
Summary Information

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

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,” The Quartermaster Review (September-October 1946)
circa 1950 Associated with Steton and Adams Consulting Decorators, Washington, DC


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**

**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**


**Rights Status**

Copyright undetermined

**Language**

English; French

**Acquisition Information**


**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)


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


### Series 2  Photographs, 1945-1946

**Box 2**

2-1  List of photograph identifications

2-2  Buxheim roll 1-A  
    Selected chemical prints. Digitized version(s) available. Negative(s) stored separately.

2-3  Buxheim roll 1-B  
    Selected chemical prints. Digitized version(s) available. Negative(s) stored separately.

2-4  Buxheim roll 2  
    Selected chemical prints. Digitized version(s) available. Negative(s) stored separately.

2-5  Buxheim roll 3  
    Selected chemical prints. Digitized version(s) available. Negative(s) stored separately.
## Edward E. Adams Papers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2-6</th>
<th>Buxheim roll 4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Selected chemical prints. Digitized version(s) available. Negative(s) stored separately.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2-7</th>
<th>Buxheim rail head</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Original prints.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Box 3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>3-1</th>
<th>Neuschwanstein roll 1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Selected chemical prints. Digitized version(s) available. Negative(s) stored separately.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>3-2</th>
<th>Neuschwanstein roll 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Selected chemical prints. Digitized version(s) available. Negative(s) stored separately.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>3-3</th>
<th>Neuschwanstein - Fussen rail head</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Original print.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>