



Passage Home: The Return of Gemäldegalerie Linz Album XIII to Germany



Deputy Secretary of State for Resources Jacob Lew, Baden-Wuerttemberg Minister of the Interior Heribert Rech, Monuments Men Foundation President Robert Edsel, German Ambassador to the U.S. Klaus Scharioth, and WWII veteran John Pistone. (photo courtesy of Life)

On January 22, the U.S. State Department hosted a ceremony marking the return of two irreplaceable documents, one of which was located by the Monuments Men Foundation. Gemäldegalerie Linz Album XIII was a prized possession of Hitler and documented German 19th century works of art he had accumulated, both through purchase and theft, for the Führermuseum he planned to build in his hometown. The other document is known as the *Augsburger Geschlechterbuch* or “Augsburg Book of Nobles” which belongs to the Staatsgalerie Stuttgart.



Pvt. John Pistone

This great occasion also honored the army veteran who picked up the Gemäldegalerie Linz Album at Berchtesgaden as a souvenir, Mr. John Pistone. Upon learning about the importance of the Album, he agreed to work through the Monuments Men Foundation to ensure its return to Germany. Ambassador J. Christian Kennedy, U.S. Special Envoy for Holocaust Issues, hosted the event and introduced each of the speakers after making poignant remarks about the importance of these two

From the Desk of Robert M. Edsel



In spring 1945 the Monuments Men began a series of discoveries that would have implications beyond those they could grasp at the time: thousands of Nazi repositories containing stolen art objects along with Germany’s great cultural wealth. In a copper mine outside the town of Siegen, Germany, the Monuments Men found paintings from museums across western Germany along with religious relics and the manuscripts of Beethoven and Bach. It was just the beginning. The quantity of items discovered was so great that by 1951, when the Monuments Men returned home, they had restituted more than 5 million cultural objects.

Sixty-five years later in 2010, as we prepare to remember the end of the war in Europe on May 8, 1945, and honor the millions of men and women who fought to save our world from the “greatest threat it faced in the 20th century” in the words of historian Doris Kearns Goodwin, it seems fitting to review World War II in its full glory and horror by participating in The International Conference on World War II, sponsored by the National World War II Museum, with some of the prominent historians of our time. It is a privilege to join this group and to share with them the role played by the Monuments Men.



MONUMENTS MEN NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2010

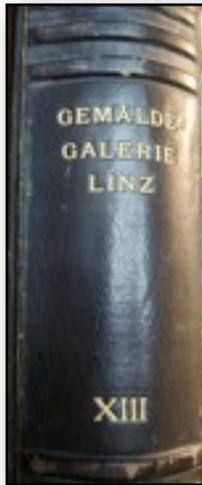
NUMBER XX

items being returned to Germany. His comments were underscored by Deputy Secretary of State Jacob Lew. Accepting these items was German Ambassador Klaus Scharioth, and Heribert Rech, Minister of the Interior for Baden-Wuerttemberg. Both gentlemen spoke eloquently and candidly about this period of Germany’s history and the commitment Germany has today to doing everything possible to assist those victims of the Nazi era in recovering their stolen belongings. At the same time, they expressed their desire to see items belonging to Germany returned home.

Each speaker commented on the important role of the Monuments Men during and after World War II and expressed their sincere appreciation for the work of the Monuments Men Foundation in not only preserving their legacy but in helping to locate and return items of such historic importance. Compliments were also directed to Mr. John Pistone for his role in coming forward to set the example for all veterans and their relatives who, like him, may have some item that was taken during the war that is a cultural object which should be returned. Monuments Men Foundation Founder and President Robert Edsel stated: “When I first met with Mr. Pistone many months ago, I encouraged him to be a visible presence in the return of this document both to allow him to receive the credit he was due, but also to set the example for others. He graciously agreed. It was a very happy moment for the Monuments Men Foundation team to witness this fine veteran receive such praise in the presence of his family. He later told me it was one of the proudest moments of his life...and that speaks volumes about what we at the Foundation are all about.”



“Augsburg Book of Nobles” Gemaldegalerie Linz Album XIII



Jacob Lew, Heribert Rech and Klaus Scharioth.



Robert Edsel, John Pistone, Ambassador Stuart Eizenstat, Klaus Scharioth, and Heribert Rech



Robert Edsel, Klaus Scharioth, Heribert Rech, and Jacob Lew (all photos courtesy of U.S. State Department) PAGE 2



Exhibition of the Hitler Albums Opens at the National World War II Museum

On January 29, the first exhibition by the Monuments Men Foundation opened, and what more fitting location could there be: the stunning National World War II Museum! On display are two irreplaceable historic documents which are the smoking guns of Hitler and the Nazis' greatest theft in history: Gemäldegalerie Linz Album XIII, and ERR Album 6, both of which were removed from Hitler's home in Berchtesgaden, by U.S. Army soldiers.

This is the first time these documents have been together since being in Hitler's possession, and the only opportunity the public will ever have to see them together. ERR Album 6 contains photographs of paintings stolen by Alfred Rosenberg and his notorious Einsatzstab Reichsleiter Rosenberg unit from the great collectors in France, including families such as the Rothschilds, Seligmanns, David-Weill, and others. It was presented to Hitler along with as many as 100 albums in that series. Until the Monuments Men Foundation located Album 6, it was believed there were just 39 of these albums which, interestingly, were the chief prosecution exhibit at the Nuremberg Trials for the portion pertaining to Nazi theft of cultural property.

This 90 day exhibition marks the second leg of the journey home to Berlin for Gemäldegalerie Linz Album XIII, which began with the U.S. State Department ceremony in January. This album, one of 31 such albums created of which only 19 were believed to have survived the war, is extremely important because it contains photographs of the works of art personally selected by Hitler for the museum he intended on building in his hometown of Linz, commonly referred to as the Führermuseum. Album XIII is particularly significant because it contains works by German 19th century painters so beloved by Hitler. This album, like the other still missing 11 albums, were thought to have been destroyed during the war. Scholars believed that their last known location was the Wolfsschanze or Wolf's Lair, Hitler's headquarters on the eastern front. That this album was located at Berchtesgaden was quite a revelation and makes it increasingly likely others will eventually be found.

An enormous "thanks" goes to all our friends at the National World War II Museum who have done such an outstanding job installing the exhibit and supporting this important display. For all those who haven't been to the Museum, it is truly one of the most fun, interactive and educational museums in the world. For more information on the National World War II Museum please visit www.nationalww2museum.org.



Gemäldegalerie Linz Album XIII open at the exhibition.



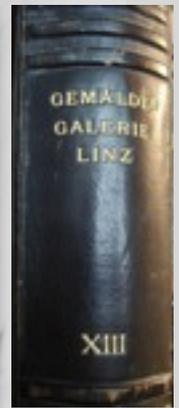
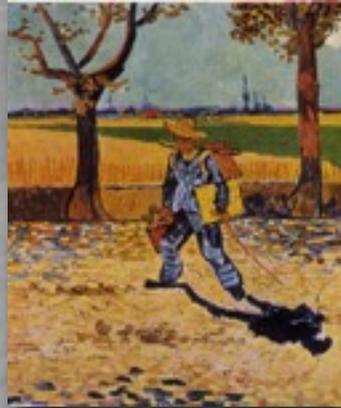
Sign at the entrance to the exhibition.



Gemäldegalerie Linz Album XIII and ERR Album 6 on display



WHAT'S IN YOUR ATTIC?



Missing Paintings by Raphael and Van Gogh

Missing Cultural Documents

During World War II, Hitler and the Nazis stole millions of cultural items, including paintings, sculpture, entire libraries, stained glass, church bells, Torah scrolls, and documents. After the war many of these items were dispersed by displaced persons and soldiers of all sides. Today, hundreds of thousands of these items are still missing, oftentimes in the possession of soldiers or their heirs, unaware of its origin or that it can't be legally sold.

If you have in your possession such an item, or know of someone who does, please contact the Monuments Men Foundation and allow us to work with you, anonymously or overtly, in returning this item to its rightful owner.

For more information, please visit www.monumentsmenfoundation.org or contact us at (214) 276-1596 or ehudson@monumentsmenfoundation.org

The Monuments Men were museum directors, curators, art historians, and educators who worked to protect monuments and other cultural treasures from the destruction of World War II. In the last year of the war they tracked, located, and ultimately returned more than 5 million works of art and cultural items stolen by Hitler and the Nazis.

The Monuments Men Foundation continues their mission by facilitating the recovery and return of important cultural treasures that were stolen and sometimes "liberated" during and after World War II. We offer research services to people concerned about the legality of an item in their possession and can assist in the return to the rightful owner of such items. The Monuments Men Foundation was awarded the 2007 National Humanities Medal by President George W. Bush, for its role in preserving the history of the Monuments Men and women. It is an IRS 501(c)(3) approved not-for-profit organization.



A Lot of Progress in a Short While!



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 at her office in Washington, D.C. Senator Clinton was delighted to receive a copy of *Rescuing Da Vinci* on behalf of her husband, former President Bill Clinton.



June 6, 2007

A ceremony at the Senate marked the passage of Congressional Resolutions in both houses honoring the Monuments Men and their work. Pictured from left to right: Monuments Men Bernie Taper, James Reeds, Harry Ettlinger, and Horace Apgar, Representatives Rodney Frelinghuysen (R-NJ) and Kay Granger (R-TX), Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-TX), and Robert Edsel.



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 by the Monuments Men Foundation for the Preservation of Art.



November 15, 2007

The Monuments Men Foundation for the Preservation of Art received the 2007 National Humanities Medal. President George W. Bush greeted Robert Edsel and Monuments Men James Reeds, Seymour Pomrenze, Harry Ettlinger, and Horace Apgar in the East Room of the White House.

(Eric Draper, White House.)



Take Me to Task: They are all Heroes!



Lane Faison in 2010 and Monuments Man S. Lane Faison, Jr. in 1945

When my book on the Monuments Men was reviewed by *The Washington Post* in what was an expansive and, overall, good review (but for the “drive by” parting comment), the writer did take exception to my characterization of these men and women as “heroes” stating:

“In civilian life they were professional art people or patrons of the arts, and they seem to have regarded their work during the war as an extension and amplification of their civilian careers. They worked very hard and very effectively, but they seem to have had no sense of (or inclination toward) heroics, and my judgment is that they should be viewed accordingly: with respect and gratitude, but not elevated to the exalted precincts of heroism.”

I found this comment astonishing: two Monuments Men were killed in action, others had many close calls, most all volunteered, and without exception all of them made a significant sacrifice. The Monuments Men and women not only didn’t have to be in combat, but many of them had to go to considerable lengths just to finagle their way into active duty. I remain of the opinion that the Monuments Men and women WERE heroes, one and all.

I apply the same standard to men and women in uniform today. Some kids join gangs; some go to col-

lege or trade school; some chase the almighty dollar; and some goof off. Others still enter military service as a career; some do it for the opportunity to receive a great college education they might otherwise not be able to afford. Some may be continuing a family tradition of military service. Whatever the reason, these brave men and women are stationed somewhere around the world serving their nation, often in harm’s way, which means they are away from family and friends. Yes, they are paid for duty (as are police officers and firemen---and I consider them heroes also!), but that shouldn’t diminish the degree of sacrifice (and risk) involved with their job in any way. Every soldier I see in an airport, headed home on leave or back to his or her unit, has by dint of service earned my respect and admiration.

One such soldier who I want to mention is the grandson of one of our beloved Monuments Men (S. Lane Faison, Jr.), Lane Faison. His great grandfather served in the U. S. Army and his grandfather served in the U.S. Navy with distinction. Monuments Man Lane Faison was someone I adored, an early member of the OSS who interrogated many of the Nazis in an effort to determine their respective roles in the art thefts and discern what Hitler’s plans were for the Führermuseum he hoped to build in his hometown of Linz. I first met his grandson, Lane, at his memorial service in December 2006, a little more than a month after having interviewed his grandfather. In the time since, Lane joined the U. S. Marines and is currently serving overseas having seen duty in Afghanistan. We are all proud of Lane’s sense of purpose and willingness to serve his country in this manner. I know his grandfather would be beaming with pride. To Lane, and all his fellow servicemen and women, especially those in harm’s way, we salute you, wish you success with your mission, and a safe return home upon completion.



Honoring the Living Monuments Men...



Sgt. Horace Apgar



Pfc. Richard Barancik



Sgt. Harry Ettlinger



Lt. Robert Koch



Col. Seymour Pomrenze



Anne Popham Bell



WAC Mary Regan
Quessenberry



Sgt. James Reeds



Capt. Mark Sponenburgh



Lt. Bernard Taper

...and Two Heroes Killed in Action 65 Years Ago



Maj. Ronald Balfour



Capt. Walter Huchthausen

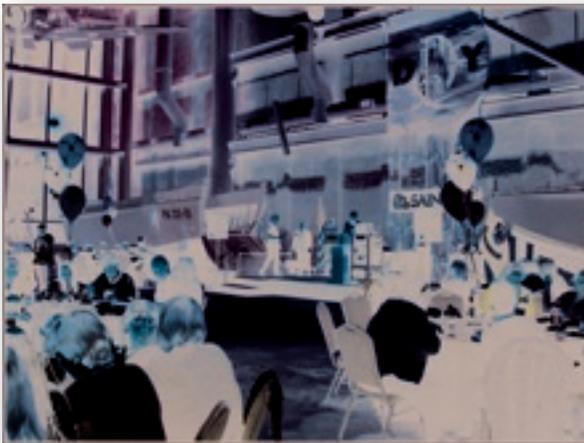


Serving Others

The happiest moments for those of us at the Monuments Men Foundation are seeing the impact our work has on the lives of others. Sometimes it is something simple, like seeing a veteran receive the recognition of others. On occasion, our work is the catalyst for veterans to share their war experience with family members in a way they never have. Recently, seeing the Pistone family be honored in Washington, D.C. provided us with many gratifying moments. The irreplaceable assets of the Foundation are the relationships that have been developed with other excellent organizations, none more so than the National World War II Museum. Being asked to join this remarkable organization, founded by two great historians, the late Dr. Stephen Ambrose, and Dr. Nick Mueller, its current CEO and President, is both a great responsibility and a great honor. Whether working with individuals, such as the Pistone family, or as part of an organization like the National World War II museum, our focus remains one of service...to the legacy of the heroes, to their families, and to future generations who need to know who made that future possible.



John and Verna Pistone in Washington, D.C.



Staff party at the National WWII Museum.



Julianne Pistone Pertz and Joan Pistone look on while their father, John, is interviewed

Visit our Websites www.monumentsmenfoundation.org and www.monumentsmen.com



<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Robert-Edsel/130960233032>



<http://twitter.com/RobertEdsel>

ROBERT M. EDSSEL SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS AND BOOK SIGNINGS

National World War II Museum	New Orleans, LA	March 18-20, 2010
University of Pennsylvania Law School	Philadelphia, PA	April 21, 2010
Worcester Art Museum	Worcester, MA	April 25, 2010
International Foundation for Art Research	New York, NY	April 26, 2010
Eisenhower Presidential Library	Abilene, KS	May 6, 2010
Sandhills Community College	Pinehurst, NC	November 2, 2010

To subscribe to the *Monuments Men Newsletter*, or to provide us with comments, please contact Elizabeth Ivy Hudson: ehudson@monumentsmenfoundation.org
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