E-1

20751/2270

Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives Branch,

~~R d & R Division, OMGUS~~ Economics Division,

~~U S Gp CC,~~ ~~Econ Div~~ O M G U S,

~~HOCHST~~ ~~APO 742~~ APO 742

Art Collection of Mrs K.F.Cockell

1. We have been requested by the U.K. Government to endeavour to trace the valuable collection of oriental art treasures thought to have been removed by the Germans from Mrs. K.F. Cockell's house, the Villa Savonarola, Acretri, Florence, and to have been transferred to Goering's collections in Germany.

2. Mrs. Cockell is a British subject formerly resident in Florence and now in Australia. We enclose a copy of a report she has received from a relative who visited the villa after the liberation of Florence, and a photostatic copy of an inventory of her collection. The inventory was unfortunately taken some fifteen years ago when the collection (then the property of her late husband) was moved from Peking to Italy; it includes a large number of relatively unimportant objects in addition to the really valuable pieces, and may also omit a few important items such as the Hogarth mentioned in Capt. Cockell's report.

3. The collection is, however, stated to be well known to collectors of oriental art, and the owner believes that should the objects be recovered their identification would present no difficulty. Some pieces had been chosen by a representative of the Victoria and Albert Museum, London, to be added to that Museum after her death.

4. We understand that the Goering collections are now at Neuschwanstein, in Bavaria, under your control, and are at present being sorted. We should be grateful if you would inquire whether the objects looted from Mrs. Cockell's collection are among them, and inform us of the results of your investigations.

Encl

Chief,

Finance Division.

Copies (without encl) (1) MFA + A Branch
JA + C Div, CCG (Br), Bünde, BAOR (conversation GOULD (MIDGLEY refers)
(2) G.S. Bailey, Esq. Economic Dept 24 Kingsway, WC1 { Your P 46738 dated 22 Feb 46 refers.

E-3

CONFERENCE OF TH ALLIED MINISTERS OF EDUCATION

CHAIRMAN: The Rt. Hon. ~~R. A. Butler~~, M.P., *Minister of Education*
Ellen Wilkinson

COMMISSION
FOR PROTECTION AND RESTITUTION OF CULTURAL MATERIAL

CHAIRMAN: Professor ~~Paul Vaucher~~ Andre Gros

OFFICE: D. Sutton
23 BELGRAVE SQUARE
LONDON, S.W.1
Telephone: SLOane 4522 Ext. 342

~~SECRETARY: C. P. Nancy~~
~~3 HANOVER STREET~~
~~LONDON, W.1~~
~~*Telephone*: MAYFAIR 8484~~

8th September 1945

Dear Mason,

I have been asked by Mr. Peter Garran of the Foreign Office if I could do anything about the valuable antique furniture that was looted from his flat in 1940.

I should be most grateful if you could have enquiries made in your zone. Although only section (A) is antique furniture, I have included sections (B) and (C) as they may well be found together.

Yours, Denys Sutton

Lt. Col. Mason Hammond,
U.S. Group C.C.
R.D. & R. Division,
M.F.A. &A Branch,
Frankfurt a/Main.
A.P.O. 742.

P.S. I so much enjoyed seeing you the other day & hoped you enjoyed your visit to Windsor. D

COPY

E-1 E1-49

INFORMATION AVAILABLE IN REGARD TO THE PROPERTY OF MRS. KATHERINE FLORENCE COCKELL WHICH HAS BEEN LOOTED OR TAKEN FROM THE VILLA SAVONAROLA, ACRETRI, FLORENCE, ITALY.

THE Villa was visited by a nephew, Captain Cockell of "C" Section Signals C.M.F. shortly after the recapture of Florence, and he advised that the whole of the contents had been looted with the exception of a few articles of little value.

Subsequent advice from a servant one Torquarto Freecioni who was left in charge by me as a caretaker and is, I understand, still acting in that capacity, that certain articles were moved for safety by him to various relatives of his. Particulars of articles looted are:-

1 Furs and jewellery
1 Furniture
2 Portraits in oils by well known artists, including a Hogarth insured for £1000.
3- 48 Oriental collection consisting of -
48 Porcelain, pictures, unusual bronzes of the early dynasties, jade, ivories, Chinese furniture, including 45 rare Kanzu carpets, and a Ming picture 14' x 12' "Immortal Walking on the Waters"
49 painted on one piece of silk and believed to be the largest Chinese picture known.

TOTAL 49

Four copies of an inventory of the contents of the house were left in Italy (there being no alternative) at the date of my departure in 1940. One copy was left with Signor Lelli who was attached to the British Consulate and who, I believe, has been recently reinstated in his previous position. Another copy was handed to my lawyer, Avvocato Niccoli, Borgo degli Albizi, 14, Florence, one to Signor Niccoli at the Uffizzi Gallery (brother of the Avvocato) and one left in my home.

Information or rumours which have been obtained as to present whereabouts of any articles:-

Torquarto Freecioni has advised that he had buried a box or boxes of silver and bronzes.

Advice has been received that certain belongings are at the house of one Marchesa Pizzi.

Eight pieces believed to have been stored by the late Avvocato Niccoli with friends of his at a house outside Siena. The 45 Kanzu rugs were taken to the house of a nephew of one of the farmers on the Estate.

The greater portion of the collection was, however, apparently looted by the Germans. I have heard that an article appeared in the Times describing the loot collected by Goering and such articles stated that there was a collection of Chinese art reputed to have been taken from a house in Florence. As far as I am aware, my collection was the only oriental collection there. Many photographs of certain articles in the collection are held in my papers in England and by me in Australia.

(Sgd.) K. Cockell

E-1

OFFICE OF MILITARY GOVERNMENT FOR BAVARIA
ECONOMICS DIVISION
MUNICH GERMANY APO 407 US ARMY HSL/ei

AG-007-MGBER/B 16 April 1948

SUBJECT : Property of Mr. W.D.Feist of Great Britain.

TO : Office of Military Government for Germany (US), Property Division, Restitution Branch, Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives Section, APO 403, U.S.Army.

1. A letter from Mr. W.D.Feist is enclosed for your files and your answer. Our records indicate that on 16 August 1946 thirteen (13) paintings were removed from the depot of the Städtische Kunstsammlungen Dominikanerkirche, Augsburg, to the home of Josef Salger, Augsburg, Bavoustr.2.

2. There is no trace in the files here of the letter of 13 December 1947. There is no further information on the status of the thirteen paintings at present.

For the Chief, Restitution Branch;

Herbert S. Leonard
HERBERT S. LEONARD
Chief, Monuments, Fine Arts
and Archives Section
Restitution Branch

Incl.:

Ltr.Mr.Feist
dated 20 March 48

Telephone: Munich Military 4 - 389
Munich Civil 32404

23
11/600

E-3

(B) OTHER ITEMS.

1 upholstered 6' sofa with 3 cushions, arms level with back, printed linen slip covers, flower grouping on a beige ground.

2 armchairs, one square-backed, one curved, with cushions on seat, with printed linen slip covers, flower groupings on a beige ground.

1 high-backed upholstered sofa, 5', with green linen slip cover, with 3 cushions on seat.

Mahogany serpentine fronted reproduction side board, 2 cupboards, 2 drawers.

Bed, 5' 6'', mahogany head and foot boards, box spring mattress and horse hair overlay.

Bed, 3' 6", curved mahogany matching head and foot boards, box spring mattress and horsehair overlay.

Bed, 3' 6", mahogany head and foot boards, with specially sprung mattress and horsehair overlay.

Specially constructed mahogany wardrobe to take to pieces, 2 doors, locking in centre.

(C) PICTURES.

Oil painting Australian landscape, sunburnt hills and trees - "Upper Murray" - Rupert Bunny.

Oil painting, Australian landscape, green lake and trees, Edward Officer.

Water colour - Australian landscape, sunburnt country and tree - Sturgess.

6 photographs Australian landscape, framed in blue.

3 old tinted lithographs

Portrait of Wolff on glass.

5

E 8

M.F.A. & A. Section,
Education Branch,
I.A. & C. Division,
Zonal Executive Offices,
CONTROL COMMISSION FOR GERMANY
(BRITISH ELEMENT).
62 HQ. C.C.G. BÜNDE,
B.A.O.R.

From
Telephone Bünde 2466.
Your Reference
Our Reference INTR/1022/ED/MFA/Z.

15th April 1947.

To:- Monument & Fine Arts Section,
Restitution Branch,
Economics Division,
BERLIN,
O.M.G.U.S.,
A.P.O. 742.

SUBJECT:- The Rothermere Pictures.

1. The documents setting forth the loan and listing the 12 Rothermere pictures together with the necessary agreement of the Hungarian authorities for their release have been at length received from Budapest and London and are enclosed.

2. These pictures are understood to be still at the collecting point, Munich.

3. Should your authorities be prepared to release these paintings this Section will instruct Mr. Perry at Düsseldorf to collect and sign the necessary receipts.

E.C. NORRIS.
HEAD OF SECTION.

13

588
1812

COPY.

E-24

14, Minster Road
LONDON. N.W.2.

ERNEST L. WISTEICH

20th October 47.

The Property Control Branch,
Finance Division,
G.H.Q. Control Commission for Germany,
(British Element),
B E R L I N.

re:- Recovery of Personal Property.

Dear Sirs,

I am a Polish citizen resident in this country since 1937. My parent' home was in Cracow (address: plac Szczepanstie 5). When Poland was invaded my father was called up into the forces, while my mother and my sister were evacuated to the East.

When Cracow was occupied by the Germans in 1939 our flat was requisitioned for use by two German civilians in the service of the Wehrmacht. One of these men was named KNOBLOCH a road surveyor or possibly a civil engineer. During the first few weeks of their stay probably in late September 1939 my mother's portrait and my sister's bronze head was taken away by them and probably sent to Germany.

As these two objects are of great sentimental value to me personally I am very anxious to find them, and I wonder whether you can be of assistance to me in tracing them. I enclose photographs of each object and give further description below:

1) Portrait:- blue dress, platinum-grey fox, the flowers at the foot of the portrait in scarlet red and other vivid colours. The portrait was signed "HENKES" at the bottom right hand corner against the paneled side of the table.

2) Head:- bronze with dark-grey marble base - no signature.

I shall be most obliged if you could institute inquiries on my behalf in Germany. I was advised by "the Trading with the Enemy Dept" of the Board of Trade to approach you in this matter.

Yours faithfully,

ERNEST WISTEICH.

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May 10.1946.

1040 PARK AVENUE
New York 28.

Dear Major La Farge,

I lunched with your brother in law Tom Emmet two days ago; we got into the conversation of the works of art in Germany- I having just returned from Washington to find out about mine, though being a British subject, the Government can only help me with information by "kindness". My house was in Vienna and was confiscated by Hitler. All the works of art were taken out and divided by him into the various Museums in the Reich. Dr. Ritchie, a friend of mine, who you doubtlessly know was kind enough to give me a list of pictures he found and listed when he was working in Central Europe a few months ago. These things are or were when he left in the Abbey of Kremsmünster. My late husband, Alphonse de Rothschild was an Austrian subject, but by his will he left me all his possessions. As it was in the war it was impossible to know what would be found when peace came.

I have filed all my claims with the British authorities in England. There are lists and inventories of our collections with both the U.S. commissions and the British, in Germany and Austria,-up to now the only information I have had is through Dr. Ritchie as to things which have been found. This is my reason for troubling you. Would you let me know whether

P.T.O.

See Baron Roger Portalis "Honore Fragonard", 1889, p. 286

14 Fueger, Portrait of Dr. Joseph Barth
See Alfred Stix, "H. F. Fueger", 1925
No. 26, pl. XX

15 Fueger, Portrait Emperor Leopold II
See Alfred Stix, "H.F. Fueger", 1925.
No. 41, pl. XXXV

16 G. Tiepolo, Rebecca and Eliaser
See Sack, Tiepolo, 1910, p. 203, No. 407

17 D. Tiepolo, A Fortune Teller, Sketch
See Sack, Tiepolo, 1910, p. 314, No. 114

Other PAINTINGS are:

18 Francesco Guardi, Fire in Venice
19 Francesco Guardi, Place of St. Marx
20 Romney, Portrait of Lady Hamilton
21 Romney, Portrait of a Lady
22 Largilliere, Portrait of a Man
23 La Tour, 2 pastels, portraits of Daughters of Louis XVI
24 Nattier, 2 portraits of Ladies
25 Frans Hals, Portrait of a Man
26 Van Dyck, Full Length portrait of a Child
27 Vigee Lebrun, portrait of a Lady
28 Watteau, Interior, with lady adjusting her shoes

A number of paintings, mentioned by Hofstede de Groot, are:

29 H. de Gr. Vol. 1. Gabriel Metsu, No. 145, Interior with 2 persons
30 5 Gerard Terborch, No. 68, Young Woman drinking
31 Gaspar Netscher, No. 141, Figures in a Niche
32 7 Willem van der Velde, No. 574, Breezy Sea
33 Ludolf Bakhuysen, No. 463, Seascape
34 8 Jan van der Heyden, No. 163, Town with church
35 Jan Wynants, No. 458, Landscape with street
36 9 Nicolas Berchem, No. 401, Hilly Landscape with water
37 Karel Du Jardin, No. 517, Man on Donkey in Courtyard of old castle.

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E 15

MEMORANDUM CONCERNING ART COLLECTIONS BELONGING TO

BARONESS ALPHONSE DE ROTHSCHILD.

A short genealogy of the family is hereby given, because any of the names might appear on labels on the various objects of the collection.

Baron Salomon von Rothschild (founder of the Vienna branch of the house of Rothschild)

Baron Anselm von Rothschild (son)

Baron Nathaniel von Rothschild (son, died 1905) (and left his collection to his nephew)

Baron Alphonse von Rothschild

Since Baron Alphons died in 1941, the collections belong to his wife and heiress Baroness Clarice de Rothschild, nee Montefiore, British citizen, at present residing at 1040 Park Avenue, New York City.

The art collections were always in Vienna, in the house of Theresianum Gasse 16-18, known as Palais Theresianum Gasse.

After the "Anschluss", the house Theresianum Gasse was made head-quarters of the Gestapo.

Shortly before the Anschluss, Baron Alphons- realizing the tenseness of the political atmosphere- had a great part of the collection packed in cases, in order to ship them to London for safekeeping. Negotiations with the Museum and Ministry of Finance regarding export-permit had been successful and export license had been granted, when the "Anschluss" made transport abroad impossible.

In 1939, Count Karl Wilczek of the Vienna Museum saw Baron and Baroness Alphons Rothschild in London and told them that the Gestapo had arrested an employee of Baron Alphons, of the name of Wormuscha, who used to do repair work in the collections of Theresianum Gasse. Later, Wormusch was released and ordered to pack and to bring all art objects from the Theresianum Gasse to the Kunsthistorisches Museum. Here, Wormuscha had to unpack all cases, so that the contents could be checked with the inventory of the collections. Graf Wilczek had further heard in the Museum that the Theresianum Gasse art collections would be allocated to various museums in the Reich.

Frau Dr. Schweighofer in Vienna, Marie Hilferstrasse, art historian and member of the museum staff, an acquaintance of the Rothschild family, had been working on a catalogue of the collections since c.1933. She should be familiar with all details of the collections.

23

on your lists you have any of the works of art, pictures, furnitures, books, tapestries and materials that belonged to the Alphonse de Rothschild's collection and were found in the hideaways. Even if it be the case that they have already been given over to the British and Austrian authorities it would be of the utmost help and interest to me to get all possible information in order to facilitate my claims to regain possession of the same.

With many thanks,

Yours very sincerely,

Marie de Rothschild

E 15

Previously, an inventory of the collections had been made, the decease of Baron Nathaniel, in 1905. This catalogue is in Swi A copy has been ordered and will be submitted, as soon as it has arr

The following information will give some idea of the character of the collections, the importance of which can be judged only when a mo complete list can be given of the many hundreds of objects.

The whole house in the Theresianum Gasse was furnished with fine French furniture, tapestries, chandeliers etc. of the 18th century. Some of the furniture can be found in publications:

1 Regence Regulator Clock by Crescent, illustrated in Adolf Feulner, Kunstgeschichte des Moebels, 3rd ed., Ill. 383, p. 413.

2 Meuble d'encoignure by Jacques Dubois, illustrated in Comte François de Salverte, Les Ebenistes du 18e Siecle, Pl. XVIII.

3 Louis XV Bureauplat, illustrated in Adolf Feulner, Kunstgeschichte des Moebels, 3rd ed., Ill. 381, p. 410, under the name of the previous owner, Prince Trivulzio, Milan.

Other famous pieces are:

4-5 2 Cabinets de Medailles by Crescent
6-7 2 Busts by Houdon
8 A bronze chandelier by Gouthiere
9 An important suite of furniture, gilded frames with tapestries after La Fontaine
10 A collection of 18th century gold enameled Tabatieres

Among the PICTURES, the following are known through publications:

11 François Boucher, Portrait of the Marquise de Pompadour, illustrated in Pantheon, Vol. VI, 1930, July-December, p. 367 and in Catalogue of the Maria-Theresia Ausstellung, Schoenbrunn May-October 1930, p. 141

12 Rembrandt, Portrait of Anthonie Coopal, dated 1635 illustrated in Bredius, Rembrandts Gemaelde, no. 403

13 Fragonard, Portrait de Jeune Femme Blonde, coiffee d'une Fauchon Blanche
Portrait de Jeune Femme Blonde, coiffee
de Rubens Poncerux

E

OBJECT	AUTHOR	SUBJECT	RESTITUTED TO:
Painting	Boucher	Sleeping Amor	14.12.45 Krems
Painting	Casanova	Horseman	14.12.45 Krems
Painting	Cranach	Portrait of a girl and a boy	14.12.45 Krems
Painting	Drexler	Flowers	14.12.45 Krems
Painting	Dutch 17th cent.	Portrait of a woman	14.12.45 Krems
Painting	van Dyck (?)	Portrait of a child	14.12.45 Krems
Painting	A. van Dyck	Portrait of a man 1634	27.11.45 USFA
Painting	Fragonard	The swing	14.12.45 Krems
Painting	Fragonard	The blindmans-buff	14.12.45 Krems
Painting	Aert de Gelder	Portrait of a man	27.11.45 USFA
Painting	German about 1800	Portrait of a woman	14.12.45 Krems
Painting	Mieris (G.Metsu)	Lady with officer	27.11.45 USFA
Painting	J.J. Metsu	The prince of Orania	27.11.45 USFA
Painting	Nattier	Portrait of a young lady	14.12.45 Krems
Painting	van der Heide	Church at a river	14.12.45 Krems
Painting	G.B. Tiepolo	The juggler	14.12.45 Krems
Painting	Sassoferrato	Madonna	14.12.45 Krems
Painting	Jan van Goes	Flowers	14.12.45 Krems
Painting	Jan Steen	A party	27.11.45 USFA
Painting	Watteau (after)	Party in the garden	14.12.45 Krems
Painting	French (Clouet?) 16th cent.	Portrait of Francis I	14.12.45 Krems
Furniture	French about 1600	Cupboard with columns mythological scenes	14.12.45 Krems
Furniture	German? late XV. C.	Set to stall Nr. 2070	14.12.45 Krems
Painting	Rubens	Self-portrait with Helen Fourment and child	30. 1.46 Paris
Painting	Jan Vermeer	The astronomer	30. 1.46 Paris
Painting	Pieter de Hooch	Small party, drinking wine	20. 9.46 Paris
Painting	Rubens	Helene Fourment with her son	20. 9.46 Paris
Painting	A.V.Ostade	Old woman	20. 9.46 Paris
Furniture	French Louis XV	Time piece	9. 1.46 Paris

§ Owner shown as A. possibly Alphons Rothschild.

Dr. M. J. ELSAS

E-25

5, ETON ROAD,
LONDON, N.W. 3.
PRIMROSE 0994

25 November 1947

Dear Sir,

I wonder whether you would be good enough to help me in tracing the portrait of Dr Jacob Weil, my great grandfather, painted by Prof. Moritz Oppenheim about hundred years ago.

This picture was the property of the Loge zur aufgehenden Morgenröthe in Frankfurt am Main (Freemason Lodge) and is supposed to have been stored in Berlin and comes under your administration.

I would like to make it quite plain that I am not the owner of the portrait, but being the direct descendant (and having lost all family portraits through a flying bomb) I would be very grateful if you were kind enough to let me know whether you can trace the picture, and if so, ~~and~~ whether, with the consent of the former owners, it could

1918
12/11/[illegible]

14[illegible]
36

be handed over to me, or failing this whether I could have a photo of the picture

I hope you do not mind my troubling you in view of the circumstances

Yours faithfully,

M. J. Elias

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COPY

E13

Ext: 2572

Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives Branch,
I. A. & C. Division,
Control Commission for Germany (BE),
Main H.Q.,
BÜNDE, B.A.O.R.

Ref: INTR/1026/MFA

20th May, 1946

To: M.F.A. & A.,
I.A. & C. Division,
Adv. H.Q., C.C.G. (BE),
BERLIN, B.A.O.R.

Subject: Works of art removed from France by the Germans.

1. Enclosed are four photographs of four objects removed from France by the Germans. The objects are as under:-

E-13

1. Madonna and Child. Ysenbrant
2. Pieta, (woodsculpture, Austrian c.1420)
3. Statuette (Saxony c.1606)
4. Bronze (Italian c. 1550)

2. These objects are the property of

Paul Graupe & Co.,
16 Place Vendome,
Paris

and were removed by the Germans from the storage house of the firm,

Wacher-Bondy & Cie,
236 Bvd. Raspail.

3. Enquiries are being made concerning the fate of these objects by the owners' son -

Lt. T.P. Grance,
7th Bn. The Cameronians, SR.

4. Could the enclosed photographs be forwarded to M.F.A. & A., OMGUS ? They may help to identify the objects.

/s/ A. MCDONNELL, Lt. Col.,
for Colonel,
Director, M.F.A. & A. Branch.

AMcD/MMC.

E-8

Copy.

HUNGARIAN GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVE

46, EATON PLACE
S.W.1.
SLOANE 4048

Magyar Nemzeti Muzeum 1802.

10-th December, 1946

Musée des Beaux Arts.

Budapest, XIV. Arena-ut 41.

Coutts & Company,
Executors of the Will of late Viscount Rothermere,
London, 440 Strand, W.C.2.

The paintings on the list given below were loaned on 1938 by the late Lord Rothermere to the Fine Arts Museum at Budapest.

This Museum now understands that these paintings are in American custody at the Art Collecting point Munich. We are in every way agreeable to their return direct to British official authority acting on your behalf.

JN last one

Mazzuola Filippo		Portrait of a young man panel
No.285a	Guardi, Francesco	The ridotto, Venice 33x19
No.6.	Guardi Francesco	Santa Maria della Salute 18.5x15
No.5.	Guardi Francesco	Island of St. Giorgio 18.5x15
No.295	Van Eyck, Jan	Portrait of a Man 8.5x11 /Turtle shell frame & case/
No.26	Tintoretto Jacopo	Raising of Lazarus 31x27
No.301	Coxcies Michael	Mary of Austria, Queen of Hungary 21.5x2
No.340	Van der Weyden Roger	Portrait of a woman 11x14.5
No.362	De Lyon Corneille	Portrait of Jacqueline de Rohan 7.5x2.5
No.363	Cranach Lucas	Portrait of Friderich I. Elector of Saxony 7.5x2.5
No.260	Da Verona Stephano	Adoration of the Infant Saviour 25x40
No.40	Vivarini Alvise	Portrait of a young man 9x12.

Stamp:
Hungarian National Gallery,
Museum of Fine Arts.

Signed:

Istvan Genthon,
Director of the Museum of Fine Arts.

This is to certify that the above letter is a true copy of the original presented at this Office.

London, 1947, 28-th March.

Chief Director of Chancery.