



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.

Vechtende kaartspelers (Card players fighting) painting returned to heirs of Meijer Marcus van Praag

The State Secretary for Culture and Media, Fleur Gräper-van Koolwijk, decided in March that the painting *Vechtende kaartspelers* (Card players fighting) (artist unknown) should be returned to the heirs of Meijer Marcus van Praag. In so doing she honoured the recommendation of the Restitutions Committee. Based on research by the Expertise Centre for the Restitution of Cultural Goods and World War II (ECR), the committee concluded that the Jewish antique dealer Meijer Marcus van Praag sold the painting from his private collection in October 1941 to art collector A.C.N. van der Sloot. This sale was related to the measures against Jewish citizens instituted by the occupying forces and was motivated by a



Unknown, *Vechtende kaartspelers* (Card players fighting), year unknown, inv. no. NK3533

need for survival. Therefore it is sufficiently likely that Van Praag lost ownership of the painting involuntarily due to circumstances directly related to the Nazi regime. You can read the [Van Praag recommendation](#) and the [press release](#) of the Restitutions Committee (in Dutch).

Cultural Goods 1933-45 thesis prize finalists announced!

On 10 April in the Noordbrabants Museum Jesse Breet was selected as the winner of the Cultural Goods 1933-1945 thesis prize! From the nine entries the panel of judges selected [three finalists](#) who had a chance of winning the thesis prize. The judges were impressed by the way in which Jesse had researched ordinary people and everyday objects. Something which made the confiscation and looting of objects very real. Jesse won a cash prize to put towards a development goal of his own choosing and may publish his research as an article or blog via RCE channels. Leah Niederhausen and Eléonore Thole were also awarded prizes for their theses.



(From left to right): Eléonore Thole, Jesse Breet and Leah Niederhausen

Washington Principles

[Best practices](#) for implementing the Washington Principles were presented on Tuesday 5 March by US Secretary of State Anthony Blinken at a conference in Washington. These were an initiative of the US Special Envoy for Holocaust Issues, Ellen Germain, in association with the World Jewish Restitution Organization, to mark the 25th anniversary of the Washington Principles. The Netherlands Ministry of Education, Culture and Science supports the full implementation of the Washington Principles, as set out in its own restitutions policy.

Cultural Goods and World War II Round Table - The future of rights restoration: objects missing a home

The first Round Table took place on 25 March in the Glazen Zaal (Glass Hall) that is part of the Portug(u)ese synagogue in The Hague. Dave Heilbron (Centraal Joods Overleg, CJO), Emile Schrijver (Jewish Cultural Quarter, JCK), Judith Zilversmit (Parool Dutch daily) and Christianne Mattijsen (Min. Education, Culture & Science, OCW) debated the future of rights restoration. This Round Table meeting was the first in a series of three Round Table discussions about current and future issues surrounding the restitution of cultural goods and WWII and is one of the activities being organised by the RCE to mark the 25th anniversary of the Netherlands' Restitution Policy on Cultural Goods and World War II. You can read a reflection on the meeting [here](#).



Unknown Dutch cabinet, 1765. Inventory number NK259, 233 x 172 x 66 cm

In Pursuit of Provenance

A cabinet, also sometimes called a glass cabinet, is a typically Dutch item of furniture. This type of cabinet became popular in the Netherlands from the 16th century onwards. Typical of Dutch cabinets of this type are the two-door upper section and three drawers below, with a richly decorated and skilfully carved exterior. An [18th century Dutch cabinet](#) is the subject of [In Pursuit of Provenance](#), the blog series on the search for the provenance of the Netherlands Art Heritage Collection (NK Collection).

Guide to provenance research on cultural objects 1933-1945 now available

Anyone who acquires cultural objects or already owns or has stewardship of them is responsible for conducting research into their provenance. This [Dutch-language guide](#) provides an overview of some basic steps for conducting provenance research on cultural goods related to World War II.



Restitution procedures made clear

Under the current restitution policy, cultural goods that were most likely looted, confiscated or sold under duress between 1933 and 1945 can be returned to the original owners or their heirs. There are various procedures for this which are explained on the [website with the aid of infographics](#).



NEWS IN BRIEF

- > Former chair Willibrord Davids of the Restitutions Committee has died: [In memoriam Restitutions Committee](#)
- > PhD candidates take the stage: Floris Kunert - Renewed interest in the restitution of 'looted art' [PhD candidates take the stage #1 Floris Kunert - \(new date\) - Verzetsmuseum \(Dutch Resistance Museum\)](#)
- > Up-to-date figures on the restitution of cultural goods 1933-1945 have been published in the [Erfgoedmonitor](#) (Heritage Monitor)
- > The CJO (Centraal Joods Overleg) organised a meeting in the Rijksmuseum on 3 April for its members, where the RCE explained the restitutions policy and talked about ongoing provenance research
- > The [Knowledge Base](#) of the Cultural Heritage Agency includes in-depth articles on cultural goods that were looted, confiscated, surrendered or sold in the period 1933-45. More articles will follow in the near future

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- > **20 June**
Looted art and Museums Round Table [Ronde Tafel Cultuurogoederen en WOII – De toekomst van geroofde kunst in musea | Activiteit | Rijksdienst voor het Cultureel Erfgoed](#)
- > **12 September**
[International Symposium](#) De Toekomst van Restitutiebeleid (International Symposium on the Future of the Restitutions Policy)



PHOTO: CATHARINA GERRITSEN

Workshop on WWII Cultural Goods Provenance Research

Earlier this year Annelies Kool and Perry Schrier, advisors on WWII cultural objects, provided a Provenance Research Workshop for staff of the Kunsthistorisch Instituut (Art History Institute) (RKD) of the University of Utrecht. The RKD holds relevant archives for provenance research on which questions may be received. During this workshop three objects were thoroughly examined and provenance research was explained step by step. With the new insights they gained the course participants can help researchers and others who are interested with their research, or refer them to other organisations.

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](#).