 68/2 Transfer of Jurisdiction

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.

408-1	Monuments and Fine Arts–Salzburg Festivals
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
408-22	Monuments and Fine Arts–Reports
408-27	Monuments and Fine Arts–Receipts
408-28	Monuments and Fine Arts–Information Copies
#3	Monuments and Fine Arts–Restitution Missions
#3A	Monuments and Fine Arts–Restitution Missions

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ROLL CONTENTS

- General Records of the Monuments and Fine Arts Branch, 1945**
- 1 *From:* #1 Staatsoper
To: #M28 (Austria) Vienna (Inner City)
- Claims and Receipts of Property, Monuments and Fine Arts of Various Countries, 1932-1950**
- 2 *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
To: 65/19 Claims Receivable–Lager Schorghenhub
- 7 *From:* 66/1 Liberta Lathe
To: 66/2 Restitution Claims
- 8 *From:* 67/1 Restitution Claim
To: 67/2 Restitution Claim Greece–Germany–Italian–Netherlands–Russia–Belgium
- 9 *From:* 68/1 Immigration Funds
To: 68/2 Transfer of Jurisdiction
- 10 **Monuments and Fine Arts Lists, Receipts, and Reports of Objects for Restitution to Legal Ownership, 1945-1950**
From: 1408-1 Monuments and Fine Arts–Salzburg Festivals
To: 408-1/B Monuments and Fine Arts–Art Depots
- 11 *From:* 408-2 Monuments and Fine Arts–Depots in Land Salzburg
To: 408-3 Monuments and Fine Arts–Reports, Letters, Circulars
- 12 *From:* 408-3/A Monuments and Fine Arts–Reports, Letters, Circulars
To: 408-18 Monuments and Fine Arts–Khorassani Collection Salzburg Church Bell

ROLL CONTENTS

- 13 *From:* 408-22 Monuments and Fine Arts–Reports
 To: 408-28 Monuments and Fine Arts–Information Copies

- 14 *From:* #3 Monuments and Fine Arts–Restitution Missions
 To: #3A Monuments and Fine Arts–Restitution Missions