

Finding Aid for the Edward E. Adams Papers, 1945-1978 (bulk 1945-1948)

Summary Information

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| Repository | National Gallery of Art Archives Sixth Street and Constitution Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20565 archives@nga.gov |
| Title | Edward E. Adams Papers |
| Identifier | SC.013 |
| Creator | Adams, Edward E., 1904-1994 |
| Date | 1945-1978 (bulk 1945-1948) |
| Extent | 0.75 cubic feet (3 boxes); approximately 125 digital files |
| Abstract | This collection documents the activities of Edward E. Adams, a captain with the Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives (MFAA) Section of the United States Army in Germany during and immediately after World War II. Papers include photographs, publications, and printed material. |

Biographical Note

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| | Worked as an interior architect before joining the United States Army |
| 1945 | Became the director of the MFAA Evaluation Team for Upper Bavaria, Germany |
| Winter 1945 | Supervised the evacuation of looted works from Schloss Neuschwanstein near Füssen, and Kloster Buxheim, a former monastery in the village of Buxheim near Memmingen, both in Bavaria, Germany |
| 1946 | Returned to the United States |
| | Published "Looted Art Treasures Go Back to France," <i>The Quartermaster Review</i> (September-October 1946) |

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| circa 1950 | Associated with Steton and Adams Consulting Decorators, Washington, DC |
| 1982-1994 | Resided at Penick Memorial Home in Southern Pines, North Carolina |
| June 6, 1994 | Died, Southern Pines, North Carolina |

Scope and Content

Papers concern the work of Adams and other MFAA officers. Included are a few items Adams accumulated while in Germany, such as procedural statements and an exhibition catalogue. Publications include Adams' article in *The Quartermaster Review* describing his experience as an MFAA officer. Of note are Adams's original photographs of his work supervising the evacuation of art works from Schloss Neuschwanstein and Kloster Buxheim. They came to the National Gallery in the form of original camera negatives. Negatives were digitized for access and preservation.

Arrangement

Materials are arranged in the following series:

- Series 1 Art Restitution-Related Materials, 1945-1978
- Series 2 Photographs, 1945-1946

Administrative Information

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| Conditions Governing Access | This collection is open for research by appointment under the conditions of the National Gallery of Art Archives Access Policy. For all inquiries or to schedule an appointment, please contact archives@nga.gov . |
| Preferred Citation | National Gallery of Art Archives. Edward E. Adams Papers. |
| Rights Status | Copyright undetermined |
| Language | English; French |
| Acquisition Information | Gift of Edward E. Adams, 1982. |
| Processing Information | Initially organized by National Gallery of Art Library staff |

before transfer to the National Gallery of Art Archives, 1999. Arranged and described by archives staff, 2007.

Related Archival Materials

Resources Relating to World War II describes other WWII-related archival materials available at the National Gallery of Art.

The National Archives and Records Administration of the United States (NARA) holds official government records relating to the work of the Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives officers and the American Commission for the Protection and Salvage of Artistic and Historic Monuments in War Areas (Roberts Commission).

Monuments Men Foundation Archives available at the National WWII Museum.

Series Descriptions

Series 1 Art Restitution-Related Materials, 1945-1978 [box 1]

This series includes files and publications relating to Adams' activities as a MFAA officer during World War II. Materials include military procedures and a security pass for Schloss Neuschwanstein, the exhibition catalogue for *Paintings from the Berlin Museums* at the National Gallery of Art, and four publications on the repatriation of looted art. Of special interest is an article that Adams wrote for *The Quartermaster Review* recounting his experiences as a MFAA officer in Germany.

Series 2 Photographs, 1945-1946 [boxes 2-3]

This series includes photographic prints and negatives taken during the removal of art from Schloss Neuschwanstein and Kloster Buxheim showing staff members at work and their surroundings. Original prints and a partial set of chemical prints from original negatives are arranged in folders. For conservation purposes, negatives are stored separately from the photograph prints. Photographs in this series have been digitized and are available to researchers.

Edward E. Adams Papers

Series 1 Art Restitution-Related Materials, 1945-1978

Box 1

- 1-1 Adams, Major Edward E. Q.M.C. "Looted Art Treasures Go Back to France." The Quartermaster Review (September-October 1946)
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- 1-2 Flanner, Janet. "Annals of Crime: The Beautiful Spoils, Part I - A.H., Linz." The New Yorker (February 22, 1947)
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- 1-3 Hungarian Crown of St. Stephen - newspaper clippings, 1978
-
- 1-4 Paintings from the Berlin Museums Exhibited at the Request of the Department of the Army. National Gallery of Art, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC, March 17-April 18, 1948
2 copies.
-
- 1-5 Schloss Neuschwanstein - procedures and security pass, undated
-
- 1-6 Skilton, John D., Jr. Défense de L'Art Européen: Souvenirs d'un officier américain 'Spécialiste des Monuments.' Translated by Jacqueline de Gromard. Paris: Éditions Internationales, 1948

Series 2 Photographs, 1945-1946

Box 2

- 2-1 List of photograph identifications
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- 2-2 Buxheim roll 1-A
Selected chemical prints. Digitized version(s) available. Negative(s) stored separately.
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- 2-3 Buxheim roll 1-B
Selected chemical prints. Digitized version(s) available. Negative(s) stored separately.
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- 2-4 Buxheim roll 2
Selected chemical prints. Digitized version(s) available. Negative(s) stored separately.
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- 2-5 Buxheim roll 3
Selected chemical prints. Digitized version(s) available. Negative(s) stored separately.

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2-6 Buxheim roll 4

Selected chemical prints. Digitized version(s) available. Negative(s) stored separately.

2-7 Buxheim rail head

Original prints.

Box 3

3-1 Neuschwanstein roll 1

Selected chemical prints. Digitized version(s) available. Negative(s) stored separately.

3-2 Neuschwanstein roll 2

Selected chemical prints. Digitized version(s) available. Negative(s) stored separately.

3-3 Neuschwanstein - Fussen rail head

Original print.
