

December 28, 2006
Monuments Men Newsletter No. 2

Dear Everyone,

There have been many new developments in the few short weeks since I last wrote. I've been on the road for nearly eight straight weeks, busy interviewing those living Monuments Men I had not previously spoken with and spreading the story of *Rescuing Da Vinci* and the Monuments Men.

Congressional Resolution

On December 6th, I was in Washington, D.C. for the introduction of the "Monuments Men Congressional Resolution." The resolution was presented to the United States House of Representatives, sponsored by Congresswoman Kay Granger (R-TX) of Fort Worth, Texas. A lead co-sponsor of the resolution is Louise Slaughter (D-CT), the Co-Chair of the Congressional Arts Caucus. Monuments Man Harry Ettlinger was also present for the event. The Congressman from his district, Rodney Frelinghuysen (R-NJ), will also be a co-sponsor of the resolution. A brief press conference followed in Congresswoman Granger's office. In next month's edition I'll include some of the photos. I am enclosing, however, a formal copy of the resolution known as HR 499.

Book and Film News

After a sold-out showing at the Boston Jewish Film Festival, *The Rape of Europa* received the award for "Best Documentary Feature." The film subsequently played to an enthusiastic crowd in Nashville at their Jewish Film Festival. A short panel discussion followed the showing of the film, which included Lynn Nicholas, author of *The Rape of Europa*, and me. The film was also shown at the Denver International Film Festival, where it sold out both times it was shown!



At left, a 'Sold Out' sign in Boston, and at right, with Lynn Nicholas in Nashville.

Rescuing Da Vinci will finally be available for purchase through Amazon.com on December 22nd, and will be in bookstores in January. It is already available on

Barnesandnoble.com. Previously, the book was available only through our office or on our website, www.rescuingdavinci.com. This change will make the book available to a much broader audience, and will make it more easily accessible to those who wish to purchase it.

The Wall Street Journal Article (enclosed)

It's been a long time coming, but WE FINALLY ARRIVED!!! In December 15th's issue of *The Wall Street Journal*, *Rescuing Da Vinci* was one of only 19 books included in the Journal's annual list of 'must have' books for the holidays!! Very kind remarks were made about the book. Unless you have fought in the publishing and distribution trenches, it is impossible to explain the milestone we have achieved by having such a distinguished publication as *The Wall Street Journal* recognize and recommend the book.

Unfortunately, many of the nation's finest newspapers will not review or recommend a self-published book. It is unfair...a consequence of tradition that has not caught up with the times...and that is my most kind and generous explanation. I have others. We have been fortunate to have *The Wall Street Journal* recognize that this subject, this amazing part of history, is not a story that is far from over. Compliments are due to the newspaper, the writer who understood the historic nature of the story and the accomplishments of the MONUMENTS MEN and women—Mr. Eric Gibson.

The New York Times Article (enclosed)

On December 19th, there was a great piece in *The New York Times* Arts Section about our project, which included wonderful photos of Monuments Men Harry Ettlinger and Bernard Taper. The writer, Randy Kennedy, was very interested in this story and I believe that interest came through clearly in his writing.

S. Lane Faison, Jr. Memorial Service

I attended Lane's memorial service in Williamstown, MA on Saturday, December 16th. It was a beautiful ceremony. One of the best moments for me was the chance to meet all of Lane's sons, as to date I had only met Gordon. What a great family he and his wife, Jody, raised. I also was heartened to see Anne Rorimer in attendance, daughter of Monuments Man Lt. Cmdr. James Rorimer.

British MFAA

We have recently employed a London-based researcher to help us in searching through the National Archives of Great Britain. Through our research, we have found our first Monuments woman and member of the MFAA in Great Britain, Ms. Anne Popham Bell. If any of you have contacts or remember stories about your British counterparts, please let us know. We can never hear too many stories!

Current MFAA List

Our search for the Monuments Men has been progressing. Of the 347 on our Monuments Men list, we have written complete biographies on 94. We have been gathering much new information lately, and now have various amounts of research on another 160 Monuments Men, narrowing our search down to 92.

I hope your Holiday Season is filled with much joy. I am looking forward to the beginning of a new year, filled with opportunities to spread the story of the Monuments Men and put to use their great achievements.

Respectfully yours,

Robert M. Edsel