



Newsletter Cultural Goods World War II

In this *Newsletter* we present information on Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands (RCE) 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 Restitutions Committee and the NIOD Institute for War, Holocaust and Genocide Studies.

‘The Future of Restitution’ Symposium

The international symposium that took place on 12 September in Artis, Amsterdam, is now behind us. Following the opening by the Minister of Education, Culture and Science, Eppo Bruins, 15 speakers and more than 150 participants from various countries looked to the future, led by the chairman of the day, Siebe Weide. Is an end date for restitution policy even conceivable? Should there be a European Restitutions Committee? What are the opportunities and challenges facing us in the field of provenance research and what should we do with orphaned Jewish art (plundered or otherwise)? You can watch the symposium (English language) again by following [this link](#). This symposium rounded off a year in which we

organised various activities to mark 25 years of the Netherlands’ restitution policy. You can read the reports of these activities [here](#).

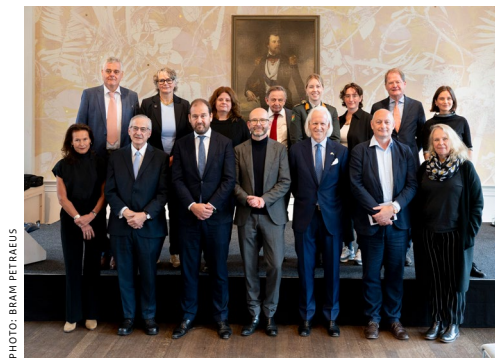


PHOTO: BRAM PETRAEUS

Siebe Weide together with the symposium speakers.

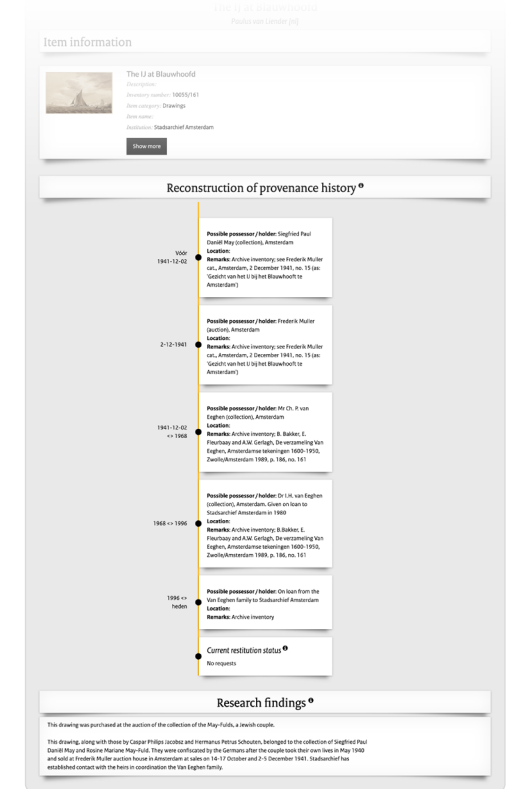
Improved WWII portal

The [WWII portal](#) has been improved since 1 September. Data entered at the back end of the system is now refreshed in the portal daily, instead of periodically. This means that we show the latest information from the RCE’s investigation of the Netherlands Art Property Collection (NK Collection). The research findings are a new feature of the portal. These consist of written details that are added to an NK Collection object once the investigation of that object has been completed.

Pilot on AI photo comparison

The RCE worked with second-year students studying Artificial Intelligence (AI) at the University of Amsterdam to investigate whether AI technology could be used to compare photos of objects in the NK Collection with photos held in the archive of the Munich Central Collecting Point (MCCP). This recently-digitalised archive includes photographs of all the objects that were returned after the war to their countries of origin via the MCCP. The MCCP is an important source for provenance research.

Particularly for objects that are not unique, such as cabinets and tableware, comparing photographs from just after the war with photos



The research findings are a new feature of the portal.

taken in recent years can help to find a match and also add to the provenance history.

The students presented the RCE with two solutions. We are currently looking at how this technology can be applied in the provenance research on the Netherlands Art Property Collection (NK Collection).



Part of a separate panel, former wall covering with pastoral landscape. Approx. 1750-1800, NK3309

In Pursuit of Provenance

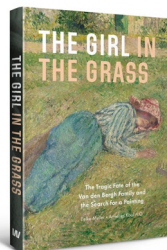
In the [In Pursuit of Provenance blog series](#) we discuss an object from the NK Collection on which in-depth provenance research is being conducted. Hopefully, this will enable more restitution requests to be honoured and allow property to be returned to its rightful owners and their heirs.

The [17th century painting 'Landschap met vesting'](#) (Landscape with fortress) has had a long and eventful past, only parts of which we know.

A unique [18th century wall covering](#) which now serves as a room divider. Looking at it, it feels as if you are in a painting.

Book 'Meisje in het gras' (The Girl in the Grass)

The Van den Berg couple went into hiding in 1943 and placed their two daughters in a children's home in Driebergen. To pay for all this their Camille Pissarro painting 'The Girl in the Grass', among other things, had to be sold. After the liberation Mr van den Bergh submitted a [report form](#). It was not until 2016 that the former Origins Unknown Agency, now part of the RCE, made a connection between the form that was submitted and the painting, which has been in the collection of the Kunsthalle in Bremen since 1958. Our colleague Annelies Kool and Eelke Muller (from the Institute for War, Holocaust and Genocides Studies (NIOD)) have written [a book](#) (also available in [English](#)) about the family's tragic fate and the story of the painting. The painting is on temporary loan to the Van Gogh Museum from November 2024 to March 2025.



YouTube video

Sjoerd de Boer and Klaas van der Wal created the video series '[Görings kunst in Nederlandse musea](#)' (Görings art in Dutch museums). They visited the Netherlands' Collection Centre in Amersfoort and, together with colleagues Perry Schrier and Nathalie Menke, looked at some works from the Netherlands Art Property Collection (NK Collection).

Guide to Provenance Research on Cultural Goods 1933-1945

The recently published [Handreiking Herkomst-onderzoek naar cultuurgoederen 1933-1945](#) (also available in English: [Provenance Research on Cultural Goods 1933-1945: A Guide](#)) provides practical tools for anyone investigating their own collection or for the purpose of an acquisition.



Girl Writing at a Table by Max Liebermann

Restitution recommendation on drawing 'Schrijvend meisje aan een Tafel' (Girl Writing at a Table)

The Restitutions Committee has advised Rotterdam City Council to restitute [the drawing Girl Writing at a Table](#) (Max Liebermann) to the heirs of Max and Martha Liebermann. The drawing has been part of the Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen Collection since 1959 and is currently owned by Rotterdam City Council.

NEWS IN BRIEF

- > The Centraal Joods Overleg has appointed Lodewijk Asscher [chair of the orphaned Jewish looted art committee](#).
- > [Avraham Roet has died at the age of 96](#). We remember the special partnership and the time together. We wish his family and friends strength and fortitude.
- > Interested in courses and training events on cultural goods and WWII? [Visit our website for further information](#).

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.

We are glad to be of service.

Subscriptions

Would you like to stay informed of developments in the area of cultural heritage objects and restitutions in relation to the Second World War? You can [subscribe to the newsletter here](#).