

December 1, 2003

For Immediate Release
Czernin Verlag, Vienna/Austria

Czernin Verlag

On the Trail of Nazi-Looted Artworks (1st in a Series of 10)

LOST: Klimt's "Friends"

FOUND: Klimt's "Church in Cassone"

A new book uncovers the whereabouts of lost art collections plundered by the Nazis during the Third Reich in Vienna

Vienna, Austria - Art historian Sophie Lillie has uncovered the fate of 148 significant Nazi-looted collections, many pieces of which were considered lost. Her new book, "**Was Einmal War: A Handbook of Vienna's Plundered Art Collections**" is a landmark in provenance research as Holocaust survivors and their families are still waiting for the restitution of their legitimate property.

Lost: Klimt's "Friends", 1916/17

This painting was part of the collection of August and Serena Lederer, the most important and largest collection of Gustav Klimt's work in private hands. In November 1940, it was seized by the GESTAPO and was stored in Immendorf Palace in Lower Austria.

In May 1945, a mysterious fire incinerated most of the Lederer collection. Klimt's "Friends" was supposedly among dozen of artworks destroyed.

Gustav Klimt, „Die Freundinnen“, 1916/17,
© Bundesdenkmalamt, Wien

Found: Klimt's "Church in Cassone", 1913

The painting came from the famous collection of Dr. Victor Zuckerkandl, the founder of the famous Sanatorium Westend in Purkersdorf that was designed by Josef Hoffmann. After Zuckerkandl's death in 1927, this painting was inherited by his sister, Amalie Redlich.

Amalie Redlich was deported by the Nazis to Lodz in 1941. The circumstances that led to the disappropriation of the painting cannot be fully reconstructed. The painting has now been located in a private collection in Austria.

Gustav Klimt, "**Kirche im Cassone**", 1913,
© Verlag Galerie Welz

Sophie Lillie's "Was Einmal War"

These are but two paintings Lillie has tracked down after years of extensive research matching official Nazi documents and seizure records with itemizations in auction or exhibition catalogs. Currently available in German only, "Was Einmal War" is an indispensable handbook for collectors, curators and dealers.

"Time-consuming detailed research rescues the collections from oblivion. An essential foundation for further investigations into Nazi art looting." – Süddeutsche Zeitung

Published by Czernin Verlag 2003, Piaristengasse 1, A-1080 Vienna, Austria
Tel: +43 / (0) 1 / 512 01 32, Fax: +43 / (0) 1 / 512 01 32 / 15
www.czernin-verlag.com

