

Finding Aid for the Charles Parkhurst Papers, 1937-1965 (bulk 1943-1949)

Summary Information

Repository	National Gallery of Art Archives Sixth Street and Constitution Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20565 archives@nga.gov
Title	Charles Parkhurst Papers
Identifier	SC.018
Creator	Parkhurst, Charles, 1913-2008
Date	1937-1965 (bulk 1943-1949)
Extent	3 cubic feet (8 boxes); approximately 150 digital files
Abstract	This collection documents the activities of Charles Parkhurst, a naval lieutenant with the Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives (MFAA) Section of the United States Army in Germany during and immediately after World War II. Papers include articles and newspaper clippings, correspondence, exhibition catalogs, photographs, publications, and reports.

Biographical Note

January 23, 1913	Born, Columbus, Ohio
1935	B.A., Williams College, Williamstown, Massachusetts
1938	M.A., Oberlin College, Oberlin, Ohio
1941	M.F.A., Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey
1941-1942	Research Assistant, National Gallery of Art, Washington
1942-1943	Assistant Curator (Registrar), National Gallery of Art, Washington
1945-1946	Deputy Chief, Eastern and Western Divisions of the United States Zone,

	Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives (MFAA) Section of the U.S. Military Government in Germany
1946-1947	Assistant Curator, Albright Art Gallery, Buffalo, New York
1947-1949	Assistant Professor of Art and Archeology, Princeton University Assistant Director, Princeton Art Museum
January 25, 1948	Awarded Chevalier, Légion d'honneur, France
1949-1962	Head of Department of Fine Arts, Oberlin College Director of Allen Memorial Art Museum, Oberlin College Professor of History and Appreciation of Art, Oberlin College
1956-1957	Fulbright Research Scholar, University of Utrecht, The Netherlands
1962-1970	Director, Baltimore Museum of Art, Baltimore, Maryland
1971-1983	Assistant Director and Chief Curator, National Gallery of Art, Washington
1983-1984	Co-director, Williams College Museum of Art
1985-1992	Visiting Professor and Lecturer, Williams College
1986-1987	Acting Director, Graduate Program, History of Art, Williams College
1991-1992	Interim Director, Smith College Museum of Art, Amherst, Massachusetts

Scope and Content

This collection documents Charles Parkhurst's activities as a naval lieutenant assigned to the Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives (MFAA) Section of the United States Military Government in Germany from 1945 to 1946. During his year with the MFAA, Parkhurst served as deputy director of the MFAA's eastern and western divisions. He also participated in the evacuation of works of art stored at Schloss Neuschwanstein in Bavaria and was involved with the retrieval and recovery of other looted art. In 1945, he signed the *Wiesbaden Manifesto*, protesting the military decision to transport 202 German-owned paintings to the National Gallery of Art for safekeeping.

The collection includes reports, publications, articles and newspaper clippings, memoranda, correspondence, exhibition catalogues, and other documents relating to the retrieval and recovery of works of art, individuals and groups involved in art looting, and Parkhurst's MFAA experiences. Of special interest are the Schenker Papers, found in the Paris office of the firm

Schenker Internationale Transporte, documenting art shipments to German museums and galleries during the occupation of France. Photographs documenting looted art and its recovery and other aspects of Parkhurst's MFAA activities are also of interest.

Arrangement

Materials are arranged in the following series:

- Series 1 Wartime Subject Files, 1944-1963
- Series 2 Art-Restitution Related Newspaper Clippings, 1943-1965
- Series 3 Art Exhibition Catalogues, 1943-1948
- Series 4 Other Publications, 1937-1954
- Series 5 Photographs, 1945-1946

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access	This collection is open for research by appointment under the conditions of the National Gallery of Art Archives Access Policy. For all inquiries or to schedule an appointment, please contact archives@nga.gov .
Preferred Citation	National Gallery of Art Archives. Charles Parkhurst Papers.
Rights Status	Copyright undetermined
Language	English; German; French
Acquisition Information	Gift of Charles Parkhurst, 1982
Processing Information	Initially organized by National Gallery of Art Library staff before transfer to the National Gallery of Art Archives, 1999. Arranged and described by archives staff, 2007.
Related Archival Materials	National Gallery of Art Archives. Deputy or Assistant Director Office Records. <i>Resources Relating to World War II</i> describes other WWII-related archival materials available at the National Gallery of Art. Oral history interview with Charles Parkhurst, 1982. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

The National Archives and Records Administration of the United States (NARA) holds official government records relating to the work of the Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives officers and the American Commission for the Protection and Salvage of Artistic and Historic Monuments in War Areas (Roberts Commission).

Monuments Men Foundation Archives available at the National WWII Museum.

Series Descriptions

Series 1 Wartime Subject Files, 1944-1963 [boxes 1-2]

Arranged alphabetically by subject. This series documents Charles Parkhurst's activities with the Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives (MFAA) Section of the United States Military Government in Germany. Materials in this series include documents relating to the Berlin paintings, correspondence, memoranda, and reports. Of special interest are the Schenker Papers, found in the Paris office of the firm Schenker Internationale Transporte, documenting art shipments to German museums and galleries during the occupation of France.

Series 2 Art-Restitution Related Newspaper Clippings, 1943-1965 [box 2]

Arranged chronologically. This series consists of articles and newspaper clippings concerning looted art and wartime efforts to save works of art and other cultural monuments.

Series 3 Art Exhibition Catalogues, 1943-1948 [box 3]

Arranged alphabetically by title. This series contains wartime art exhibition catalogues. Of special interest are the catalogues from the exhibitions of looted art at various locations around the United States, including the National Gallery of Art, Washington, the Art Institute of Chicago, and the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York. Catalogues are in English, German and French.

Series 4 Other Publications, 1937-1954 [boxes 3-4]

Arranged alphabetically by author and title. This series is comprised of publications relating to looted and repatriated art. Included in this series are several guidebooks, instruction manuals, and articles published by the United States government, as well as published reports documenting the work of the Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives (MFAA) Section and other restitution organizations.

Series 5 Photographs, 1945-1946 [boxes 5-8]

Arranged alphabetically by subject. This series contains photographic prints, negatives, and glass slides documenting MFAA activities and recovered artworks at various sites in Germany. Of special interest are images relating to the collecting points at Munich and Wiesbaden, the salt mines at Alt Ausee and Bernterode, and stolen art caches at Schloss Neuschwanstein and Schloss Neuenstein. For conservation purposes, photographic prints, negatives, and glass slides are stored separately. Photographs in this series have been digitized and are available to researchers.

Charles Parkhurst Papers

Series 1 Wartime Subject Files, 1944-1963

Box 1

- 1-1 Accessions to German museums and galleries during the occupation of France (The Schenker Papers), 1945

- 1-2 Bamberg MFAA program, 1946

- 1-3 Berlin Paintings exhibition, 1945-1963

- 1-4 Buxheim cloister, 1945

- 1-5 Collection of German letters and memoranda pertaining to confiscation of European art treasures (translated), 1945

- 1-6 ELHAG - holding company for war veteran's business in Alsace

- 1-7 French Legion of Honor, 1948-1949

- 1-8 Goudstikker Collection, 1945

- 1-9 Haberstock, Karl, 1945

- 1-10 Heilbronn and Kochendorf salt mines, 1945

- 1-11 Höchststadt Schloss Repository, 1945

- 1-12 Holiday greetings, 1945

- 1-13 Schloss Löwenstein, 1945

- 1-14 Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives - exhibitions, 1946

- 1-15 Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives - memoranda, 1945-1946

Charles Parkhurst Papers

- 1-16 Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives - policies, procedures and notices, 1944-1945
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- 1-17 Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives - reports, 1945-1946
-
- 1-18 Munich Central Collecting Point, 1945-1946
-
- 1-19 Schloss Neuenstein (Öhringen), 1945
-
- 1-20 Schloss Neuschwanstein, 1945-1946
-
- 1-21 Parkhurst, Charles - memoranda and notes, 1945-1946
-
- 1-22 Parkhurst, Charles - personal correspondence, 1945-1948
-
- 1-23 Reports on investigations (Reinhold Kunsch, Hans Posse, Hermann Goering Collection, Involuntary Sales, Firm of Anton Possenbacher), 1945-1946
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- 1-24 Einsatzstab Rosenberg, 1945
Includes collar band.

Box 2

- 2-1 SHAEF (Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Force instructions), 1944-1945
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- 2-2 Headquarters - Toscana region - Allied Military Government, Monuments and Fine Arts Section final report, circa 1945
-
- 2-3 Ulm - return of art and archives, 1945
-
- 2-4 Schloss Unterdiessen
-
- 2-5 White list of German personnel, 1944

Series 2 Art Restitution Related Newspaper Clippings, 1943-1965

Charles Parkhurst Papers

Box 2

- 2-6 Undated (reference copies)
-
- 2-7 1943, 1945 (reference copies)
-
- 2-8 1946 (folder 1 of 2) (reference copies and fragile originals)
-
- 2-9 1946 (folder 2 of 2) (reference copies)
-
- 2-10 1947 (reference copies)
-
- 2-11 1948 (reference copies)
-
- 2-12 1949-1950 (reference copies)
-
- 2-13 1964-1965 (reference copies)
-
- 2-14 1943-1965, undated (fragile originals)

Series 3 Art Exhibition Catalogues, 1943-1948

Box 3

- 3-1 Ergänzungsteil zum Offiziellen Ausstellungskatalog der Großen Deutschen Kunstausstellung. Im Haus der Deutschen Kunst zu München, 1943
Nazi art exhibition.
-
- 3-2 Exhibition of Masterpieces of European Paintings (Ausstellung von Meisterwerken der Europäischen Malerei). Marburg, 15-30 November 1945
-
- 3-3 Exhibit of Master Portraits - Paintings from Different European Schools 16th to 19th Century. Heilbronn, 16-24 March 1946
-
- 3-4 Les Chefs-d'Oeuvres des Collections Privées Françaises: Retrouvés en Allemagne par la Commission de Recupération Artistique et les Services Alliés. Orangerie des Tuileries, Juin-Aout 1946

Charles Parkhurst Papers

- 3-5 Eighteenth Century Painting. Central Collecting Point Wiesbaden (Landesmuseum), September 1947
-
- 3-6 Masterpieces of Painting Saved from the German Salt Mines, Property of the Berlin Museums Exhibited in Cooperation with the Department of the Army of the United States of America. Art Institute of Chicago, 1948
2 copies.
-
- 3-7 Paintings from the Berlin Museums Exhibited at the Request of the Department of the Army. National Gallery of Art, 17 March-18 April 1948
2 copies.
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- 3-8 Paintings from The Berlin Museums Exhibited in Cooperation with the Department of the Army. Metropolitan Museum of Art, 17 May-12 June 1948
2 copies.
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- 3-9 Stolen Pictures - Peintures Volées. Staatsgalerie Stuttgart, 1948
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Series 4 Other Publications, 1937-1954

Box 3

- 3-10 Brown, Gwyneth King. Drawings About War. Philadelphia: Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, undated
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- 3-11 Civil Affairs Information Guide - Field Protection of Objects of Art and Archives War Department Pamphlet No. 31-103. Prepared by the American Commission for the Protection and Salvage of Artistic and Historic Monuments in War Areas, 12 May 1944
-
- 3-12 Civil Affairs Guide - Archival Repositories in Germany. War Department Pamphlet No. 31-180. Prepared by the National Archives, 15 May 1944
-
- 3-13 The Fire Fighters of London in Action. Auxillary Firemen of the London Brigade. Garden City, New York: Garden City Publishing Company, 1941
-
- 3-14 Here it is: The Army's Tour for You: Munich and The Bavarian Highlands. No. 2. Issued by SPSVHQ 3RD US Army, undated
-

Charles Parkhurst Papers

- 3-15 Huth, Hans. Observations Concerning the Conservation of Monuments in Europe and America. Washington: National Park Service, 1940
-
- 3-16 International Protection of Works of Art and Historic Monuments. Department of State Publication 3590. International Information and Cultural Series 8. Reprinted from documents and State papers of June 1949
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- 3-17 L'Art Français dans la Guerre: Caen. Paris: Librairie Arthème Fayard, 1946
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- 3-18 L'Art Français dans la Guerre: Rouen. Paris: Librairie Arthème Fayard, 1946
-
- 3-19 Lavachery, H. et A. Noblecourt. Les Techniques de Protection des Biens Culturels en Cas de Conflit Armé. UNESCO, 1954
-
- 3-20 Lavagnino, Emilio. Fifty War-Damaged Monuments of Italy. Rome: Italian Association for Italian War-Damaged Monuments, 1946
-
- 3-21 Reanu, Jose. "L'Organisation de la Défense du Patrimoine Artistique et Historique Espagnol Pendant La Guerre Civile." *Museion* vol. 39-40 (1937)

Box 4

- 4-1 Military Government Weekly Information Bulletin No. 27. Office of the Director, Office of Military Government (U.S. Zone), United States Forces, European Theater, Reports and Information Branch, 2 February 1946
-
- 4-2 Military Government Regulations Title 18 Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives. Headquarters United States Forces, European Theater, Office of Military Government (U.S. Zone), 1946
-
- 4-3 Monthly Report of Military Governor No.1. Military Government of Germany, US Zone, Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives, 20 August 1945
-
- 4-4 Official General List of Archives in Western Germany, circa 1944
-
- 4-5 Report of the American Commission for the Protection and Salvage of the Artistic and Historic Monuments in War Areas. Washington: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1946

Charles Parkhurst Papers

4-6 Ritchie, Andrew C. "The Restitution of Art Loot." Gallery Notes vol. XI, no. 1 (July 1946). Buffalo, New York: Buffalo Fine Arts Academy, Albright Art Gallery

4-7 Skilton, John D., Jr. *Défense de L'Art Européen: Souvenirs d'un officier américain "Spécialiste des Monuments."* Translated by Jacqueline de Gromard. Paris: Éditions Internationales, 1948

4-8 Works of Art in Austria (British Zone of Occupation): Losses and Survivals in the War. London: H.M. Stationery Office, 1946

Compiled from Reports Supplied by the Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives Branch of the Control Commission for Austria (British Element) and Issued by the British Committee on the Preservation and Restitution of Works of Art, Archives, and Other Material in Enemy Hands.

4-9 Works of Art in Germany (British Zone of Occupation): Losses and Survivals in the War. London: H.M. Stationery Office, 1946

Compiled by the Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives Branch of the Control Commission for Germany (British Element) and Issued by the British Committee on the Preservation and Restitution of Works of Art, Archives, and Other Material in Enemy Hands.

4-10 Works of Art in Greece: The Greek Islands and the Dodecanese, Losses and Survivals in the War. London: H.M. Stationery Office, 1946

Compiled by the Monuments, Fine Arts, and Archives Sub Commission of the C.M.F., and Issued by the British Committee on the Preservation and Restitution of Works of Art, Archives, and Other Material in Enemy Hands.

4-11 Works of Art in Italy: Losses and Survivals in the War, Part I South of Bologna. London: H.M. Stationery Office, 1945

Compiled from War Office Reports by the British Committee on the Preservation and Restitution of Works of Art, Archives, and Other Material in Enemy Hands.

4-12 Works of Art in Italy: Losses and Survivals in the War, Part II North of Bologna, Together with Regional Summaries and a Supplement to Part I. London: H.M. Stationery Office, 1946

Compiled from War Office Reports by the British Committee on the Preservation and Restitution of Works of Art, Archives, and Other Material in Enemy Hands.

4-13 Works of Art in Malta: Losses and Survivals in the War. London: H.M. Stationery Office, 1946

Compiled by Hugh Braun, F.S.A., F.R.I.B.A. and Issued by the British Committee on the Preservation and Restitution of Works of Art, Archives, and Other Material in Enemy Hands.

Series 5 Photographs, 1945-1946

Charles Parkhurst Papers

Box 5

- 5-1 Alt Aussee, Austria and vicinity
6 images. Digitized version(s) available. Negative(s) stored separately.
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- 5-2 Alt Aussee salt mine
2 images. Digitized version(s) available. Negative(s) and glass slide(s) stored separately.
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- 5-3 Bernterode salt mine - Lucas Cranach, Adam and Eve, April 1945
1 image. Digitized version(s) available. Negative(s) and glass slide(s) stored separately.
-
- 5-4 Buxheim Cloister
14 images. Digitized version(s) available. Negative(s) stored separately.
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- 5-5 Frankfurt (Germany) Reichsbank - Lt. Charles Kuhn with Daumier's Don Quixote from the National-Galerie in Berlin, October 1945
1 image. Digitized version(s) available. Negative(s) and glass slide(s) stored separately.
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- 5-6 Füssen, Swabia - view of town and Neuschwanstein Castle
1 image. Digitized version(s) available. Negative(s) and glass slide(s) stored separately.
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- 5-7 Grasleben, Westphalia (Germany) salt mine - Lt. Lamont Moore and Sgt. Sheldon Keck inspecting looted Polish treasure
1 image. Digitized version(s) available. Negative(s) and glass slide(s) stored separately.
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- 5-8 Studio of Karl Haberstock
8 images. Digitized version(s) available. Negative(s) stored separately.
-
- 5-9 Heilbronn, Germany - Harry Ettliger examining a Strasbourg Cathedral stained glass window before its return to Alsace, 1945
1 image. Digitized version(s) available. Negative(s) and glass slide(s) stored separately.
-
- 5-10 Hungarian crown jewels
4 images. Digitized version(s) available. Negative(s) stored separately.
-
- 5-11 Schloss Linderhof
1 image. Digitized version(s) available. Negative(s) and glass slide(s) stored separately.
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Charles Parkhurst Papers

5-12 Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives men

11 images. Digitized version(s) available. Negative(s) stored separately.

5-13 Munich Central Collecting Point - Bavarian crown jewels

4 images. Digitized version(s) available. Negative(s) and glass slide(s) stored separately.

5-14 Munich Central Collecting Point - Lt. Craig Hugh Smyth with looted French art from the Göring Collection, summer 1945

1 image. Digitized version(s) available. Negative(s) and glass slide(s) stored separately.

5-15 Munich Central Collecting Point - photographer at work on looted art before its restitution, 1945

1 image. Digitized version(s) available. Negative(s) and glass slide(s) stored separately.

5-16 Munich Central Collecting Point - sorting incoming looted art, 1945

1 image. Digitized version(s) available. Negative(s) and glass slide(s) stored separately.

5-17 Munich Central Collecting Point - Haus der Deutschen Kunst (exterior), 17 January 1946

1 image. Digitized version(s) available. Negative(s) and glass slide(s) stored separately.

5-18 Munich Central Collecting Point - Haus der Deutschen Kunst - exhibition

11 images. Digitized version(s) available. Negative(s) and glass slide(s) stored separately.

5-19 Munich Pact signing - Hitler, Mussolini, Chamberlain, Deladier, 1938 (prewar view of notables)

2 images. Digitized version(s) available. Negative(s) and glass slide(s) stored separately.

Box 6

6-1 Schloss Neuenstein

18 images. Digitized version(s) available. Negative(s) stored separately.

6-2 Schloss Neuenstein - Sieger paintings

18 images. Digitized version(s) available.

6-3 Schloss Neuschwanstein

12 images. Digitized version(s) available. Negative(s) and glass slide(s) stored separately.

6-4 Schloss Neuschwanstein and vicinity

8 images. Digitized version(s) available. Negative(s) stored separately.

Charles Parkhurst Papers

6-5 Paten, silver gilt - 12th century looted from Poland

1 image. Digitized version(s) available. Negative(s) and glass slide(s) stored separately.

6-6 Reichsleiter Rosenberg - portrait

1 image. Digitized version(s) available. Negative(s) stored separately.

6-7 Ulm

6 images. Digitized version(s) available. Negative(s) and glass slide(s) stored separately.

6-8 Van Eyck Altarpiece of the Lamb

1 image. Digitized version(s) available.

6-9 Wiesbaden Collecting Point - exhibition

4 images. Digitized version(s) available. Negative(s) stored separately.

Box 7

7-1 Würzburg, Germany - residents cleaning bricks from building rubble

1 image. Digitized version(s) available. Negative(s) and glass slide(s) stored separately.

7-2 Unidentified (folder 1 of 2)

12 images. Digitized version(s) available. Negative(s) stored separately.

7-3 Unidentified (folder 2 of 2)

9 images. Digitized version(s) available.
