

Finding Aid for the S. Lane Faison Jr. Papers, 1945-1986 (bulk 1945-1948)

Summary Information

Repository	National Gallery of Art Archives Sixth Street and Constitution Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20565 archives@nga.gov
Title	S. Lane Faison Jr. Papers
Identifier	SC.014
Creator	Faison, S. Lane (Samson Lane), 1907-2006
Date	1945-1986 (bulk 1945-1948)
Extent	1.5 cubic feet (3 boxes); approximately 10 digital files
Abstract	This collection documents 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. Papers primarily consist of OSS interrogation reports and include correspondence and photographs.

Biographical Note

November 16, 1907	Born, Washington, DC
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)
circa 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

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 Reichsleiter 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 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.

Arrangement

Materials are arranged in the following series:

- Series 1 Art Restitution Subject Files, 1946-1986
- Series 2 Interrogation Reports, 1945-1946
- Series 3 Photographs, 1945 and undated

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	National Gallery of Art Archives. S. Lane Faison Jr. Papers.
Rights Status	Copyright undetermined
Language	English
Acquisition Information	Gift of S. Lane Faison Jr., 1985
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	<p><i>Resources Relating to World War II</i> describes other WWII-related archival materials available at the National Gallery of Art.</p> <p>S. Lane Faison papers, 1922-1981, bulk 1950-1976. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.</p> <p>Oral history interview with S. Lane Faison, 1981. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.</p> <p>The National Archives and Records Administration of the</p>

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 Subject Files, 1946-1986 [box 1]

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 2 Interrogation Reports, 1945-1946 [boxes 1-3]

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 3 Photographs, 1945 and undated [box 3]

This series consists of a small group of images documenting art restitution and Monuments Fine Arts and Archives officers in Europe. Photographs in this series have been digitized and are available to researchers.

S. Lane Faison Jr. Papers

Series 1 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."
-
- 1-2 Correspondence, 1946, 1957
Relating to a Utrillo painting and Faison's lecture about Hitler's art collection.
-
- 1-3 Lecture notes, 1986 and undated
From Williams College regarding a cultural center in Linz, Austria.
-
- 1-4 Lohse case, 1948

Series 2 Art Looting Investigation Unit 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)
-
- 1-6 CIR No. 1 Activity of the Einsatzstab Rosenberg in France. 15 August 1945. J.S. Plaut, Lieutenant, USNR, Director (fragile original)
-
- 1-7 CIR No. 2 The Goering Collection. 15 September 1945. Theodore Rousseau Jr., Lieutenant, USNR (folder 1 of 2 - report) (reference copy)
-
- 1-8 CIR No. 2 The Goering Collection. 15 September 1945. Theodore Rousseau Jr., Lieutenant, USNR (folder 1 of 2 - report) (fragile original)
-
- 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)

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)

S. Lane Faison Jr. Papers

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)

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)

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)

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)

Box 3

3-1 List of detailed interrogation reports (DIR) (reference copy and fragile original)

3-2 DIR No. 1 Heinrich Hoffmann. 1 July 1945. Theodore Rousseau Jr., Lieutenant, USNR (reference copy and fragile original)

3-3 DIR No. 2 Ernst Buchner. 31 July 1945. Theodore Rousseau Jr., Lieutenant Commander, USNR (reference copy and fragile original)

3-4 DIR No. 3 Robert Scholz. 15 August 1945. J.S. Plaut, Lieutenant, USNR, Director (reference copy and fragile original)

3-5 DIR No. 4 Gustav Rochlitz. 15 August 1945. J.S. Plaut, Lieutenant, USNR, Director (reference copy and fragile original)

3-6 DIR No. 5 Gunther Schiedlausky. 15 August 1945. J.S. Plaut, Lieutenant, USNR, Director (reference copy and fragile original)

3-7 DIR No. 6 Bruno Lohse. 15 August 1945. J.S. Plaut, Lieutenant, USNR, Director (reference copy and fragile original)

3-8 DIR No. 7 Gisela Limberger. 15 September 1945. Theodore Rousseau Jr., Lieutenant (reference copy and fragile original)

S. Lane Faison Jr. Papers

- 3-9 DIR No. 9 Walter Andreas Hofer. 15 September 1945. Theodore Rousseau Jr., Lieutenant, USNR (reference copy and fragile original)
-
- 3-10 DIR No. 10 Karl Kress. 15 August 1945. J. S. Plaut, Lieutenant, USNR, Director (reference copy and fragile original)
-
- 3-11 DIR No. 11 Walter Bornheim. 15 September 1945. Theodore Rousseau Jr., Lieutenant, USNR (reference copy and fragile original)
-
- 3-12 DIR No. 12 Hermann Voss. 15 September 1945. S.L. Faison Jr., Lieutenant, USNR (reference copy and fragile original)
-
- 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)

Series 3 Photographs, 1945-1951

Box 3

- 3-16 Art restitution photographs
Digitized version(s) available.