



Honoring Those who Enable our Work to Continue

The Monuments Men Foundation has been especially blessed to have outstanding supporters whose generosity enables our work, which includes research to identify those who served as Monuments officers; facilitating the recovery and restitution of important cultural items; working with museums and collectors to help them begin historical research of items in their collections; creating educational programs to teach about the work of the Monuments Men; working to create a permanent exhibition to honor the Monuments Men; and sharing their story to help raise public awareness about their important contributions during World War II. The Foundation has received gifts ranging from \$20 to \$250,000. All are vitally important. Some of our gifts have come from students, others still from the Monuments officers themselves and their families. The Trustees of the Monuments Men Foundation have demonstrated their commitment by the unselfish giving of their time and financial resources.



Patty and Bob Hayes

The Foundation is pleased to announce two lead gifts of \$250,000 each from the Robert Tucker Hayes Foundation, and Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Schwartz. Bob and Patty Hayes have an extraordinary history of philanthropy. In addition to supporting his alma mater, Harvard University, Bob and Patty have been important benefactors to the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center and the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio. Tom and Kim Schwartz have been steadfast supporters of various arts and community organizations in Cincinnati, Telluride and elsewhere for many years. Tom also serves as a Trustee for the Foundation.



Kim and Tom Schwartz

The Monuments Men Foundation is deeply appreciative of the commitment from Bob and Patty Hayes and Tom and Kim Schwartz. The Foundation wishes to recognize them, our other significant donors noted below, and all others with thanks for their substantial and ongoing generosity and support.

Major Donors

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Bust of Isabella d'Este at the Kimbell Art Museum



The Bust of Isabella d'Este in the salt mine of Altaussee, Austria in May 1945.

This summer, the Monuments Men Foundation and Kimbell Art Museum in Ft. Worth, Texas announced that a Renaissance portrait bust in the Kimbell collection had been stolen by the Nazis during World War II and was one of thousands of works of art found in a salt mine in Altaussee, Austria.

Hidden inside the mine were many of civilization's greatest artistic masterpieces including Michelangelo's *Bruges Madonna*, Jan van Eyck's *Ghent Altarpiece*, and two Vermeer paintings (*The Astronomer* and *The Artist's Studio*), to name just a few. Of the many photos taken inside the salt mine, we had not seen the photo above before. The photo at left shows the Kimbell's terra cotta bust of Renaissance art patron Isabella d'Este being removed from the mine. We recognized the sculpture immediately and knew it had to be the Kimbell's version and not a copy because of the vertical firing-line cracks on the sculpture's front. We were aware that the Kimbell's provenance for the bust made no mention of it being in Hitler's art collection.

When the Monuments Men discovered the cache of artwork in the Altaussee salt mine, they had to remove it as quickly and as carefully as they could, transporting thousands of works of art down a dark, narrow mine shaft. They were then taken to the Munich Collecting Point, which was housed in the former Nazi party headquarters in Munich, as it was one of the largest buildings left standing after the war. Upon the arrival of the works of art in Munich, the Monuments Men created property cards for each object. In researching those cards we discovered the "smoking gun": Altaussee inventory number 1246, which documented the arrival in Munich on June 28, 1945 of the terra cotta bust of Isabelle d'Este, at the time "attributed to Leonardo da Vinci." The back of the property card revealed that the sculpture was returned to the Netherlands on June 3, 1946.

Nancy Edwards, the Kimbell's Curator of European Art and Head of Academic Services, began researching the story and was able to determine that the sculpture was sold by art collector Dr. Otto Lanz to Hitler's key art advisor, Hans Posse, who in 1939 was appointed by Hitler to build the collection that would form his Führer Museum. When the sculpture was returned to the Netherlands after the war, Dutch officials believed that the sale to Posse had been a legitimate - not forced - sale, and that the work would not be returned to the Lanz family. The bust was then sold at auction in March 1951 and purchased by Anna Gertrud Lanz Kijzer, Otto's daughter, for 35 guilders (then about \$10) as a gift for her brother Dr. Adrian Berchtold Lanz who had always liked it. Because the work had belonged to Otto Lanz before the war and to his son after, the Kimbell had logically and fairly assumed that it had been in the family for the war's duration. Nancy's work documents with clarity the path of the sculpture and reaffirms the Kimbell's ownership today.



The bust is currently on display as part of the Kimbell's permanent collection.



Eisenhower Audio Recording Discovered

The Monuments Men Foundation announced the discovery of an audio recording of General Eisenhower speaking about the importance of art and its protection during war. The speech was delivered at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City on April 2, 1946 at an event in which General Eisenhower was presented with an Honorary Life Fellowship from the museum with a citation that read: "To Dwight D. Eisenhower, soldier, diplomat and statesman, through whose wisdom and foresight irreplaceable art treasures were saved for future generations." Francis Henry Taylor, Director of the Met and advisor to the Monuments Men, stated that General Eisenhower "more responsible than any other, made it possible for the world in which great civilizations of the past could continue for future generations."

Early last year we became aware of the text of General Eisenhower's remarks, but further sleuthing resulted in our discovery of the audio recording of the event. The subsequent process of transferring the content from lacquer disk to digital medium consumed a lot of time, but in late November of last year, we finally heard the results – and they are stunning in both clarity and delivery. "It's a remarkable audiotape. There's always a difference between reading a transcript and hearing the general giving a speech on the importance of art," said Karl Weissenbach, director of the Eisenhower Presidential Library and Museum in Abilene, Kansas. He said it was a unique occurrence to hear Eisenhower speak on the topic of art.



General Eisenhower and his wife Mamie departing the Met. (photo courtesy of the Metropolitan Museum of Art Libraries.)

General Eisenhower played a critical role in the success of the Monuments Men during World War II. His issuance of historic orders to all soldiers stating they should "respect those monuments so far as war allows" empowered the Monuments Men to do their job. This proved to be the most comprehensive effort in history by an army to fight a war while mitigating damage to cultural treasures and monuments. During the speech, Eisenhower remarked that he was struck by his soldiers' interest in visiting cultures of historic civilizations but also warned against failing to respect what is important to the members of those cultures: "The freedom enjoyed by this country from the desolation that has swept over so many others during the past years gives to America greater opportunity than ever before to become the greatest of the world's repositories of art. The whole world will then have a right to look to us with grateful eyes; but we will fail unless we consciously appreciate the value of art in our lives and take practical steps to encourage the artist and preserve his works." He praised "the officers and men of the combat echelons whose veneration for priceless treasures persisted, even in the heat and fears of battle."

Eisenhower's granddaughter, Susan Eisenhower, said "I'm always intrigued by hearing voices from the past talk about things that have contemporary relevance." We have created a version of the audio recording in which we have laid in images and archival footage of the events and people he is discussing, along with photographs from the event. The viewing time is less than fifteen minutes. The video clip may be found on our website at: www.monumentsmenfoundation.org.



Departed Hero: Robert Koch

by Robert M. Edsel



Foundation President Robert M. Edsel and Monuments Man Robert Koch in 2006.

Monuments officer, Lt. Robert A. Koch, died on November 11 after a lengthy illness. He was ninety-two years old. Koch served with the U.S. Army from 1942 to 1946. While working with the MFAA, he was stationed at the Office of Military Government for Württemberg-Baden in Germany. The capital of Württemberg-Baden was Stuttgart, which was severely damaged by Allied bombings in 1944. The State Museum of Natural History was destroyed along with part of its collections, and the Stuttgart Art Building and Staatsgalerie Stuttgart were heavily damaged. Rebuilding of the city center was a primary focus in the post-war years. Koch also signed the Wiesbaden Manifesto, a document outlining the MFAA opposition of the removal of German-owned artworks from the Wiesbaden Collecting Point to the United States.

Koch became a prominent Northern Renaissance scholar earning his

Bachelor's and Master's degrees from the University of North Carolina in 1940 and 1942, respectively. Following his military service, he attended Princeton University for continued graduate studies. In 1948, he received a Master's of Fine Arts and began working on his Ph.D., which he received in 1954. Koch's teaching career began at Princeton in the fall of 1948 in the Department of Art and Archaeology. He was named full professor in 1966. In 1950, he accepted the additional position of assistant director at the Princeton Art Museum. Koch also became Curator of Prints and Drawings in 1961. In 1990, Koch retired from the university and was named professor emeritus.

Among his many honors, Koch was awarded a Fulbright Research Grant in 1956 to study art history in Belgium, and later received a grant from the American Council of Learned Societies in 1961. He was a member of the College Art Association, serving as its director from 1961 to 1963. He is also the author of several books, including *Joachim Patinir* and *Hans Baldung Grien; Eve, the Serpent and Death*.

With the passing of Mr. Koch, there are now just seven living Monuments officers.



Damaged Stuttgart in 1945.



In Memoriam: 2011

Col. Seymour Pomrenze



Monuments officer Seymour Pomrenze passed in August, just shy of his 95th birthday. Pomrenze served as the first director of the Offenbach Archival Depot in 1946, the collecting point for stolen Judaica treasures. He was instrumental in the restitution of thousands of looted archives. After his wartime service, Pomrenze worked as a consultant to the National Archives, and as a records manager and archivist for the U.S. Army from 1950 until 1976. He taught as an adjunct professor in records management at American University in Washington, D.C. until 1980. Colonel Pomrenze received degrees from the Illinois Institute of Technology, the University of Chicago, and the Spertus College of Jewish Studies.

Seymour Pomrenze served 34 years of active and reserve service with the Army of the United States. Pomrenze received numerous military awards including a World War II Victory Medal, a Bronze Star medal for his service in Vietnam, the Legion of Merit, Asiatic-Pacific Medal with three bronze stars, as well as the Netherlands Government Silver Medal of Honor for his work as a Monuments Man with the MFAA.

Alessandro Olschki



Alessandro Olschki, known as “Buby,” died in February 2011 in Florence. Olschki was the driver for Monuments Man Fred Hartt in Italy, whose story will be included in Robert Edsel’s upcoming book, *Saving Italy*. Olschki later wrote an essay on his experiences with the Monuments Men, highlighting the return of stolen art treasures to Florence.

Olschki worked for his family publishing business, Casa Ed. Leo Olschki. His funeral was celebrated in a highly reserved way, just as he would have wanted. Alessandro once said, “death happens in life, exactly like birth, and doesn't want great pomp and full regalia.”

Maria Altmann



On February 7, 2011, Maria Altmann passed at the age of 94. She and her husband escaped Nazi-occupied Vienna and immigrated to the United States, leaving most everything they owned behind. In 1998 she began a battle to recover her family’s collection of paintings by Gustav Klimt, stolen by the Nazis in 1938. In perhaps the most well-known restitution case of this century, Altmann and her attorney, E. Randol Schoenberg, fought for seven years, through the Los Angeles Federal Court, U.S. Supreme Court, and finally an Austrian mediation panel. In 2006, the paintings were returned to her. Maria was an ardent supporter of the Foundation’s efforts.



Robert M. Edsel Presented with Texas Medal of Arts



Award recipients with Texas Governor Rick Perry.

On March 1, Foundation President Robert Edsel was honored with the Texas Medal of Arts Award for Literature by the Texas Cultural Trust in Austin, Texas for his two books about the Monuments Men. The Awards spotlight and celebrate the creative excellence, exemplary talents and outstanding contributions by Texans in selected categories, ultimately featuring the best in Texas. The Awards honor citizens who have achieved greatness through their creative talents as well as those whose philanthropic generosity has opened doors to artistic opportunity for Texans of all ages.

The 2011 Texas Medal of Arts Awards honorees were Barbara Smith Conrad (Lifetime Achievement), Robert M. Edsel (Literary), Tom Staley (Art Educa-

tion), James Drake (Visual Arts), Alley Theatre (Theatre), H-E-B: boasting a long history of supporting the arts throughout the state (Corporate), Bob Schieffer (Journalism), Ray Benson (Multi-Media), Ernest and Sarah Butler: Major donors to Austin Symphony Orchestra, the Blanton Museum of Art, the Long Center, Ballet Austin, University of Texas School of Music, and the Austin Lyric Opera (Individual Patrons), Marcia Gay Harden (Film-Actress), Bill Paxton (Film-Actor), and ZZ Top (Music).

The Texas Medal of Arts Awards, inspired by the National Medal of Arts, has been bestowed upon 59 Texas leaders and luminaries in the arts and entertainment industry for creative excellence and exemplary talents since its inception in 2001. Previous honorees include Willie Nelson, Tommy Lee Jones, Horton Foote, Laura W. Bush, Van Cliburn, Robert Rodriguez, Walter Cronkite, Nancy B. Hamon, Sandra Cisneros, Robert Rauschenberg, Clint Black, Nasher Foundation, Lyle Lovett, Austin City Limits, Neiman Marcus and Exxon Mobil.



Billy Gibbons and Ray Benson performed at the Awards Show.



Legendary news correspondent Bob Schieffer and fellow recipient Robert Edsel.



We Need Your Help!

“The credit belongs to the officers and men of the combat echelons whose veneration for priceless treasures persisted, even in the heat and fears of battle.”

- General Dwight D. Eisenhower referencing the Monuments Men

The Monuments Men Foundation is a not-for-profit IRS approved 501(c)(3) entity created to honor and recognize the work of the 345 or so men and women from thirteen nations who protected monuments and other cultural treasures from the destruction of World War II. Your donation will help to preserve the legacy of the unprecedented and heroic work of the men and women who served in the Monuments, Fine Arts, and Archives (“MFAA”) section, known as “Monuments Men,” by raising public awareness of the importance of protecting and safeguarding civilization’s most important artistic and cultural treasures from armed conflict, while incorporating these expressions of man’s greatest creative achievements into our daily lives. The small but focused team of the Foundation relies on public and private financial support to underwrite the costs of its future activities and success. Your support is essential. To become a part of the success of this Foundation, please visit our website at www.monumentsmenfoundation.org/donations or use the back of this page as a donation form.

Monuments Men Exhibition at The National World War II Museum

The Monuments Men Foundation and The National World War II Museum are proud to announce the addition of a permanent exhibit honoring the Monuments Men and women and their remarkable role during World War II protecting so many of civilization’s cultural treasures. The exhibit will be part of the museum’s Liberation Pavilion, projected to break ground in 2013/2014. This will be the first and only permanent exhibit dedicated to the memory of the Monuments Men and will provide visitors of all ages with an opportunity to relive the experience of the historic discoveries of priceless works of art by these heroes. The Monuments Men Foundation is busy gathering artifacts and other related objects for inclusion in the exhibit from the Monuments Men and their families. If you have any such items, please contact Elizabeth Hudson at ehudson@monumentsmenfoundation.org or 214-219-1222 ext 104.



The National WWII Museum and its future campus.

ROBERT M. EDSSEL SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

Jan 23, 2012

Town Hall of Denver

Denver, CO

Apr 13, 2012

“Authors in April” Lecture at Louisiana State University

Shreveport, LA



MONUMENTS MEN NEWSLETTER

YEAR IN REVIEW, 2011

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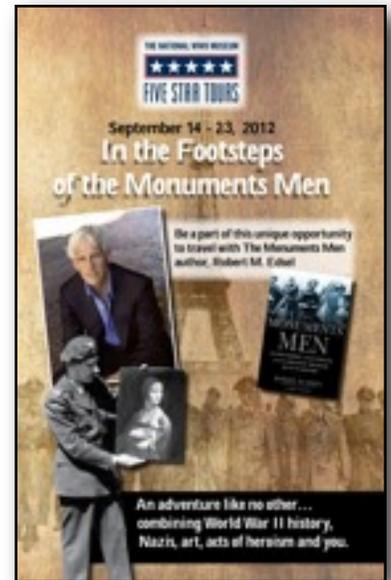
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“In the Footsteps of the Monuments Men” European Tour

Robert M. Edsel is proud to partner with The National World War II Museum's Five Star Tours to offer a tour in search of a different kind of wartime hero: the Monuments Men. This exclusive inaugural trip, which will be led by Edsel, will depart September 14, 2012 from Paris, on a 10-day adventure of discovery – retracing the route the Monuments Men took across a battered, war-torn continent. Along the way are visits to some of the artistic treasures saved from ruin as well as sites where the Nazis stashed their stolen plunder, ending at the salt mines of Altaussee, Austria.

The tour includes travel from Paris to the tour's final destination in Munich, luxury accommodations and meals, as well as the opportunity to experience history in an intimate-sized group with Edsel. Space is extremely limited. Get more information and a detailed itinerary or book your journey at www.nationalww2museum.org/travel or 1-877-813-3329 ext. 257.



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