

S. LANE FAISON, JR., PAPERS

COLLECTION OVERVIEW

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| Record Group Number | RG 28 |
| Record Group Title | Collections of Donated Materials |
| Subgroup Title | MFAA-B S. Lane Faison, Jr., Papers |
| Series Titles | 28MFAA-B1 Art Restitution Subject Files, 1946 - 1986 28MFAA-B2 Interrogation Reports, 1945 - 1946 28MFAA-B3 Photograph Prints, 1945 - 1951 28MFAA-B4 Digital Scans |
| Abstract | <p>These papers document S. Lane Faison Jr.'s work for the United States Office of Strategic Services (OSS) immediately after World War II. Faison was assigned to the Art Looting Investigation Unit (ALIU) at Alt Aussee, Austria, to investigate Nazi art looting activities. In 1950, the United States Department of State appointed him to oversee the closing of American activity at the Central Collecting Point in Munich, Germany. This collection primarily consists of OSS interrogation reports.</p> |
| Inclusive Dates | 1945-1986 |
| Volume | Less than one cubic foot |
| Physical Description | Reports, correspondence, and photographs |

S. LANE FAISON, JR., PAPERS

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

- November 16, 1907 Born, Washington, D.C.
- 1929 B.A., Williams College, Williamstown, Massachusetts
- 1930 M.A., Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts
- 1932 M.F.A., Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey
- 1932-1936 Art Instructor (later Assistant Professor), Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut
- 1936 Assistant Professor (later Professor of Art), Williams College
- 1940-1968 Chairman, Department of Art, Williams College
- May 1945 Assigned to the Art Looting Investigation Unit (ALIU) of the Office of Strategic Services (OSS)
- c. 1945 Investigated and submitted Art Looting Investigation Unit report about Hitler's efforts to create a cultural center (Führermuseum) at Linz, Austria
- 1947 Awarded Chevalier, Légion d'honneur, France
- 1948 Director, Williams College Museum of Art
- 1950-1951 Appointed by the United States Department of State to oversee the closing of American activity at the Central Collecting Point in Munich, Germany
- 1971 Honorary Litt.D., Williams College
- 1976 Retired from posts at Williams College
- February 9, 2000 Presented lecture "How the Nazis Collected Art" at Assumption College, Worcester, Massachusetts
- November 11, 2006 Died, Williamstown, Massachusetts
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SCOPE AND CONTENT

The collection documents Samson Lane Faison Jr.'s work for the United States Office of Strategic Services (OSS) in Germany during and after World War II. Faison was assigned to the Art Looting Investigation Unit (ALIU) at Alt Aussee, Austria in the summer of 1945. As part of the ALIU, Faison participated in a three-man team with Lieutenants James S. Plaut and Theodore Rousseau Jr. investigating Nazi art looting and related activities, including the Einsatzstab Rosenberg, Hermann Goering's collecting activities, and Adolf Hitler's efforts to create a cultural center at Linz, Austria. From 1950 to 1951, Faison supervised the closing of American activity at the Central Collecting Point in Munich, Germany.

Of particular note are copies of Consolidated Interrogation Reports (CIR) and Detailed Interrogation Reports (DIR) produced by the Art Looting Investigation Unit. A small group of files includes correspondence on art-looting related issues. In addition, there are lecture notes and correspondence relating to Faison's work with the ALIU. Of special interest are photographs of ALIU and other art restitution efforts with descriptive captions provided by Faison.

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ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

- Access/Use Information** These papers are unrestricted.
- Preferred Citation** S. Lane Faison, Jr., Papers, National Gallery of Art,
Washington, D.C., Gallery Archives
- Copyright** No information about the donor's copyright is available.
- Language** The papers are in English.
- Acquisition Information** Gift of S. Lane Faison, Jr., 1985
- Processing Information** Preliminary organization was performed by National Gallery
of Art Library staff.

Gallery Archives staff completed the processing and prepared the finding aid in October 2007.

- Contact Information** Telephone: (202) 842-6614
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ADDITIONAL DESCRIPTIVE INFORMATION

Related Materials

See *A Guide to Research Resources Relating to World War II* (Washington: Gallery Archives, National Gallery of Art, 1999) for information relating to other war-related materials available at the National Gallery of Art.
(<http://www.nga.gov/resources/gadesc.htm>)

The National Archives 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). Detailed finding aids are available from NARA and on the web site of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

Other Formats

Several reports in this collection have been photocopied for preservation.

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ORGANIZATION

Series B1 ART RESTITUTION SUBJECT FILES, 1946 - 1986
Arranged alphabetically

This series consists of correspondence and notes gathered by Faison on issues associated with the looting of art in Europe before and during World War II. Of special interest are notes for a lecture given by Faison in 1986 at Williams College, Williamstown, Massachusetts, on Adolf Hitler's proposed cultural center in Linz, Austria.

Series B2 INTERROGATION REPORTS, 1945 - 1946
Arranged by report number

This series contains Consolidated Interrogation Reports (CIR) and Detailed Interrogation Reports (DIR) prepared by the Office of Strategic Services (OSS), Art Looting Investigation Unit (ALIU), summarizing the art-related activities of Nazi organizations and personnel. Reports were issued on three subjects: the activity of the Einsatzstab Rosenberg in France, the Goering Collection, and Adolf Hitler's museum and library at Linz, Austria. This series also consists of twelve reports prepared by the Office of Strategic Service (OSS), Art Looting Investigation Unit (ALIU), documenting interrogations of fifteen individuals suspected of art-related crimes, and a report and attachments prepared by Jan Vlug for the Fine Arts (Special Services) Dutch Restitution Committee on Kajetan Mühlmann.

Series B3 PHOTOGRAPH PRINTS, 1945 - 1951
Arranged alphabetically by subject

This series consists of a small group of images documenting art restitution and Monuments Fine Arts and Archives officers in Europe

Series B4 DIGITAL SCANS
Digital scans are made from prints and negatives on an as-needed basis. Contact archives staff for information on scans that are currently available.

28MFAA-B Collections of Donated Materials
S. Lane Faison, Jr., Papers

28MFAA-B1 Art Restitution Subject Files, 1945 - 1986

Box 1

- 1-1 Correspondence [1947-1948]
Relating to Karl Haberstock and the series of articles in The New Yorker: "The Spoils of War"
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- 1-2 Correspondence [1946, 1957]
Relating to a Utrillo painting and Faison's lecture about Hitler's art collection
-
- 1-3 [Lecture Notes] [1986, undated]
From Williams College regarding a cultural center in Linz, Austria
-
- 1-4 Lohse Case [1948]

28MFAA-B2 Interrogation Reports, 1945 - 1946

Box 1

- 1-5 CIR No. 1 *Activity of the Einsatzstab Rosenberg in France*. 15 August 1945. J.S. Plaut, Lieutenant, USNR, Director [Reference Copy]
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- 1-6 CIR No. 1 *Activity of the Einsatzstab Rosenberg in France*. 15 August 1945. J.S. Plaut, Lieutenant, USNR, Director [Fragile Original]
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- 1-7 CIR No. 2 *The Goering Collection*. 15 September 1945. Theodore Rousseau Jr., Lieutenant, USNR [Folder 1 of 2 - Report] [Reference Copy]
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- 1-8 CIR No. 2 *The Goering Collection*. 15 September 1945. Theodore Rousseau Jr., Lieutenant, USNR [Folder 1 of 2 - Report] [Fragile Original]
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- 1-9 CIR No. 2 *The Goering Collection*. 15 September 1945. Theodore Rousseau Jr., Lieutenant, USNR [Folder 2 of 2 - Attachments and Index] [Reference Copy]

28MFAA-B Collections of Donated Materials

S. Lane Faison, Jr., Papers

Box 2

- 2-1 CIR No. 2 *The Goering Collection*. 15 September 1945. Theodore Rousseau Jr., Lieutenant, USNR [Folder 2 of 2 - Attachments and Index] [Fragile Original]
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- 2-2 CIR No. 4 *Linz: Hitler's Museum and Library*. 15 December 1945. S.L. Faison Jr., Lieutenant, USNR [Folder 1 of 2 - Report and Index] [Reference Copy]
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- 2-3 CIR No. 4 *Linz: Hitler's Museum and Library*. 15 December 1945. S.L. Faison Jr., Lieutenant, USNR [Folder 1 of 2 - Report and Index] [Fragile Original]
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- 2-4 CIR No. 4 *Linz: Hitler's Museum and Library*. 15 December 1945. S.L. Faison Jr., Lieutenant, USNR [Folder 2 of 2 - Attachments and Supplement] [Reference Copy]
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- 2-5 CIR No. 4 *Linz: Hitler's Museum and Library*. 15 December 1945. S.L. Faison Jr., Lieutenant, USNR [Folder 2 of 2 - Attachments and Supplement] [Fragile Original]
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Box 3

- 3-1 List of Detailed Interrogation Reports (DIR) [Reference Copy and Fragile Original]
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- 3-2 DIR No. 1 *Heinrich Hoffmann*. 1 July 1945. Theodore Rousseau Jr., Lieutenant, USNR [Reference Copy and Fragile Original]
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- 3-3 DIR No. 2 *Ernst Buchner*. 31 July 1945. Theodore Rousseau Jr., Lieutenant Commander, USNR [Reference Copy and Fragile Original]
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- 3-4 DIR No. 3 *Robert Scholz*. 15 August 1945. J.S. Plaut, Lieutenant, USNR, Director [Reference Copy and Fragile Original]
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- 3-5 DIR No. 4 *Gustav Rochlitz*. 15 August 1945. J.S. Plaut, Lieutenant, USNR, Director [Reference Copy and Fragile Original]
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- 3-6 DIR No. 5 *Gunther Schiedlausky*. 15 August 1945. J.S. Plaut, Lieutenant, USNR, Director [Reference Copy and Fragile Original]
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- 3-7 DIR No. 6 *Bruno Lohse*. 15 August 1945. J.S. Plaut, Lieutenant, USNR, Director [Reference Copy and Fragile Original]
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- 3-8 DIR No. 7 *Gisela Limberger*. 15 September 1945. Theodore Rousseau Jr., Lieutenant [Reference Copy and Fragile Original]
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- 3-9 DIR No. 9 *Walter Andreas Hofer*. 15 September 1945. Theodore Rousseau Jr., Lieutenant, USNR [Reference Copy and Fragile Original]
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- 3-10 DIR No. 10 *Karl Kress*. 15 August 1945. J. S. Plaut, Lieutenant, USNR, Director [Reference Copy and Fragile Original]
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28MFAA-B Collections of Donated Materials

S. Lane Faison, Jr., Papers

- 3-11 DIR No. 11 *Walter Bornheim*. 15 September 1945. Theodore Rousseau Jr., Lieutenant, USNR [Reference Copy and Fragile Original]
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- 3-12 DIR No. 12 *Hermann Voss*. 15 September 1945. S.L. Faison Jr., Lieutenant, USNR [Reference Copy and Fragile Original]
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- 3-13 DIR No. 13 *Karl Haberstock*. 1 May 1946. Theodore Rousseau Jr., Lieutenant Commander, USNR. War Department, Office of the Assistant Secretary of War, Strategic Services Unit, Washington [Reference Copy and Fragile Original]
-
- 3-14 Dutch Restitution Committee DIR No. 1 *Kajetan Mühlmann and the Dienststelle Mühlmann*. 25 December 1945. Jean Vlug, Drs. Captain, Royal Netherlands Army [Report and Attachments] [Reference Copy]
-
- 3-15 Dutch Restitution Committee DIR No. 1 *Kajetan Mühlmann and the Dienststelle Mühlmann*. 25 December 1945. Jean Vlug, Drs. Captain, Royal Netherlands Army [Report and Attachments] [Fragile Original]

28MFAA-B3 Photograph Prints, 1945 - 1951

Box 3

3-16 Art Restitution Photographs

1. Buxheim - Packing Art, Edward E. Adams, Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives
2. Lake Alt Aussee
3. Neuschwanstein - Special Evacuation Team Moving Art
4. Personnel - James S. Plaut and S. Lane Faison, OSS, Summer 1945
5. Personnel - Pierre-Louis Duchartre, French Representative, c. 1945
6. Personnel - Charles Kuhn, MFAA
7. Personnel - Jan Klüh, Dutch Representative, September 1945