
Summary Information

Repository: National Gallery of Art, Gallery Archives
Sixth Street and Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20565
info-archives@nga.gov

Title: Edward E. Adams Papers

Identifier: 28MFAA-A

Creator: Adams, Edward E., 1904-1994

Date: 1945-1978 (bulk 1945-1948)

Extent: 0.75 linear 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

1945
Worked as an interior architect before joining the United States Army

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

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 A1  Art Restitution-Related Materials, 1945-1978
- Series A2-3  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 Gallery Archives Access Policy. For all inquiries or to schedule an appointment, please contact the Gallery Archives at info-archives@nga.gov.

Preferred Citation  National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC, Gallery Archives. 28MFAA-A, Edward E. Adams Papers.

Rights Status  Copyright undetermined

Language  English; French

Acquisition Information  Gift of Edward E. Adams, 1982


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

A1  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.

A2-3  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.
### Series A1  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 |
| 1-5 | Schloss Neuschwanstein - procedures and security pass, undated |

### Series A2  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.* |
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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.*