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On the Trail of Nazi-Looted Artworks (2nd in a Series of 10)

LOST: del Fiore's "Mary with Child"

FOUND: van Heemskerck's Two Altar Pieces

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 1,440-page landmark in provenance research as Holocaust survivors and their families are still waiting for the restitution of their legitimate property.

Lost: Jacobello del Fiore, attrib., "Mary with Child"

The painting is from the collection of Stefan Auspitz, the director of the bank Auspitz, Lieben & Co. which went bankrupt in 1931. In the course of settlements, Auspitz sold his collection in 1931 to the art dealer Walter Bachstitz from Den Haag. However, certain objects were kept as collateral, including this depiction of Madonna and Child, originally from the famous collection of Albert Figdor.

The painting was stored in a freight warehouse in Vienna in 1938; its present whereabouts are unknown.

Jacobello del Fiore, attrib., Mary with Child
© Federal Monuments Office, Vienna

Found: Maerten van Heemskerck, Two Altar Pieces

These altar pieces are from the collection of textile industrialist Dr. Richard Neumann. In December 1938, they were confiscated by the City of Vienna and acquired by the Kunsthistorisches Museum (Museum of Fine Arts) with funds from the Reich Ministry under Dr. Arthur Seyss-Inquart.

The altar pieces were restituted after the war but were barred from export in 1952. The artwork is still to be found in the Kunsthistorisches Museum.

Maerten van Heemskerck, Two Altar Pieces
© Private Archive

Sophie Lillie's "Was Einmal War"

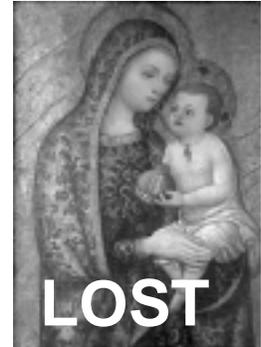
These are but two paintings Lillie has tracked down after years of extensive research matching official Nazi documents and confiscation records with itemizations in auction or exhibition catalogs. Currently available in German only, "Was Einmal War" is an indispensable handbook for collectors, curators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

"An essential foundation for further investigations into Nazi art looting....Rescues the collections from oblivion."
– Süddeutsche Zeitung

"A monumental work. A scandal-provoking book.-- Die Presse

"A staggering documentation" – Der Standard

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