



Monuments Men Foundation for the Preservation of Art Established

by Robert M. Edsel

It's hard to believe: a room full of World War II history buffs never heard of them. Restitution claimants such as Maria Altmann hadn't either. Our government heretofore hadn't honored them. Their unprecedented legacy of preserving artistic and cultural treasures during armed conflict has been all but lost. (In fact, Col. Matthew Bogdanos, who would later so ably lead the group of soldiers investigating the looting of the National Museum of Iraq in Baghdad, recently acknowledged to me that he had never heard of them either.)

The "them" are the Monuments Men and women of the Monuments, Fine Arts, and Archives section. The legacy they left us is rich with examples of how to protect irreplaceable elements of our civilization from damage and destruction. We can't end war, but we can do a much better job of protecting the greatest creative achievements of man during hostilities. Like all great causes, it is a goal whose achievement is defined by the striving.

To that end, I have founded the **Monuments Men Foundation for the Preservation of Art**. Its mission statement and objectives, which are detailed on the following page, ensure that the legacy of the Monuments Men and women will be put to their fullest and



Monuments Officer Lt. James Rorimer (with notepad), future director of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and three GIs remove looted paintings from the castle at Neuschwanstein. (photo courtesy of the National Archives and Records Administration, College Park, MD)

best use.

Hundreds of thousands of works of art and other cultural items stolen during World War II, worth billions of dollars, remain missing. Efforts by museums and many private collectors to fully research and document their holdings from this period vary greatly. In the coming years thousands of works of art and other historic documents will surface as the participants of World War II pass. What will become of these items?

The **Monuments Men Foundation for the Preservation of Art** will continue its research into the Monuments Men and their rich history while utilizing that legacy to raise public awareness of the importance of preserving examples of man's greatest creative achievements.





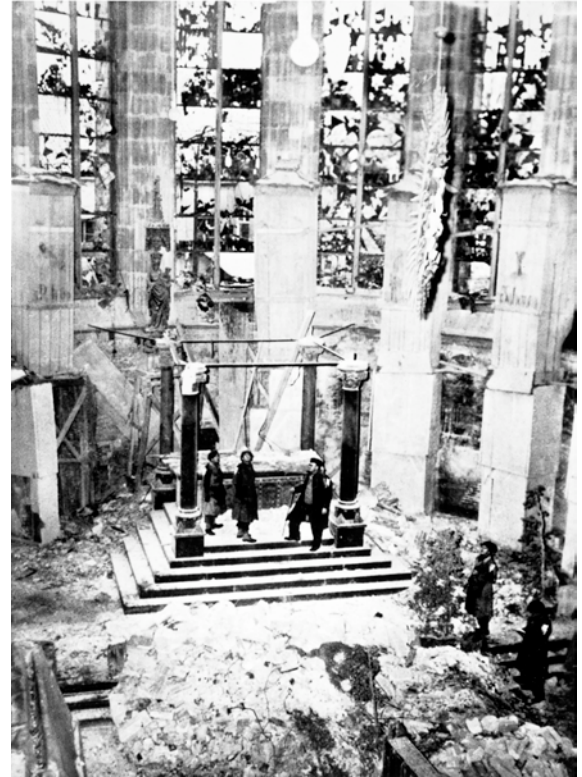
Monuments Men Foundation for the Preservation of Art

Mission Statement

To preserve the legacy of the unprecedented and heroic work of the men and women who served in the Monuments, Fine Arts, and Archives ("MFAA") section, known as "Monuments Men," during World War II, by not only raising public awareness of the importance of protecting and safeguarding civilization's most important artistic and cultural treasures from armed conflict, but incorporating these expressions of man's greatest creative achievements into our daily lives.

Objectives

1. To identify, locate and honor all those who served in the MFAA section, regardless of nationality, and those who were instrumental in protecting Europe and Russia's greatest cultural treasures during World War II.
2. To promote and support educational programs in schools and universities in furtherance of the Foundation's Mission Statement.
3. To identify, honor, and bestow the annual "Monuments Men" Award to individuals and institutions that represent and uphold the principles and ideals of the "Monuments Men" by making an extraordinary contribution to the protection of civilization's most important artistic and cultural treasures.
4. To facilitate the recovery and restitution of important artistic, cultural, and historic treasures and documents that were stolen during World War II and have yet to be located.
5. Encourage institutions and collectors to comply with the American Association of Museums' guidelines concerning provenance research during the Nazi era.



*Aachen Cathedral, Germany. October 1944.
(photo courtesy of the National Archives and Re-
cords Administration, College Park, MD)*





Monuments Men Honored in Washington, D.C.

June 6, 2007

On June 6, 2007, The United States government officially recognized the contributions of the Monuments Men during World War II in the protection of artistic and cultural treasures by passing resolutions in both the House and Senate in their honor. The resolutions were sponsored by Senators James Inhofe (R-OK), Edward Kennedy (D-MA), Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-TX), and Barbara Boxer (D-CA), and Representatives Kay Granger (R-TX), Rodney Frelinghuysen (R-NJ), and Louise Slaughter (D-NY), respectively. Robert M. Edsel hosted the ceremony and introduced those in attendance, including Congresswoman Granger, Congressman Steve Cohen, and Senator Hutchison who presided over the ceremony and awarded flags to the Monuments Men that had been flown over the Capitol on Memorial Day. Four of the twelve living



*Monuments Men Ceremony at the Senate. From left: Bernard Taper, James Reeds, Harry Ettlinger, Horace Apgar, Congressman Steve Cohen, Congresswoman Kay Granger, Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison, and Robert Edsel.
(©Monuments Men Foundation.)*



From left: Bernard Taper, Harry Ettlinger, Senator Clinton, Robert Edsel, and Horace Apgar. (© Monuments Men Foundation)

Monuments Men were able to attend: Bernard Taper, James Reeds, Harry Ettlinger, and Horace Apgar. Numerous family members of other Monuments Men attended. Of particular note were the ten Ambassadors or Chargés d'Affaires in attendance from the twelve other nations from which Monuments Men hailed. It was truly an international event.

A private luncheon followed, at which both Robert Edsel and Lynn Nicholas discussed their experiences writing about this great story and getting to know the Monuments Men. It was also a chance for the children and grandchildren of the Monuments Men to meet one another and share their stories.

The week in Washington, D.C. was filled with many unforgettable experiences. On June 5th, Senator Clinton requested a brief meeting with the Monuments Men at her office. Several of the Monuments Men also had the opportunity to meet their Congressional representatives. A trip to the National Gallery of Art to visit with Director Rusty Powell provided a fitting end to the celebrations on June 6th.



The Monuments Men: Builders of Cultural America



Metropolitan Museum of Art

James J. Rorimer - Director
Theodore Rousseau, Jr.
Edith A. Standen
Theodore A. Heinrich

Cleveland Museum of Art

Sherman E. Lee - Director

The Frick Collection

Harry D. Grier - Director

Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum

George Stout - Director

Museum of Modern Art

Andrew C. Ritchie - Director

Harvard University, Fogg Art Museum

Charles L. Kuhn
Charles F. Gallagher
George L. Stout
Langdon Warner

San Francisco Legion of Honor Museum

Thomas C. Howe - Director

Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Edgar Breitenbach

New York City Ballet

Lincoln E. Kirstein - Founder

National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.

Charles P. Parkhurst
Perry B. Cott
Everett Parker Lesley, Jr.
Craig Hugh Smyth

Nelson - Atkins Museum of Art

Paul Gardner - Director
Lawrence Sickman - Director

Toledo Museum of Art

Otto Wittmann - Director

Williams College

S. Lane Faison, Jr.

The map above identifies the locations of select cultural institutions that various Monuments Men helped build both before and after World War II. This is only a partial listing of the numerous museums, universities, and other cultural entities served by the Monuments Men.



Monuments Man Profile: Lt. Charles Parkhurst



(photo courtesy of the Lynn Nicholas Collection)

A United States naval lieutenant, Parkhurst was the Deputy Chief of the MFAA section of the United States Military Government in Germany immediately following the Second World War. He helped coordinate the numerous and varied tasks of the MFAA in postwar Germany, particularly at the Munich Central Collecting Point. With other MFAA officers, Parkhurst organized an exhibition of paintings at the German House of Art (Haus der Kunst) in Munich in 1946. He signed the Wiesbaden Manifesto on November 7, 1945, flatly refusing to have anything to do with removing German-owned artworks to the United States for safekeeping. For his role in restituting looted artworks, Parkhurst was made Chevalier, Legion of Honor for France.

Prior to the war, Charles Parkhurst earned his B.A. at Williams College, his M.A. at Oberlin College, and his M.F.A. (Master of Fine Arts) at Princeton. As a registrar and curator at the National Gallery of Art in Washington in the early 1940s, he assisted in the evacuation of artworks to the Biltmore Estate.

Parkhurst went on to have a long and distinguished career as an art historian after his return home from Germany. He worked at the Albright Art Gallery from 1946 to 1947, and then lectured and worked in the museum at Princeton University until 1949. At Oberlin College and Allen Memorial Art Museum, he was a professor in and Head of the Fine Arts Department, as well as Director of the museum. From 1962-70, Parkhurst was Director of the Baltimore Museum of Art, and from 1971-83 he served as Assistant Director and Chief Curator at the National Gallery of Art in Washington. Following his retirement from the National Gallery, he worked at Williams College and Williams College Museum of Art until 1992. Parkhurst also spent a year at the Smith College Museum of Art from 1991-1992.

When I met with Charles and his charming wife, Carol, I was showered with questions, "Have you spoken with Lane Faison? How is he? How about Craig Smyth - is he OK?" In fact, I had seen Craig Smyth and his wife Barbara earlier that morning and was able to share that wonderful visit with him. We then talked about Rose Valland, the heroic French woman who risked her



(© Monuments Men Foundation)

life secretly gathering information on the Nazi looting of the great French collections while working at the Jeu de Paume museum. Her secret diary opened the treasure chest for the Monuments Men to locate so many of these looted artworks.

The Charles Parkhurst Papers, comprised largely of documents and photographs relating to his MFAA experience, were donated in 1982 to the National Gallery of Art in Washington and are conserved in the Gallery Archives.



Is Art Worth A Life?



(photo courtesy of Kings College Archive Centre, Cambridge, The Papers of Ronald Edmund Balfour)

Maj. Ronald Balfour British Monuments Officer 1904-1945

Major Balfour was killed in action in Clèves, Germany on March 10, 1945 while serving with the 2nd Canadian Army. He and four other men were moving sculpture from Christ the King Church when the only shell to fall on the city that day landed in the road next to them; Balfour was the sole casualty. He was formerly a historian and Fellow at King's College, Cambridge.



(photo courtesy of Harvard University Archives)

Capt. Walter Huchthausen American Monuments Officer 1904-1945

Captain Huchthausen was killed in action in Germany on April 4, 1945. At the time, he and his assistant, Lt. Sheldon Keck, were searching for a German alterpiece and drove into enemy territory when Huchthausen was hit by mortar fire. Prior to the war, he taught architecture at the University of Minnesota, and was director of the Department of Design at the Boston Museum School of Fine Arts.

UPCOMING EVENTS

TELEVISION BROADCASTS

CBS Sunday Morning	November
with Charles Osgood	
Good Day Dallas, FOX TV	November
WFAA-TV Dallas, ABC	November

RADIO INTERVIEWS

Dallas: KLIF Radio	November
"The Jeff Bolton Show"	

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

Spiritual Arts Series	October 28
University Park United Methodist Church, Dallas	
University Club New York City	November 8
Florida Atlantic University	January 10, 2008
Jupiter, FL	
Yale University	April 17, 2008
Andrew Carnduff Ritchie Lecture Series	

For comments on the Monuments Men Newsletter, please contact Elizabeth Ivy: eivy@monumentsmenfoundation.org