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On the Trail of Nazi-Looted Artworks (3rd in a Series of 10)
LOST: Tintoretto's "Adoration of the Christ Child"
FOUND: Kupelwieser's "Three Kings"

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: Jacopo Tintoretto's "Mary and Joseph's Adoration of the Christ Child" (attrib.)

This painting from the collection of textiles industrialist Dr. Gustav Arens was rescued by his daughter Anna Ungar who brought it to Paris in 1938. It was sequestered during the Nazi occupation in 1942. Its present whereabouts are unknown.

Jacopo Tintoretto, attrib., "Mary and Joseph's Adoration of the Christ Child"
© Private archive

Found: Leopold Kupelwieser's "The Three Kings"

In 1939, the City of Vienna seized this painting which was part of the collection of Dr. Josef und Gusti Blauhorn. In 1940, the appointed assets executor Dr. Hans Dechant sold the painting to the Austrian Gallery Belvedere where it is still to be found today.

Leopold Kupelwieser, "The Three Kings", 1825
© Federal Monuments Office, Vienna



LOST



FOUND

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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