

Finding Aid for the Craig Hugh Smyth Papers, 1938-1989

Summary Information

Repository	National Gallery of Art, Gallery Archives Sixth Street and Constitution Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20565 info-archives@nga.gov
Title	Craig Hugh Smyth Papers
Identifier	28MFAA-G
Creator	Smyth, Craig Hugh, 1915-2006
Date	1938-1989
Extent	3.75 cubic feet (8 boxes); approximately 175 digital files
Abstract	This collection documents the activities of Craig Hugh Smyth, an officer with the Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives (MFAA) Section of the United States Military Government in Germany immediately after World War II. Papers include art shipment receipts, activity logs, correspondence, diaries, exhibition catalogues, lecture notes, photographs, and reports.

Biographical Note

July 28, 1915	Born, New York City, New York
1938	A.B., Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey
1941	M.F.A., Princeton University
1941-1942	Research assistant and senior museum aide, National Gallery of Art, Washington
1945-1946	Director and Officer-in-Charge, Central Collecting Point, Munich, Germany
1946-1950	Lecturer, Frick Collection, New York, New York
circa 1947	Awarded Chevalier, Légion d'honneur, France; United States Army Commendation Medal; Netherlands Medal for Service to the States

1950-1973	Professor, Institute of Fine Arts, New York University, New York
1956	Ph.D., Princeton University
1959-1960	Art Historian in Residence, American Academy in Rome, Italy
1973-1985	Professor of Fine Arts, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts Director, Villa I Tatti, Harvard University Center for Italian Renaissance Studies, Florence, Italy
1975	M.A. (honorary), Harvard University Professor Emeritus, Harvard University
March 13, 1986	Presented third Gerson Lecture on his work on the repatriation of looted art, University of Groningen, The Netherlands
1987-1988	Samuel H. Kress Professor, Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts, National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC
1988	<i>Repatriation of Art from the Collection Point in Munich after World War II</i> . New York: Gary Schwartz/SDU

Scope and Content

The collection documents Craig Hugh Smyth's activities as an officer with the Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives (MFAA) Section of the United States Military Government in Germany immediately after World War II. Smyth was the director and officer-in-charge of the Central Collecting Point, Munich. After his discharge from the military, he returned to the United States and pursued an academic life at various institutions, including the Frick Collection, the Institute of Fine Arts, New York University, the American Academy in Rome, and Harvard University. In 1988, Smyth wrote *Repatriation of Art from the Collection Point in Munich after World War II*, a publication resulting from his 1986 Gerson Lecture at the University of Groningen, The Netherlands.

The collection includes documents created or collected by Smyth while stationed in Munich, including daily diaries and notes, monthly reports, administrative files, and art shipment receipts and lists. It also contains articles and newspaper clippings, exhibition catalogues, publications, and reports gathered by Smyth during and after the war. Of special note are photographs documenting activity at the Munich Collecting Point, and materials relating to Smyth's 1986 Gerson Lecture, including correspondence with former MFAA colleagues, lecture notes and subject files.

Arrangement

Materials are arranged in the following series:

- Series G1 Art Restitution Subject Files, 1940-1948
- Series G2 Art Exhibition Catalogues, 1945-1948
- Series G3 Other Publications, 1942-1986
- Series G4 Gerson Lecture Research Materials, circa 1942-1989
- Series G5-6 Photographs, 1938-1980s

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.

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Rights Holder National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC

Language English; German; French

Acquisition Information Gift of Craig Hugh Smyth, 2001

Processing Information Initially organized by National Gallery of Art Library staff before transfer to Gallery Archives, 1999. Arranged and described by Gallery Archives staff, 2007.

Related Archival Materials National Gallery of Art, Gallery Archives. Oral history interview with Craig Hugh Smyth, 1993.

[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).

Series Descriptions

G1 Art Restitution Subject Files, 1940-1948 [boxes 1-4]

Arranged alphabetically by subject and thereunder chronologically. This series documents Smyth's activities with the Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives (MFAA) Section of the United States Military Government in Germany. Included in this series are art shipment lists, monthly reports from the Central Collecting Point in Munich, daily activity logs, and Smyth's diaries and notes.

G2 Art Exhibition Catalogues, 1945-1948 [box 4]

Arranged alphabetically by title. This series consists of catalogues for post-war exhibitions of art in Germany and of repatriated art in France and The Netherlands.

G3 Other Publications, 1942-1986 [box 4]

Arranged alphabetically by author and title. This series includes publications and newspaper clippings collected by Smyth after the war and for the remainder of his career. Articles are in English and German, and primarily concern looted and repatriated art.

G4 Gerson Lecture Research Materials, circa 1942-1989 [boxes 4-5]

Arranged alphabetically by subject. This series contains materials acquired by Smyth in preparation for his 1986 lecture at the University of Groningen, The Netherlands. The lecture resulted in his publication titled *Repatriation of Art from the Collection Point in Munich after World War II*. Materials in this series include lecture notes, correspondence, and draft manuscript.

G5-6 Photographs, 1938-1980s [boxes 6-8]

Arranged alphabetically by subject. This series primarily documents Smyth and other Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives (MFAA) officers performing their duties, most notably at the Munich Central Collecting Point. For conservation purposes, negatives are stored separately from the photographic prints. Photographs in this series have been digitized and are available to researchers.

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Series G1 Art Restitution Subject Files, 1940-1948

Box 1

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|------|--|
| 1-1 | Art shipment receipts and information lists - Austria, 1945 |
| 1-2 | Art shipment receipts and information lists - Belgium, 1945-1946 |
| 1-3 | Art shipment receipts and information lists - Czechoslovakia, 1945 |
| 1-4 | Art shipment receipts and information lists - France, 1945-1946 |
| 1-5 | Art shipment receipts and information lists - Germany, 1946 |
| 1-6 | Art shipment receipts and information lists - The Netherlands, 1945-1946 |
| 1-7 | Berlin Paintings controversy ("The 202"), 1945-1948 |
| 1-8 | Central Collecting Point, Munich - monthly reports, June 1945 |
| 1-9 | Central Collecting Point, Munich - monthly reports, July 1945 |
| 1-10 | Central Collecting Point, Munich - monthly reports, August 1945 |
| 1-11 | Central Collecting Point, Munich - monthly reports, September 1945 |
| 1-12 | Central Collecting Point, Munich - monthly reports, October 1945 |
| 1-13 | Central Collecting Point, Munich - monthly reports, November 1945 |
| 1-14 | Central Collecting Point, Munich - monthly reports, December 1945 |
| 1-15 | Central Collecting Point, Munich - monthly reports, January 1946 |
| 1-16 | Central Collecting Point, Munich - monthly reports, February 1946 |

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| 1-17 | Central Collecting Point, Munich - monthly reports, March 1946 |
| 1-18 | Central Collecting Point, Munich - monthly reports, April 1946 |
| 1-19 | Central Collecting Point, Munich - monthly reports, May 1946 |
| 1-20 | Central Collecting Point, Munich - monthly reports, June 1946 |
| 1-21 | Central Collecting Point, Munich - monthly reports, July 1946 |
| 1-22 | Central Collecting Point, Munich - monthly reports, August 1946 |
| 1-23 | Central Collecting Point, Munich - monthly reports, September 1946 |
| 1-24 | Central Collecting Point, Munich - monthly reports, October 1946 |
| 1-25 | Central Collecting Point, Munich - monthly reports, November 1946 |
| 1-26 | Central Collecting Point, Munich - monthly reports, December 1946 |
| 1-27 | Central Collecting Point, Munich - monthly reports, January 1947 |
| 1-28 | Central Collecting Point, Munich - monthly reports, March 1947 |
| 1-29 | Central Collecting Point, Munich - personnel information, 1945 |
| 1-30 | Central Collecting Point, Munich - procedures, 1946 |

Box 2

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| 2-1 | Central Collecting Point, Munich - staff daily activity log, July-September 1945 |
| 2-2 | Central Collecting Point, Munich - staff daily activity log, October-December 1945 |
| 2-3 | Central Collecting Point, Munich - staff daily activity log, January-February 1946 |

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| 2-4 | Central Collecting Point, Munich - staff daily activity log, March-April 1946 |
| 2-5 | Central Collecting Point, Munich - staff daily activity log, May-June 1946 |
| 2-6 | Central Collecting Point, Munich - staff daily activity log, July-August 1946 |
| 2-7 | Central Collecting Point, Munich - staff daily activity log, September-October 1946 |
| 2-8 | Central Collecting Point, Munich - staff daily activity log, November-December 1946 |
| 2-9 | Central Collecting Point, Munich - staff daily activity log, January-February 1947 |
| 2-10 | Central Collecting Point, Munich - staff daily activity log, March-April 1947 |
| 2-11 | Central Collecting Point, Munich - staff daily activity log, May-July 1947 |
| 2-12 | Central Collecting Point, Munich - table of organization |
| 2-13 | Cultural activities of MFAA officers, 1947-1948 |
| 2-14 | Disposition of photo archives to National Gallery of Art, 1946 |
| 2-15 | Dutch representative, 1946 |
| 2-16 | Expenditures for administration of the galleries, 1946 |

Box 3

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| 3-1 | Instructions for MFAA specialist officers in Germany, 1944-1945 |
| 3-2 | Memoranda, 1940-1941, 1945-1946 |
| 3-3 | Moore, Lamont, 1945 |
| 3-4 | New Institute for Art History, Munich (Neu Zentralinstitut für Kunstgeschichte), 1946-1947 |

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3-5 Property card (Art)

3-6 Commendations, 1946-1947

3-7 Daily diaries and notes, set-up and procedures, May 1945

3-8 Daily diaries and notes, 4-6 June 1945

3-9 Daily diaries and notes, 7-25 June 1945

3-10 Daily diaries and notes, 8-30 June 1945

3-11 Daily diaries and notes, 26 June-18 July 1945

3-12 Daily diaries and notes, 2-31 July 1945

3-13 Daily diaries and notes, 19-27 July 1945

3-14 Daily diaries and notes, 27 July-31 August 1945

3-15 Daily diaries and notes, 1-31 August 1945

3-16 Daily diaries and notes, 1-29 September 1945 (folder 1 of 2)

3-17 Daily diaries and notes, 1-29 September 1945 (folder 2 of 2)

3-18 Daily diaries and notes, September 1945

3-19 Daily diaries and notes, 1-31 October 1945 (folder 1 of 2)

3-20 Daily diaries and notes, 1-31 October 1945 (folder 2 of 2)

3-21 Daily diaries and notes, 1-30 November 1945

3-22 Daily diaries and notes, 2-30 November 1945

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3-23 Daily diaries and notes, 1-28 December 1945

3-24 Daily diaries and notes, 3-29 December 1945

3-25 Daily diaries and notes, for report, 1945

3-26 Daily diaries and notes, 2-31 January 1946

3-27 Daily diaries and notes, 2-29 January 1946

3-28 Daily diaries and notes, 1-28 February 1946

3-29 Daily diaries and notes, 2-28 February 1946

3-30 Daily diaries and notes, 1-27 March 1946

Box 4

4-1 Daily diaries and notes, 2 March-4 April 1946

4-2 Daily diaries and notes, miscellaneous

4-3 Miscellaneous notes

4-4 Naval orders (assignment to Munich and demobilization), 1945-1946

Series G2 Art Exhibition Catalogues, 1945-1948

Box 4

4-5 *Les Chefs-d'Oeuvres des Collections Privées Françaises Retrouvés en Allemagne par la Commission de Recupération Artistique et les Services Alliés*. Orangerie des Tuileries, Juin-Aout 1946

4-6 *Exhibition of Bavarian Paintings of the 15th and 16th Centuries*. Haus der Kunst, Munich, beginning 17 January 1946
1 copy in English, 2 copies in German.

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4-7 *Masterpieces of South-German Gothic* - Information Flyer for Exhibition and Christmas Exhibition at the Bavarian National Museum, 1945

4-8 *Paintings Looted from Holland Returned Through the Efforts of the United States Armed Forces*. 7 December 1946-1 January 1948

4-9 *Return of the Old Masters in the Rijksmuseum*. 15 July-30 September 1945

Series G3 Other Publications, 1942-1986

Box 4

4-10 Articles and newspaper clippings, undated

4-11 Articles and newspaper clippings, 1945-1946

4-12 "10 July 1945/Loaded Bruges Madonna." *Archives of American Art Journal* (1982)

4-13 Bayerische Landeszeitung. München, 1 Juni 1945
Oversize publication stored separately.

4-14 "Emergency Protection of Works of Art." *The Librarian* (March 1942)

4-15 Hammond, Mason. "The War and Art Treasures in Germany." *College Art Journal* 5:3 (March 3, 1946)

4-16 Hancock, Walker. "Experiences of a Monuments Officer." *College Art Journal* (May 1946)

4-17 Herbst, Arnulf. "Zur Geschichte des Wiesbadener Collecting Point." *Kunst in Hessen und am Mittelrhein* [undated]

4-18 Kirstein, Lincoln. "The Quest of the Golden Lamb." *Town and Country* (September 1945)

4-19 "Kunstroof." *Vrij Nederland* (22 maart 1986)
Oversize publication stored separately.

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- 4-20 "Kunsthandel in Nederland, 1940-1950." *Vrij Nederland* (22 maart 1986)
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- 4-21 "Museum ohne Besucher." *Heute* (1 April 1946)
2 copies. Oversize publication stored separately.
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- 4-22 "Nederlandse staat werd beter van de kunstrovende nazi's." *Vrijdag* (7 maart 1986)
Oversize publication stored separately.
-
- 4-23 "Quante ne aveva rubate, Hitler!" *Nazione* (9 giugno 1986)
-
- 4-24 *Report of the American Commission for the Protection and Salvage of the Artistic and Historic Monuments in War Areas*. Washington: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1946
-
- 4-25 "Revival of Munich Cultural Life Seen as Exhibit Opens." *The Bavarian* (24 January 1946)
-
- 4-26 Ross, Marvin C. "SHAEF and the Protection of Monuments in Northwest Europe." *College Art Journal* (January 1946)
-
- 4-27 Woolley, Sir Leonard. *A Record of the Work Done by the Military Authorities for the Protection of the Treasures of Art & History in War Areas*. London: H.M. Stationary Office, 1947
-

Series G4 Gerson Lecture Research Materials, circa 1942-1989

Box 4

- 4-28 American Commission for the Protection and Salvage of Artistic and Historic Monuments in War Areas - Report of Francis Henry Taylor, 1944
-
- 4-29 American Council of Learned Societies Committee on Protection of Cultural Treasures in War Areas, 1943-1944, undated
-
- 4-30 Brown, John Nicholas, undated
-
- 4-31 Central Collecting Point, Munich (research notes)
-
- 4-32 Central Collecting Point, Munich - staff daily activity log (high points), undated
-

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4-33 Central collecting points - Wiesbaden, Marburg, Offenbach (reports and research notes)

Box 5

5-1 Central collecting points - establishment (reports and research notes)

5-2 Chronology, 1814-1945

5-3 Clay, General Lucius D. and "The 202"

5-4 Hammond, Mason - correspondence, 1987, 1989

5-5 Hammond, Mason - MFAA work in Italy, 1945, undated

5-6 Hammond, Mason - reports and correspondence, 1944-1946

5-7 Howe, Thomas Carr - correspondence, 1986

5-8 Keck, Sheldon - correspondence, 1988

5-9 Lecture - conclusion, undated

5-10 Lecture - footnote material, undated

5-11 Lecture - issues and topics, 1988

5-12 Lecture - "Regeneration of Cultural Life, New Institute and Exhibitions," undated

5-13 Lecture - "To Do," 1985-1988

5-14 Military government regulations - policy toward Germans

5-15 Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives - beginnings of, 1942-1943

5-16 Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives - establishment, 1942-1944

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| 5-17 | Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives - field operations |
| 5-18 | Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives - monthly district summary report, OMG for Bavaria, January 1946 |
| 5-19 | Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives - occupation and MFAA's role, undated |
| 5-20 | Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives - precedents |
| 5-21 | Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives - restitution of Dutch collections |
| 5-22 | National Archives and Records Administration, record group 239, records inventories and box lists, 1965 |
| 5-23 | National Gallery of Art, use of curatorial records material, 1987 |
| 5-24 | Restitution (general) |
| 5-25 | The Return of Art to the Netherlands after the Second World War: Its Beginnings and Background - with notes on the Central Art Collecting Point at Munich - historical information on World War II |
| 5-26 | The Return of Art to the Netherlands after the Second World War: Its Beginnings and Background - with notes on the Central Art Collecting Point at Munich - manuscript (draft) |
| 5-27 | The Return of Art to the Netherlands after the Second World War: Its Beginnings and Background - with notes on the Central Art Collecting Point at Munich - "to do" regarding photos for publication, undated |
| 5-28 | Rorimer, (Mrs.) James R. - correspondence, 1986 |
| 5-29 | Skilton, John Davis, Jr. - correspondence, 1986 |

Series G5 Photographs, 1938-circa 1980

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Box 6

- 6-1 Central Collecting Point, Munich - exterior
18 images. Digitized version(s) available. Negative(s) stored separately.
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- 6-2 Central Collecting Point, Munich - exterior removing Third Reich eagles
4 images. Digitized version(s) available.
-
- 6-3 Central Collecting Point, Munich - interior
21 images. Digitized version(s) available. Negative(s) stored separately.
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- 6-4 Central Collecting Point, Munich - staff
17 images. Digitized version(s) available. Negative(s) stored separately.
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- 6-5 Central Collecting Point, Munich - staff in offices
40 images. Digitized version(s) available. Negative(s) stored separately.
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- 6-6 Central Collecting Point, Munich - staff packing, shipping, and transporting works of art
15 images. Digitized version(s) available. Negative(s) stored separately.

Box 7

- 7-1 Central Collecting Point, Munich - staff with works of art
21 images. Digitized version(s) available. Negative(s) stored separately.
-
- 7-2 Central Collecting Point, Munich - staff with works of art - Herbert List photographs
3 images. Digitized version(s) available. Negative(s) stored separately.
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- 7-3 Damaged buildings
5 images. Digitized version(s) available. Negative(s) stored separately.
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- 7-4 Loading cargo plane
13 images. Digitized version(s) available. Negative(s) stored separately.
-
- 7-5 Merkers (includes General Dwight D. Eisenhower)
2 images. Digitized version(s) available.
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7-6 Munich Pact signing - Hitler, Mussolini, Chamberlain, Deladier, 1938

3 images. Digitized version(s) available.

7-7 Rembrandt self-portrait

1 image. Digitized version(s) available.

7-8 Smyth, Craig Hugh, 1980s

1 image. Digitized version(s) available.

7-9 Smyth, Craig Hugh - photo album

9 pages, 15 images. Negative(s) stored separately.
