PUBLIC PROGRAM

NAZI-ERA PROVENANCE RESEARCH:
THE IMPORTANCE OF TRANSNATIONAL EXCHANGE

Friday, October 25
5:00–7:00 p.m.
Followed by a reception

German Historical Institute
1607 New Hampshire Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20009

To attend: RSVP required. For information about PREP click here.

Held in conjunction with the 6th German/American Provenance Research Exchange Program (PREP) for Museum Professionals, October 20–26, 2019, organized by the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC., and the seven PREP partners.

Organized by the Smithsonian Institution, German Historical Institute, and the Goethe Institut, Washington, D.C.
This panel discussion will reflect on the historical development of Holocaust-era provenance research in museums and research institutions over the past 20 years, from challenging beginnings to present-day accomplishments. German and American experts will compare and contrast approaches to this work; consider how access to research resources and to provenance online have been supported and sustained in our institutions; and explore the vital role of transnational exchange. More broadly, they will discuss the civic role museums play, and how historical, political, and legal contexts impact this work.

Speakers include:

Sharon Cott, Senior Vice President, General Counsel, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York

Gero Dimter, Vice President, Stiftung Preußischer Kulturbesitz, Berlin

Stuart Eizenstat, Expert Advisor for Holocaust Issues, US Department of State

Irmgard Fellner, Director of Cultural Relations Policy, Foreign Federal Office, Republic of Germany

Christian Fuhrmeister, Research Department, Zentralinstitut für Kunstgeschichte, Munich

Richard Kurin, Distinguished Scholar and Ambassador-at-Large, Smithsonian Institution

Simone Lässig, Director, German Historical Institute, Washington, DC

Anne Helmreich, Associate Director, Digital Initiatives, Getty Research Institute, Los Angeles

Lynn Nicholas, author of *The Rape of Europa: The Fate of Europe’s Treasures in the Third Reich and the Second World War*

Laurie Stein, Senior Advisor, PREP, Smithsonian Institution

This program will be videotaped, and available at www.provenance.si.edu.

Major support for PREP comes through a German government grant funded by the German Program for Transatlantic Encounters, with additional financial support from Germany’s Federal Commission for Culture and Media, the program’s seven PREP partners, and the Smithsonian Women’s Committee.

6th PREP Exchange Public Program

Nazi-Era Provenance Research: The Importance of Transnational Exchange
At the German Historical institute, Washington DC
October 25, 2019 from 5:00-7:00 p.m.

SPEAKER BIOS

Sharon H. Cott
Senior Vice President, Secretary, and General Counsel
The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York
oversees the wide range of legal issues the Museum faces, from litigation over title to works of art in the collection to negotiations of gifts, supervising a staff of six attorneys. She coordinates corporate-governance issues for the Board and is responsible for assuring the Museum's compliance with various laws and regulations. A leader in the field of museum ethics, Cott has served as counsel to the committees of the Association of the Art Museum Directors and the American Alliance of Museums that drafted guidelines related to antiquities and to art confiscated during World War II.

Gero Dimter
Vice President of the Stiftung Preußischer Kulturbesitz, Berlin
has a law degree from the University of Dresden and completed his postgraduate legal training in Berlin, where he was an attorney before his judicial appointment in Berlin in 2004. After working at various courts, he then served as the Officer for Judicial Affairs and Consumer Protection in the Brussels office of the Federal State of Berlin from 2010 to 2012. From 2013, Dimter was member of a civil chamber at Kammergericht Berlin (the state’s highest court), and from 2014 until 2019 was simultaneously head of one of the administrative departments of the Kammergericht. In March 2019 Dimter was appointed Vice President of the Stiftung Preußischer Kulturbesitz (Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation).

Stuart Eizenstat
Senior Counsel, Covington & Burling LLP
serves as Special Expert Advisor for Holocaust Issues at the US Department of State, and is a senior member of Covington & Burling LLP’s international practice. His work at Covington focuses on resolving international trade problems and business disputes with the US and foreign governments, and
international business transactions and regulations on behalf of US companies and others around the world.

During fifteen years of public service in four US administrations, Ambassador Eizenstat held key senior positions, including chief White House domestic policy adviser to President Jimmy Carter (1977-1981); U.S. Ambassador to the European Union, Under Secretary of Commerce for International Trade, Under Secretary of State for Economic, Business and Agricultural Affairs.

Much of the interest in providing justice for victims of the Holocaust and other victims of Nazi tyranny during World War II was the result of his leadership of the Clinton Administration as Special Representative of the President and Secretary of State on Holocaust-Era Issues. He successfully negotiated major agreements with the Swiss, Germans, Austrian and French, and other European countries, covering restitution of property, payment for slave and forced laborers, recovery of looted art, bank accounts, and payment of insurance policies. His book on these events, Imperfect Justice: Looted Assets, Slave Labor, and the Unfinished Business of World War II (2003), was favorably received in publications like The New York Times, The Los Angeles Times, The Washington Post, Business Week, and Publisher’s Weekly. It has been translated into German, French, Czech and Hebrew.

Irmgard Maria Fellner
Director for Cultural Relations Policy
Deputy Head of the Directorate-General for Culture and Communication
Federal Foreign Office (Bundesminister des Auswärtigen)
Federal Republic of Germany

Humanities and political science graduate Irmgard Maria Fellner entered the German Foreign Service in 1993, after working for the chairman of the European Affairs Committee of the French National Assembly. Following postings in Bonn, London, São Paulo and Washington, she headed the office of Karsten D. Voigt, Coordinator of German-American Cooperation, from 2003 to 2007. Thereafter, she transferred to the office of French Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner. From 2010 to 2015 she held posts at the Federal Foreign Office in Berlin. She was then appointed Deputy Head of Mission at the German Embassy in Rome. Since 2018 she has been the Director for Cultural Relations Policy and Deputy Head of the Directorate-General for Culture and Communication at the Federal Foreign Office.

Christian Fuhrmeister
Research Department
Central Institute for Art Historical Research, Munich

has initiated and coordinated research projects at the Zentralinstitut für Kunstgeschichte in Munich since 2003. His work focuses on 20th-century art, architecture, and art history (including war cemeteries, Max Beckmann, National Socialist art, and provenance research). His Hamburg Ph.D. dissertation was published as Beton, Klinker, Granit. Material Macht Politik -
Eine Materialikonographie (Berlin 2001), and he co-edited Kunstgeschichte im Nationalsozialismus. Beiträge zur Geschichte einer Wissenschaft zwischen 1930 und 1950 (Weimar 2005). In 2012, Fuhrmeister completed a Habilitation at the Ludwig-Maxmilians Universität München, which came out in 2019 as Die Abteilung "Kunstschutz" in Italien. Kunstgeschichte, Politik und Propaganda 1936–1963. He continues to teach at the LMU on a regular basis and is a member of the PREP Steering Committee.

Anne Helmreich
Associate Director, Digital Initiatives
Getty Research Institute, Los Angeles
The Digital Initiatives area is composed of the Getty Vocabularies, the Project for the Study of Provenance and Collecting, and Digital Art History programs. Helmreich has also served as Senior Program Officer, The Getty Foundation, and Associate Professor of Art History and Director, Baker-Nord Center for the Humanities, Case Western Reserve University. Her current research focuses on the history of the art market and the productive intersection of the digital humanities and art history. She recently co-edited The Rise of the Modern Art Market in London, 1850-1939 (Manchester University Press, 2011) with Pamela Fletcher, and co-authored with Fletcher “Local/Global: Mapping Nineteenth-Century London’s Art Market,” the first article in Nineteenth-Century Art Worldwide’s Digital Humanities and Art History series, which won the ARIAH 2015 prize for best online essay.

Richard Kurin
Distinguished Scholar and Ambassador-at-Large
Smithsonian Institution, Washington D.C.
As a member of the Smithsonian’s senior leadership team, Richard Kurin helps guide the Institution’s national museums, research centers, and educational programs. He focuses on strategic direction, institutional partnerships, public representation, philanthropic support, and special initiatives, including the German/American Provenance Research Exchange Program (PREP) and the Smithsonian Cultural Rescue Initiative. An anthropologist with a PhD from the University of Chicago, Dr. Kurin has authored six books, including the best-selling Smithsonian’s History of America in 101 Objects (2013). He directed the Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage for two decades, and served on the U.S. Commission for UNESCO. He has led efforts to save heritage threatened by natural disaster in Haiti, Nepal and the U.S., and heritage threatened by conflict in Mali, Egypt, Iraq, and Syria. A Fellow of the American Academy of the Arts and Sciences, Dr. Kurin serves as liaison to the U.S. President’s Committee for the Arts and the Humanities and the White House Historical Association, and advises the U.S. Department of State on cultural heritage matters.
Simone Lässig
Director, German Historical Institute Washington DC
has directed the GHI Washington since October 2015. Before this, she was
Director of the Georg Eckert Institute for International Textbook Research in
Braunschweig and Professor of Modern and Contemporary History at the
University of Braunschweig. During her tenure at the GHI, she has made
digital history, the history of knowledge, and the history of migration — especially its
intersection with the history of knowledge — foci of research. Her own research focuses on
Jewish history, religion and religiosity, philanthropy and patronage, and memory cultures and
the politics of memory in the nineteenth and twentieth century. Her major publications
include: “Jüdische Wege ins Bürgertum: Kulturelles Kapital und sozialer Aufstieg im 19.
Jahrhundert“ (Göttingen, 2004) and „Wahlrechtskampf und Wahlreformen in Sachsen, 1895–
1909“ (Weimar/Cologne/Vienna, 1996)

Lynn H. Nicholas
Independent Scholar
is an independent researcher in the area of Nazi-era social and cultural policy,
and is the author of The Rape of Europa: The Fate of Europe’s Treasures in the
Third Reich and the Second World War. Mrs. Nicholas has served as an expert
witness in numerous restitution cases and testified before Congress. She was a
presenter at the Washington Conference in 1998 and a delegate to the Prague
Conference in 2009. She has lectured at museums and universities both here
and abroad, and participated in international symposia related to the wartime fate of works of
art. She has been awarded the Legion d’Honneur by France and the Amicus Poloniae by Poland.
She served as an advisor to Smithsonian Provenance Research Initiative, and in the same
function with the Smithsonian Provenance Research Exchange Program.

Laurie A. Stein
Senior Provenance Advisor PREP
Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.
is a specialist in World War II-era provenance research, and 20th-century
German art, design, and architecture. She has been a curator at the Art
Institute of Chicago, the Saint Louis Art Museum, and the Werkbundarchiv
in Berlin. She was the Founding Director of the Pulitzer Foundation for the
Arts and Midwest Director for Christie’s before establishing L. Stein Art
Research, LLC in 2005. Stein has been a provenance consultant for numerous institutions and
individuals, including Yale University, The Museum of Modern Art, the Guggenheim, The
Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Art Institute of Chicago, and the Foundation E.G. Bührle
Collection in Zurich. She helped establish the German Working Group for Provenance Research
and was a researcher for the Swiss government’s Bergier Commission and the “Schwabing
Art Trove” Task Force in Germany. Since 2008, she has been Senior Advisor for the Provenance
Research Initiative at the Smithsonian Institution.