



## The Monuments Men Foundation Celebrates Five Years Honoring the Heroes

by *Robert M. Edsel*

This summer marks the fifth anniversary of the founding of the Monuments Men Foundation for the Preservation of Art, an organization founded to preserve the historic legacy of the men and women who served in the Monuments, Fine Arts, and Archives section during World War II. The announcement of this organization took place on June 6, 2007, the 63rd anniversary of the D-Day landings, at the United States Senate, on the occasion of Resolutions unanimously passed by both Houses of Congress that for the first time honored the service of these heroes of civilization: the Monuments Men. Four Monuments officers joined us for that special occasion and represented the other 345 officers of thirteen nations who served this great cause.



*George Clooney, Robert Edsel and Grant Heslov*

Since that time, the Foundation has been honored in numerous ways including its receipt of the National Humanities Medal, our nation's highest honor for work in the humanities field, presented by the President of the United States during a ceremony at the White House. The small staff of the Monuments Men Foundation has worked tirelessly to identify those who served as Monuments officers; facilitating the recovery and restitution of important cultural items; working with museums and collectors to help them begin historical research of items in their collections; creating an educational program to teach about the work of the Monuments Men; and sharing this story to help raise public awareness about their important contributions during World War II. The publishing of my two books on the Monuments Men – *Rescuing Da Vinci*, and *The Monuments Men: Allied Heroes, Nazi Thieves, and the Greatest Treasure Hunt in History* – have reached readers in more than eighteen languages.

Many wonderful consequences that will further honor these heroes have since recently being announced. My new book – *Saving Italy* – about the work of the Monuments Men to save the cultural cradle of civilization, will be published next year. Soon The National World War II Museum will construct a permanent exhibit about the Monuments Men as part of its Liberation Pavilion. And work is underway by George Clooney and Grant Heslov on their film, based on my last book about the Monuments Men, which will reach a global audience. These developments ensure that these heroes' legacy will forever be known and honored. Their service expands our understanding of the achievements of the members of "The Greatest Generation" - the men and women who struggled so mightily to defeat the greatest threat to civilization of the twentieth century. In this edition of the newsletter, we are proud to look back and share some of our past accomplishments, as we look forward to the next five years honoring these heroes.



## National Archives Announces Discovery of "Hitler Albums"

On March 27, 2012, at a press conference in Dallas, David S. Ferriero, Archivist of the United States and Dr. Greg Bradsher, Senior Archivist joined Monuments Men Foundation President Robert M. Edsel to announce the discovery of two original leather bound albums containing photographs of paintings and furniture looted by the Nazis. The Monuments Men Foundation donated these albums, which had been in private hands since the end of World War II, to the National Archives. Following the press conference, the Monuments Men Foundation hosted a luncheon in honor of Archivist David Ferriero.

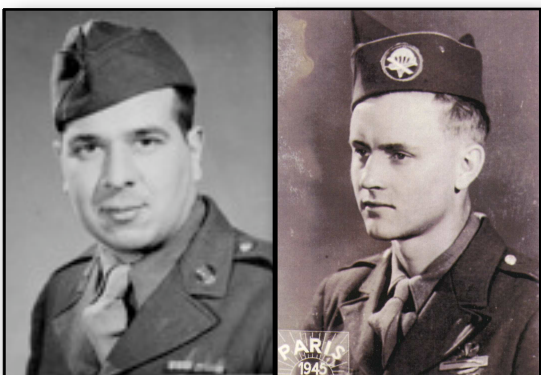
These albums, created by the staff of the Einsatzstab Reichsleiter Rosenberg, or ERR, the main Nazi agency engaged in the theft of cultural treasures in Nazi-occupied countries, document the unprecedented and systematic looting of Europe by Adolf Hitler and the Nazis. As the ERR staff looted, photographed and catalogued the French collections, they created leather bound albums, including the two donated by the Monuments Men Foundation in March. The albums were specifically intended for Hitler in an effort to keep him apprised of the ERR's progress in France.



*Robert Edsel and Chief Archivist of the United States, David Ferriero, holding the newly discovered "Hitler Albums"*

The Archivist hailed this discovery as "one of the most significant finds related to Hitler and the Nazis' premeditated theft of art and other cultural treasures to be found since the Monuments Men Foundation's previous

discovery of Albums 6 and 8. It is exciting to know that original documents are shedding light on this important aspect of World War II. Documents such as these may play a role in helping victims recover their treasures. The National Archives is grateful to Mr. Edsel and the Monuments Men Foundation for today's donation of Albums 7 and 15."



*Cpl. Albert Lorenzetti, left; Private First Class Zane Larson, right.*



*Album 7 containing Girl with a Dove by Fragonard*





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"The Foundation often receives calls from veterans and their heirs, who don't know the importance of items they may have picked up during their service, or aren't aware that anyone is looking for the items," Foundation President Robert M. Edsel stated. "These albums are just the tip of the iceberg for hundreds of thousands of cultural items still missing since World War II. The role of the Monuments Men in preserving cultural treasures during conflict was without precedent. We honor their legacy by completing their mission."

In the closing days of World War II, U.S. soldiers entered Adolf Hitler's home in the Bavarian Alps. Many picked up trinkets as souvenirs as proof that they had been inside. Cpl. Albert Lorenzetti, who served in the 989th Field Artillery Battalion, and Private First Class Yerke Zane Larson who served in the 501st Battalion of the 101st Airborne Division, "the Screaming Eagles," each took one leather bound album. Neither man knew the significance of the albums, other than being a memento of their war service. Heirs to both men contacted the Monuments Men Foundation after reading media stories about the Foundation's work involving the restitution of other valuable World War II documents.

In May 1945, thirty-nine original ERR albums were discovered at Neuschwanstein by the Monuments Men. In late 1945 these albums were used as evidence at the Nuremberg trials to document the massive Nazi art looting operations. In addition to the newly discovered Albums 7 and 15, today the National Archives has custody of the original thirty-nine albums, as well as two additional albums, 6 and 8, discovered by the Monuments Men Foundation and donated to the National Archives in 2007.

For additional information or images about this discovery, visit: [www.monumentsmenfoundation.org](http://www.monumentsmenfoundation.org).



*Sissy Cullum, wife of MMF board member Allen Cullum, Jim Edsel, MMF board member and Linda Hale, attorney and friend of the MMF*



*Press Conference*



*Kay Fortson, President of the Kimbell Art Foundation, Robert Edsel, and Robert Decherd, CEO of Belo Corp.*



*Bob Hayes, president of the Robert Tucker Hayes Foundation and Stephen Watson, COO of the National WWII Museum.*



*Greg Bradsher and Alice Murray, President of the Dallas Holocaust Museum.*



*Archivist David Ferriero with Alan Lowe, Director of the George W. Bush Library*



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## Wonderful New Moments Connecting People...

On December 12, 2012, the Monuments Men Foundation hosted an open house event at its headquarters in Dallas for local supporters and friends.

Attendees had the an opportunity to meet special guest Monuments Man Harry Ettlinger.



*MMF Trustee Allen Cullum, Monuments Man Harry Ettlinger and Linda Hale*



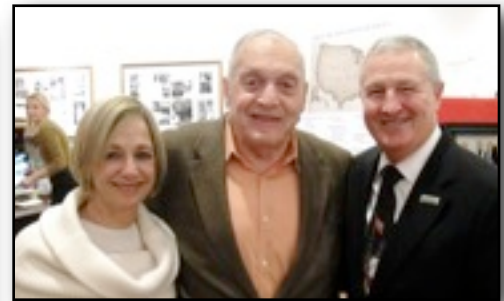
*Carole Meyer, Michele Brown and Buzzy Meyer*



*David Dini, Robert Edsel and Allen Cullum*



*Ynette and Jim Hogue*



*Lark and J. C. Montgomery, Jr. with Harry Ettlinger*



*Monuments Men Foundation staff with Harry Ettlinger*



*Robert Edsel and Harry Ettlinger welcome the guests*



*A great group of supporters and friends!*



*The MMF office & recent discoveries on display*



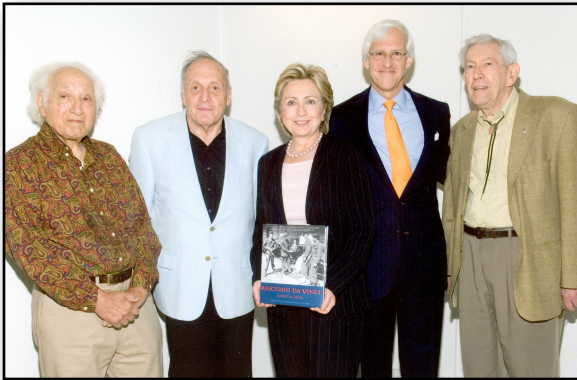


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...and Five Years of Incredible Memories Honoring the Heroes!



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 and Robert Edsel.*



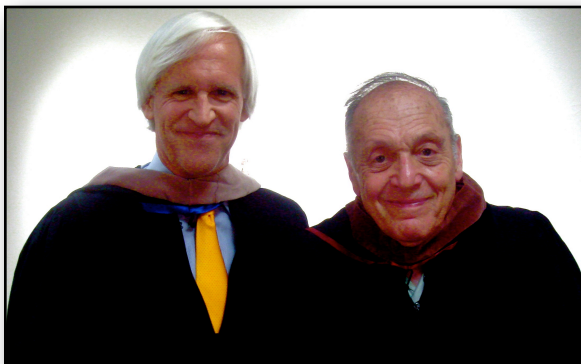
November 1, 2007

*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.*



November 15, 2007

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



May 22, 2009

*Robert Edsel and Monuments Man Harry Ettlinger accept an Honorary Doctorate Degree from the Massachusetts College of Art and Design on behalf of all who served in the Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives section.*



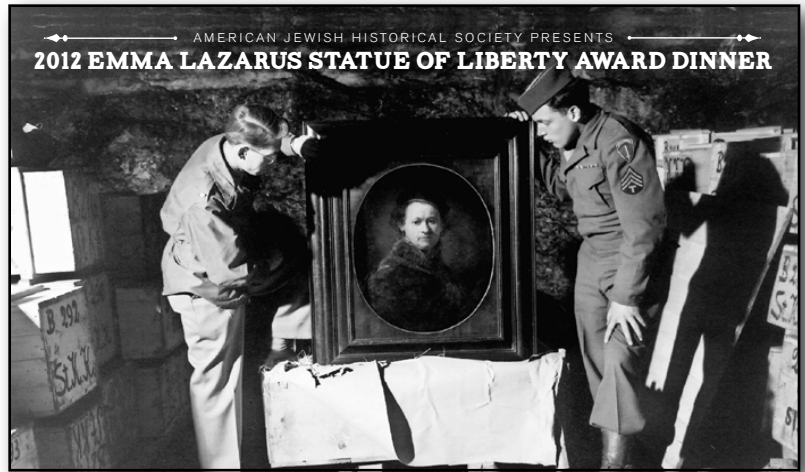
Labor Day 2009

*Presentation of a Congressional Flag and Gold Leaf Resolution to Monuments Women Mary Regan Quessenberry.*



## The Emma Lazarus Statue of Liberty Award

On November 1, 2012, the American Jewish Historical Society will present the Emma Lazarus Statue of Liberty Award to the Monuments Men. Harry Ettlinger will accept the award on behalf of all of the men and women who served in the Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives section. The Emma Lazarus Statue of Liberty Award is the American Jewish Historical Society's highest honor and is presented to an individual or group which has demonstrated outstanding leadership and commitment to strengthening the American Jewish community. In addition, Jay Pomrenze will accept the Legacy Award that evening in honor of his father Monuments Officer Colonel Seymour Pomrenze, who passed away last year. We are so proud that the AJHS has chosen to recognize the contributions of the Monuments Men with this honor. If you would like to join us for this special evening, more details can be found on the AJHS website at [www.ajhs.org](http://www.ajhs.org).



### *Emma Lazarus Statue of Liberty Award Dinner*

NOVEMBER 1, 2012  
CENTER FOR JEWISH HISTORY  
15 WEST 16TH STREET  
NEW YORK CITY  
COCKTAIL RECEPTION: 6:00PM  
PROGRAM & DINNER: 7:00PM

*For further information, please contact  
Rachel Lobovsky, at 212-294-6164  
or by email: [rlobovsky@ajhs.org](mailto:rlobovsky@ajhs.org)*

## Saving Italy to be Published in 2013



*Captain Deane Keller is the primary hero of *Saving Italy*. Here he is pictured with *Primavera* by Botticelli, found in a castle in the Tuscan countryside.*

We are thrilled to announce that Robert M. Edsel's next book, *Saving Italy*, will be published by W.W. Norton in 2013. The book will cover the adventures of the Monuments Men as they struggle to find seven hundred works of art – including paintings by Leonardo da Vinci and sculpture by Michelangelo – taken by the Nazis from Florence's world renowned museums. The Vatican, OSS, and Nazi SS General Karl Wolff each have a dramatic role in the discovery of the Florentine treasures.





## 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 Foundation is a not-for-profit IRS approved 501(c)(3) entity created to honor and recognize the work of the 345 or so men and women from thirteen nations who protected monuments and other cultural treasures from the destruction of World War II. Your donation will help 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,” by raising public awareness of the importance of protecting and safeguarding civilization’s most important artistic and cultural treasures from armed conflict, while incorporating these expressions of man’s greatest creative achievements into our daily lives. The small but focused team of the Foundation relies on public and private financial support to underwrite the costs of its future activities and success. Your support is essential. To become a part of the success of this Foundation, please visit our website at [www.monumentsmenfoundation.org/donations](http://www.monumentsmenfoundation.org/donations) or use the back of this page as a donation form.

## Monuments Men Exhibition at The National World War II Museum

The Monuments Men Foundation and The National World War II Museum are proud to announce the addition of a permanent exhibit honoring the Monuments Men and women and their remarkable role during World War II protecting so many of civilization’s cultural treasures. The exhibit will be part of the museum’s Liberation Pavilion, projected to break ground in 2013/2014. This will be the first and only permanent exhibit dedicated to the memory of the Monuments Men and will

provide visitors of all ages with an opportunity to relive the experience of the historic discoveries of priceless works of art by these heroes. The Monuments Men Foundation is busy gathering artifacts and other related objects for inclusion in the exhibit from the Monuments Men and their families. If you have any such items, please contact Elizabeth Hudson at [ehudson@monumentsmenfoundation.org](mailto:ehudson@monumentsmenfoundation.org) or 214-219-1222 ext 104.



*Rendering of the Monuments Men exhibit planned for the  
National WWII Museum.*

### ROBERT M. EDSSEL SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

Oct. 25 & 26, 2012

Saginaw Valley State University

University Center, MI

Nov. 7, 2012

Herron School of Art and Design

Indianapolis, IN



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## Contact Information

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: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please mail this form to: Monuments Men Foundation - 1501 Dragon Street, #102 - Dallas, TX 75207**

## “In the Footsteps of the Monuments Men” European Tour

Robert M. Edsel is proud to partner with The National World War II Museum's Five Star Tours to offer a tour in search of a different kind of wartime hero: the Monuments Men. This exclusive inaugural trip, which will be led by Edsel, will depart September 14, 2012 from Paris, on a 10-day adventure of discovery – retracing the route the Monuments Men took across a battered, war-torn continent. Along the way are visits to some of the artistic treasures saved from ruin as well as sites where the Nazis stashed their stolen plunder, ending at the salt mines of Altaussee, Austria.

The tour includes travel from Paris to the tour's final destination in Munich, luxury accommodations and meals, as well as the opportunity to experience history in an intimate-sized group with Edsel. Space is extremely limited and time is running out. Get more information and a detailed itinerary or book your journey at [www.nationalww2museum.org/travel](http://www.nationalww2museum.org/travel) or 1-877-813-3329 ext. 257.



**Visit our Websites** [www.monumentsmenfoundation.org](http://www.monumentsmenfoundation.org) & [www.monumentsmen.com](http://www.monumentsmen.com)



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Robert-Edsel/130960233032](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Robert-Edsel/130960233032)



<http://twitter.com/RobertEdsel>

To subscribe to the *Monuments Men Newsletter*, or to provide us with comments, please contact Elizabeth Hudson: [ehudson@laurelpublishingllc.com](mailto:ehudson@laurelpublishingllc.com)

*all photos courtesy of Robert M. Edsel Collection unless otherwise noted.*

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