World War II, the most destructive conflict in history, proved an unprecedented test of mankind’s desire to preserve its most venerated artistic and cultural treasures for future generations. What then will be said seventy years from now about how we responded to the challenge of protecting our artistic and cultural inheritance today? Will future generations reflect on our efforts with pride, as we do on the Monuments Men and the others who preserved civilization’s cultural heritage during World War II, or will they wonder what we were thinking as we watched ISIS, Al Qaeda, and others systematically loot and pulverize treasures of our ancient world? How can we, as unarmed citizens, make a difference?

This is how YOU can make a difference. Visit our website, www.monumentsmenfoundation.org and add your name to our “I am a Monuments Man” list of supporters. Then share your action on social media using the hashtag #IamaMonumentsMan. Help us create a virtual army of people who care about our shared cultural heritage. We want those who would destroy culture to know the size of our army just as much as the people entrusted to protect it. We believe that the public cares about culture and wants to participate in this discussion. Share with us your ideas and suggestions on how society can do a better job preserving and protecting these cultural treasures that belong to us all. Your proposed solution may be one that hasn’t been considered! #IamaMonumentsMan. Are You?
WASHINGTON, May 5, 2015 — At a ceremony held in the Treaty Room of the U.S. Department of State, Victoria Nuland, Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs; Ambassador Peter Wittig, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to the United States; and Robert M. Edsel, Founder and Chairman of the Monuments Men Foundation for the Preservation of Art, announced two separate discoveries by the Monuments Men Foundation of important paintings missing since WWII.

The paintings included three which an army major purportedly won in a poker game. These paintings, along with hundreds of others, had been placed in a potassium mine for safekeeping during the war by German museum officials. Included are works by the Flemish painter Frans Francken III, German painter Christian Wilhelm Ernst, and Austrian artist Franz de Paula Ferg. Today, they are on their way home, to the Anhalt Picture Gallery in the central German city of Dessau.

The other two - a painting of Queen Victoria and her first child Victoria, who married German Emperor Frederick III, and a painting of Charles I, more commonly known as the “Triple Portrait” - had been in a castle near Frankfurt that was confiscated by the U.S. military in April 1945 and converted into an officers club. Both paintings were purchased by an American woman who was serving in Germany after the war as a librarian in the U.S. Special Services. These paintings are among hundreds of thousands of cultural items still missing since the end of the war.

Help us complete the mission of the Monuments Men and women. If you own, or know of someone who owns, an art or cultural object that was in Europe between 1933-1951, and you don’t know its ownership during that period, please contact the Monuments Men Foundation through its 1-866-WWII-ART (1-866-994-4278) toll free number, or email us at wwwwiiart@monumentsmenfoundation.org.
Every year, students across the United States test their knowledge and creativity by taking part in National History Day (NHD), an American academic competition focusing on history. This year’s theme was “Leadership and Legacy in History.” Many students chose the Monuments Men as their subject and contacted the Foundation seeking help on their research. The Foundation regularly serves as the point of reference for students across the country on the legacy of these great men and women. We are very proud to know that boys and girls across the country are interested in this subject.

Catherine Marie Cochran, 8th grader at Severn River Middle School in Arnold, MD., sent us a photo of her project for this year’s NHD contest. We love how the triptych design of her submission mirrors the shape of the Ghent Altarpiece, the first of 4 million stolen objects to be found and returned by the Monuments Men. Good luck to Cat Marie and to the half million students who each year participate in this contest!

Teachers who are interested in educational material concerning WWII, its root causes, costs, and victories might want to check out “The Greatest Theft in History Educational Program” available at www.monumentsmenfoundation.org/for-educators.

FOSTERING RESEARCH INTO NAZI-ERA LOOTING

BERLIN, March 17, 2015 — Dr. Günter Winands, Founding Director of the German Centre for Lost Cultural Property and Prof. Dr. Uwe Schneede, Honorary Director of the Centre and former director of the Hamburger Kunsthalle Art Museum, welcomed Robert M. Edsel to the Bundeskanzleramt (Federal Chancellery). Following discussions about wartime looting and the work of the Foundation, Mr. Edsel formally presented Germany with 500 copies of the book, Beyond the Dreams of Avarice: The Hermann Goering Collection by Nancy Yeide, a study devoted to Goering’s entire painting collection. The Monuments Men Foundation donated these books to Germany to further provenance research into Nazi-era looting.
Make great gifts for Grads and Dads!

Summer Volunteer Opportunities!

We are seeking three interns, with the following skills and interests, to join our team at the Foundation headquarters in Dallas, TX:

1. Social media; to manage our multiple social channels and profile.
2. History and writing; to assist with additions to our website content.
3. Spanish; to translate the Foundation’s website.

No financial compensation will be provided beyond covering any out-of-pocket expenses.

Please send your resume, along with a cover letter and two references, to info@monumentsmenfoundation.org