Advance Movie Screenings Lead to Monumental Praise

We can hardly believe that the release of *The Monuments Men* movie has finally arrived!

January gave way to special advance screenings at the Kimbell Art Museum, Fort Worth, TX; The National World War II Museum, New Orleans, LA; and the National Archives, Washington, D.C. The cast will make one last domestic stop in New York for the World Premiere on February 4th before heading overseas to begin international press.

While we are overjoyed that our objective of spreading the story of the Monuments Men to a worldwide audience has been reached, there is still work to be done. The public can help us by learning how they can “Support the Monuments Men.” Sony has launched a marketing campaign to not only raise awareness, but to encourage the public to act. Visit [www.supportthemonumentsmen.com](http://www.supportthemonumentsmen.com) or see Pages 2 and 3 for more details!

Inside the Press Junket

It was comical to say the least when George Clooney, Matt Damon, Bill Murray, John Goodman, Bob Balaban and Cate Blanchett joined together in Los Angeles for the official press junket for *The Monuments Men*.

The cast gave reporters and critics alike a sneak peak at the effortless dynamic they all share. From stories of George Clooney pranking Matt Damon to in-depth character analysis, it was clear that this cast has something special. *(Continued on Page 4)*
On December 5th, Congresswoman Kay Granger (TX-12) introduced bipartisan legislation to the House of Representatives, The Monuments Men Recognition Act of 2013, H.R. 3658, to honor the famed “Monuments Men” of World War II with the Congressional Gold Medal.

“I don’t believe it can be overstated how significant the contributions of the Monuments Men are to the preservation of many of the world’s most remarkable pieces of art,” said Granger. “The story of the Monuments Men is one that has to be told, and should be shared as an instrumental part of US and world history. I believe the veterans who participated are certainly worthy and deserving of the recognition of Congress’ highest expression of appreciation, the Congressional Gold Medal.”

Starting with the American Revolution, Congress has awarded gold medals as its highest expression of national appreciation for distinguished achievements and contributions. Congressional Gold Medal legislation must be co-sponsored by at least two-thirds of the Members of the House of Representatives.

Honoring the work of the Monument Men has been a long-term effort for Congresswoman Granger. In 2007, Granger introduced H. Con. Res 48 a resolution to honor the contributions of these men and women. During the Armed Services Committee markup in May 2007, then Congressman Robin Hayes offered the resolution as an amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act. The amendment was approved by the Armed Services Committee and was included as part of the Defense Authorization Act that passed the House.

On December 19, U.S. Senator Roy Blunt (Mo.) introduced bipartisan legislation in the Senate, The Monuments Men Recognition Act S. 1862. “This bipartisan bill honors the incredible men and women of Missouri and across the world who protected millions of cultural artifacts from devastation during World War II and preserved these invaluable treasures for future generations,” said Blunt. “I’m hopeful that this legislation will encourage more Americans to learn about the rich history of these works of art and the remarkable legacies of the Monuments Men.”

The Foundation has added a page to our website that enables you to quickly and easily send your Members of Congress a letter urging them to support the Congressional Gold Medal for the Monuments Men.

Please visit: www.monumentsmenfoundation.org/the-heroes/congressional-gold-medal, and you can complete the four step process in just a few minutes. Be sure to complete the form for both Senate and the House of Representatives!
Join the Hunt

The Monuments Men found and restituted almost 5 million art and cultural objects—paintings, drawings, sculpture and religious objects—many stolen by Hitler and the Nazis.

But their mission was not completed. Hundreds of thousands of works of art and important cultural documents remain missing even today.

The Monuments Men Foundation is dedicated to completing the mission of these heroes of civilization and seeks to enlist people of good will to accomplish that goal by identifying and bringing to light works of art that may have been looted and never restituted. By identifying major missing works of art, the Foundation hopes that some unsuspecting owner, household employee, or visitor may recognize it and contact us. The Foundation is not just focused on finding paintings; we seek any cultural property item, including documents, that may have been taken as souvenirs by soldiers, displaced persons, or others in the hope that we can illuminate the path home to its rightful owner.

The Foundation has posted “Most Wanted” lists at www.monumentsmenfoundation.org/join-the-hunt.

Those with information about items on these lists, or any other artistic or cultural object believed to have been taken, deliberately or as a souvenir, from Europe during the period 1933-1945, should contact the Monuments Men Foundation by calling 1-866-WWII-ART (1-866-994-4278) or you may email the Foundation at WWIIart@monumentsmenfoundation.org.
The Monuments Men Movie News

The film will premiere in New York on February 4th. It will make its international debut at the Berlin Film Festival on February 7th.

Trailers and featurettes have been running on television, in theaters and online in anticipation of the movie release. To view all of the latest clips visit: http://www.monumentsmen.com/books-movies/the-monuments-men-feature-film.

Robert Edsel took time out of his speaking schedule to visit Los Angeles for the official Monuments Men press junket. A highlight being the in-depth interview with the movie’s co-producer, Grant Heslov, about how the whole project came to fruition. The interview may be viewed at http://youtu.be/hL6y3Y2s2Cg.

You can expect to see interviews with Robert on NBC Nightly News, Morning Joe, Charlie Rose, CBS This Morning, as well as print features in The New York Times, Parade, Associated Press, and Reuters.

Be sure to visit www.monumentsmenmovie.com/microsite/journey for a first hand look at the Monuments Men’s journey!

Educators can also visit www.monumentsmeneducation.com for a scholastic look into the story of the Monuments Men.
A Look at the Heroes of *The Monuments Men*

**Lt. George Stout**

George Clooney plays Frank Stokes, inspired by Lieutenant George Stout, U.S. First Army and U.S. Twelfth Army Group. Age: 47. Born: Winterset, Iowa. A towering figure in the then obscure field of art conservation, Stout was one of the first people in America to understand the Nazi threat to the cultural patrimony of Europe and pushed the museum community and the army toward establishing a professional art conservation corps. As a field officer, he was the go-to expert for all the other Monuments Men in northern Europe and their indispensable role model and friend. Dapper and well-mannered, with a fastidiousness and thoroughness that shone in the field, Stout, a veteran of World War I, left behind a wife, Margie, and a young son. His oldest son served in the U.S. Navy.

**Capt. Rose Valland**

Cate Blanchett plays Claire Simone, inspired by Rose Valland, Temporary Custodian of the Jeu de Paume. Age: 46. Born: Saint-Etienne-de-Saint-Geoirs, France. Rose Valland, a woman of modest means raised in the countryside of France, was the unlikely hero of the French cultural world. She was a longtime unpaid volunteer at the Jeu de Paume museum, adjacent to the Louvre, when the Nazi occupation of Paris began. An unassuming but determined single woman with a forgettable bland style and manner, she ingratiated herself with the Nazis at the Jeu de Paume and, unbeknownst to them, spied on their activities for the four years of their occupation. After the liberation of Paris, the extent and importance of her secret information, which she fiercely guarded, had a pivotal impact on the discovery of looted works of art from France.

**Lt. James Rorimer**

Matt Damon plays James Granger, inspired by Monuments Man Second Lieutenant James J. Rorimer, Comm Zone and U.S. Seventh Army. Age: 39. Born: Cleveland, Ohio. Rorimer was a wunderkind of the museum world, rising to curator of the Metropolitan Museum at a young age. A specialist in medieval art, he was instrumental in the founding of the Met’s medieval collections branch, the Cloisters, with the help of the great patron John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Assigned to Paris, his bulldog determination, willingness to buck the system, and love of all things French endeared him to Rose Valland. Their relationship would be vitally important in the race to discover the Nazi treasure troves. Married to a fellow employee of the Metropolitan, Katherine, his daughter Anne was born while he was on active duty; he was not able to see her for more than two years.
Laurel Publishing Releases a New Book -
*Rose Valland: Resistance at the Museum*

Rose Valland is one of the greatest and yet unknown heroines of World War II. After risking her life spying on the Nazis, day after day for four long years, Rose lived to fulfill her destiny: locating and overseeing the return of tens of thousands of works of art stolen by the Nazis during the occupation of France. Yet her remarkable story, like much of her personal life, has remained unknown to the broad public… until now. “As passionate during her clandestine note-taking as she was during her public artwork recovery activities, Valland may have been too much of a reminder of a troubled era - characterized by its share of heroism as well as cowardice - to be viewed as a heroine.”

Laurel Publishing, LLC is proud to introduce this book, *Rose Valland: Resistance at the Museum*, written by French Senator Corinne Bouchoux, to the English speaking world. The book was first published in France in 2006. This is currently the only biography in English available on Rose Valland, and includes more than a dozen rarely seen photographs.

Her work goes beyond documenting the wartime service of this remarkable woman and includes treasured insights into her personal life and post-war work. It is a story of loyalty, perseverance, and courage.

*Rose Valland: Resistance at the Museum* is available as an e-book exclusively at Amazon.com. Order now and enjoy learning about this extraordinary woman!

Scenes from the film: Matt Damon in character, based on Monuments Man James Rorimer, and Cate Blanchett in character based on the French heroine, Rose Valland.
Monuments Men Newsletter

Winter 2014

Number XXIX

Saving Italy Paperback out February 3

Now you can purchase the New York Times bestseller in paperback! If you enjoyed The Monuments Men, you are sure to love Saving Italy by Robert M. Edsel as well. This book tells the story of the Monuments Men in Italy, in particular that of Deane Keller and Frederick Hartt, and also explores the different kinds of Nazi theft carried out in Italy, a former ally of Germany. Perhaps even more intriguing, Edsel delves into how the missing artwork played into S.S. General Karl Wolff’s secret surrender of German forces in Italy in the closing days of the war.

You might have seen trailers of The Monuments Men movie which featured Leonardo da Vinci’s The Last Supper. While the movie doesn’t explore the fate of this famous painting in detail, Saving Italy does. An errant Allied bomb landed less than fifty feet away, destroying the adjacent wall and roof of the refectory of Santa Maria delle Grazie which houses The Last Supper. Saving Italy explains the Italian efforts to protect the painting, why the Allies were bombing the city center of Milan, changes that occurred to try to avoid cultural property during bombing runs, and the Monuments Men’s ultimate inspection of The Last Supper in the closing days of the war.

Tom Brokaw said: “Saving Italy is an astonishing account of a little known American effort to save Italy’s vast store of priceless monuments and art during World War II. While American warriors were fighting the length of the country, other Americans were courageously working alongside to preserve the irreplaceable best of Italy’s culture. Read it and be proud of those who were on their own front lines of a cruel war.”

Monuments Men Exhibition at The National World War II Museum

The Monuments Men Foundation and The National World War II Museum are proud to officially announce the addition of a permanent exhibit honoring the Monuments Men and women. The exhibit will be part of the museum’s Liberation Pavilion, projected to break ground in 2015. This will be the first permanent exhibit recognizing the work of the Monuments Men. It will provide visitors of all ages with an opportunity to relive the experience of their historic discoveries of priceless works of art.

The Foundation continues to gather artifacts and other related objects for the exhibit. If you have any such items, please contact Elizabeth Hudson at ehudson@monumentsmenfoundation.org or you may call our office at 214-219-1222 x104.
SEVEN YEARS OF HONORING THE HEROES

June 5, 2007
Senator Hillary Clinton took time out of her busy schedule to meet with Robert Edsel and Monuments Men Bernie Taper, Harry Ettlinger, and Horace Apgar.

June 6, 2007
A ceremony at the Senate marked the passage of Congressional Resolutions in both houses honoring the Monuments Men.

November 1, 2007
Chief Archivist of the United States, Professor Allen Weinstein, and Robert Edsel stand before one of the two “Hitler Albums” that was donated to the National Archives.

November 15, 2007
The Monuments Men Foundation for the Preservation of Art received the 2007 National Humanities Medal from President George W. Bush.

December 3, 2007
Presentation of a Congressional Flag and Gold Leaf Resolution to British Monuments Woman Anne Olivier-Pопham Bell by U.S. Ambassador to the Court of St. James’s Robert H. Tuttle.

Labor Day 2009
Presentation of a Congressional Flag and Gold Leaf Resolution to Monuments Woman Mary Regan Quessenberry.
We Need Your Help!

“The credit belongs to the officers and men of the combat echelons whose veneration for priceless treasures persisted, even in the heat and fears of battle.”

- General Dwight D. Eisenhower speaking about the Monuments Men

The “Monuments Men,” were a group of approximately 345 men and women from thirteen nations, most of whom volunteered for service in the newly-created Monuments, Fine Arts, and Archives (MFAA) section during World War II. Many had expertise as museum directors, curators, art historians, artists, architects, and educators. Their job description was simple: to protect cultural treasures so far as war allowed.

The Monuments Men Foundation honors the legacy of the men and women who served in the MFAA section and their unprecedented and heroic work protecting and safeguarding civilization’s most important artistic and cultural treasures from armed conflict during World War II. Additionally, the organization shows the public how to incorporate these expressions of man’s greatest creative achievements into their daily lives.

Your donation helps us continue to preserve that legacy.

To contribute, please fill out the form below or visit our website at www.monumentsmenfoundation.org/donations.

Help Us Complete the Mission of the Monuments Men

Name: _____________________________________________

Address: _____________________________________________

City: ___________________________ State: ____________ Zip Code: ______________

Gift Amount

I would like to make a gift to the Monuments Men Foundation for the Preservation of Art

$50  $100  $250  $500  $1000  Other: _______________

Billing Information

Check Enclosed: ___ Please charge my:     Visa     Master Card     American Express     Discover

Credit Card No. ___________ / ___________ / ___________ Expiration Date: ______ / ______

Tributes If this donation is given in someone’s honor, or for a special occasion, please provide details below and we will be pleased to send an acknowledgement card or letter:

Name: _____________________________________________

Address: _____________________________________________

City: ______________ State: _____ Zip Code: ___________ Tribute Purpose: __________________________
### ROBERT M. EDSEL SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

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Be sure to read all of *The New York Times* Bestselling Author Robert Edsel’s books, available through online retailers and at bookstores nationwide!

If you would like to stay up-to-date with the Monuments Men story, subscribe to our newsletter, or if you have any information on the whereabouts of missing works of art, please call 1-866-WWII-ART or visit our websites

[www.monumentsmenfoundation.org](http://www.monumentsmenfoundation.org) and [www.monumentsmen.com](http://www.monumentsmen.com)

All photos courtesy of Robert M. Edsel Collection unless otherwise noted.

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