

# Cultural Goods Restituted

Several important cultural restitution shipments were made during the last quarter of 1947, the most notable being 95 items of furniture and paintings, including Andrea del Sarto's "Mary and Child" and Rembrandt's "Head of Christ," which went back to the Netherlands in October. The first shipment of cultural material restitutable to Yugoslavia was also effected during October.

During the last quarter the Soviet Union recovered paintings, about 7,000 natural history specimens, and the famous 17th-century bronze Neptune Fountain, while smaller shipments went to Belgium, Greece (antique vases), Italy (a 19th-century statue of an angel which an SS general took from the Benedictine Abbey at Monte Cassino for a present to Hitler), and Luxembourg (meteorological material). France received 150 items, including flags, armor, and guns of historical value. Flags, a death mask and tomb cross of the murdered Chancellor Dollfuss went to Austria.

Large shipments of library and archival material were also made during the last three months of 1947 to Austria, Belgium, France and the Soviet Union; the largest single shipment, comprising almost 43,000 books and 300 parcels of archival material, went to Austria.

The shortage of transportation and lack of facilities in which to house valuable material continued to hamper the program for the return of legitimate holdings to German owners.

For example, the turnover to the Wiesbaden Landes Museum of about 250,000 items from its painting, antiquity, and natural history collections, which had been held in the Wiesbaden Collecting Point, was accomplished, on paper, in December, the Collecting Point retaining only the art reference library and certain furniture and display cases. The Landes Museum staff can now carry out a long-planned reorganization of the collections, but the museum cannot be reopened to the public because its building is still requisitioned by the Collecting Point.

The collections of the Staedel Institute and the City Gallery of Frank-

furt, for instance, have been entirely reassembled, except for the sculpture, which is being kept at the Wiesbaden Collecting Points for protection during October.

A notable event in the field of art intelligence during the last quarter was the recovery of 48 paintings which had been stolen from a repository at Wiessee, Bavaria. The thieves, who were disguised as Military Government officials and members of an accredited military mission, were arrested and sent to Munich for trial, and the paintings were sent to the Munich Collecting Point.

During the last quarter of 1947, more than 1,600 items of cultural value known or suspected to have been removed from former German-occupied territories were confiscated from their holders in Bavaria and taken to the Munich Collecting Point for screening.

Some 255 of these objects were obtained through German declarations of property acquired in former German-occupied countries. Others, notably four important 15th-century wooden sculptures, had been looted from the Goering train at Berchtesgaden in May, 1945, and were recovered after an intensive investigation by MG art experts.

An extremely valuable collection of incunabula and first editions from the former Nazi library "Fuer das Neue Deutschland" (For the New Germany) in the Bavarian village of Oberhaus was transferred in the fall to the Offenbach (Hesse) Archival Depot. The processing of this material was greatly simplified by the discovery of a catalog listing the owners from whom about 60 percent of the material was confiscated.

The German program for the reconstruction of war-damaged cultural monuments was slowed down during the last quarter of 1947 by the onset of bad weather and the diversion of labor and materials to the preparation of housing and office space for bipartite and bizonal agencies at Frankfurt. Nevertheless several museums

were reopened and a number of important exhibitions were held.

Outstanding were the reopening of the Staedel Institute and the showing of almost 200 designs submitted in the competition for the redesigning of the Ansbach building in Ruedesheim, Hesse, Germany's first major architectural competition during the occupation period for an individual project, both of which took place in October; and the exhibition of the bulk of the great Kassel collection of Frans Hals, Rembrandt, and Rubens, which was placed on public view in November for the first time since 1939.

The German National Museum at Nuremberg, which contains some of the best pieces of German medieval and renaissance art, including works by Duerer, Holbein, and Veit Stoss, as well as a world-famous toy collection, was formally reopened in December.

In accordance with Military Government's policy of transferring responsibility to German officials, the responsibility for reporting on the holdings and sales of licensed art dealers was turned over to the appropriate German agencies during the last quarter of 1947. — *Military Governor's Report No. 30.*

## Work Experiment Planned

Clearance from the German authorities in Munich has been obtained for a work project for next summer, to be called "Experiment in International Living." Ten young American students or young faculty members will spend two months with a similar group of young Germans. The work project will be selected by the organization of the University of Munich, which manages the reconstruction program for the university.

## Codeine Shortage Reported

No shortages of narcotic drugs for medical needs were reported except in the case of codeine, the supply of which is reported short in Bavaria and Bremen state. Leading manufacturers of codeine in 1947 increased production, so that the reported shortages appear to be due to distribution difficulties. Measures have been taken to remedy this situation.