



# Newsletter Cultural goods World War II

In this newsletter we present information on the Cultural Heritage Agency's activities regarding cultural goods in the Netherlands that were stolen, confiscated, or sold under duress before or during World War II. We also refer to other information of interest offered by organizations we closely work with, such as the Restitution Committee and the NIOD Institute for War, Holocaust and Genocide Studies.



## Documentary Looted Art & Restitution

The Restitution Committee issues recommendations regarding the restitution of cultural goods that were stolen or lost under duress. The documentary [Looted Art & Restitution](#) was produced to mark the Committee's 20th anniversary. It shows how the Committee operates and arrives at its recommendations, by presenting two case studies in which surviving relatives of Joseph Gosschalk and Herbert Gutmann share their stories.

## Intensification provenance research, 2022-2026

In the next few years, the Cultural Heritage Agency (RCE) will carry out supplementary provenance research for the entire NK collection. This collection mostly consists of objects recovered from Germany after World War II that could not be returned immediately to the legal owners. Since then, the objects are being administered by the Dutch State. Our goal is to trace the provenance of all objects in the NK collection in more detail, and also to trace (the heirs of) the original owners so as to enable them to submit a request for restitution.

You will find more information on provenance research, the NK collection, and restitution

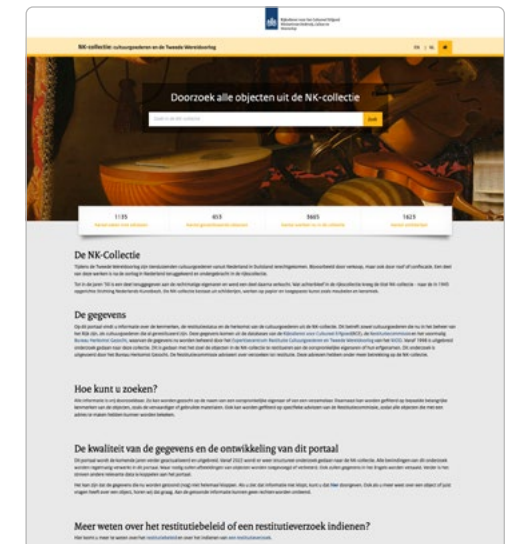
policies in the article [Artwork in search of an heir](#), published earlier in [Tijdschrift van de RCE](#).



Depot staff carefully handling objects from the NK collection.

## Online NK collection

Since 2021, the Cultural Heritage Agency has been collecting and making accessible all available information on objects in the NK collection on the internet portal [wo2.collectienederland.nl](http://wo2.collectienederland.nl). Here you will find information on the characteristics, restitution status, and provenance of all objects, which are now administered by the Dutch State. The portal also lists cultural goods formerly in the NK collection that have been returned to the original owners since 2000. These data come from the databanks of the [Cultural Heritage Agency \(RCE\)](#), the [Restitution Committee](#), and the former [Origins Unknown Agency](#). In the next few years, the RCE will expand and upgrade the information presented on the portal.



## A visit by the new State Secretary

At the end of March 2022, the new State Secretary of Culture and the Media, Gunay Uslu, in office since January 2022, was briefed in detail about the restitution policies set out by the Cultural Heritage Agency (RCE), the Restitution Committee, and the Netherlands Institute for War, Holocaust and Genocide Studies' Restitution Expert Centre. The Secretary fully realized the importance of structural provenance research and its value for the process of restitution to the heirs concerned. The meeting took place in the [CollectieCentrum Nederland](#), which houses many of the objects in the NK collection.



Jacob Kohnstamm (Chair of the Restitution Committee) and Gunay Uslu (State Secretary of Culture and the Media) being briefed by Zeph Benders (RCE) (from right to left)



CollectieCentrum Nederland (CC NL) in Amersfoort

PHOTO: CHRIS LANGEMEIJER

## Archives, immeasurably important

In 2017, a family archive was dropped off at the counter of the Amsterdam Jewish



Landscape, painted by A.H. von Stadler, NK3278

Museum. This archive, of the Adelsberger-Isay family, contained both personal and business documents, some of them pertaining to the sale of paintings during the Nazi period (1933-1945). To the family, leafing through this previously unknown archive was very special. It also led to the request for a reconsideration of the recommendation regarding two paintings in the NK collection by the artist A.H. von Stadler. An earlier request, in 2009, had been denied because the identity of the original owner before and during the Second World War could not be verified. The resurfaced archive settled the matter, and the Restitution Committee therefore issued a recommendation to return the paintings to the Isay heirs.

Watch their story in the [video Restitution Made Visible](#) or read the [recommendation](#).



River landscape with ruins and distant town, c. 1700, painted by Dionys Verburg, NK2395. The provenance of this painting is currently under investigation. It still awaits restitution.

## Questions or submit a request

Are you looking for information on restitution or the NK collection? To facilitate restitution requests, the RCE is the primary contact for potential interested parties, collection managers and curators as regards restitution policies, procedures, and provenance research. Researchers can ask for advice on provenance research, and be referred to existing archives and organizations that may be of help. The RCE itself publishes information on its [website](#), where you can also find information on how to submit a restitution request. Interested parties, museums, researchers, students and others can email their questions to: [restitutie@cultureelerfgoed.nl](mailto:restitutie@cultureelerfgoed.nl).

We are glad to be of service.

## Subscriptions

[Subscribe here](#) to the newsletter if you would like to be kept informed of developments regarding cultural goods World War II, looted art and restitution.