Chronicles

April 1995–January 1996

German-Polish negotiations about the mutual restitution of works of art lost during World War II: *Spoils of War, International Newsletter,* 19 December 1995, no. 1, p. 19. — April 1995

A diplomatic conference at Rome agreed on the final version of the UNIDROIT Convention on Stolen or Illegally Exported Cultural Objects (cp. the text of the Convention infra p. 155): *Neue Zürcher Zeitung,* 17 July 1995, p. 14. — 24 June 1995

Hungarian-Russian Restitution Commission met to discuss the restitution of works of art: *Spoils of War, International Newsletter,* 19 December 1995, no. 1, p. 20. — 28–29 June 1995

The Austrian government transferred ownership of the collection of Jewish-owned art, confiscated by the Nazis during World War II and held by the Austrian government since the war, to the Viennese Jewish Community (Jüdische Kultusgemeinde Wien). The Jewish Community has chosen Christie's to organize the auction of this collection for the benefit of projects of the Jewish Community to aid elderly people, children and educational institutions: *ARTnews,* January 1996, p. 57, and *The Art Newpaper,* January 1996, vol. VII, no. 55, p. 27. — July 1995

France promulgated the Loi no. 95–877 implementing the Directive 93/7 of 15 March 1993 of the European Council on the return of cultural objects unlawfully removed from the territory of a Member State: *Journal Officiel,* 4 August 1995, p. 11665 and *La Semaine Juridique. Juris-Classeur Périodique,* 1995, III, no. 67565. — 3 August 1995

The Court of Appeal of the Swiss Canton Basel-City handed down a judgment in the case Republic of Turkey v. Canton Basel-City and upheld the decision of a District Court of 13 August 1993 which declined to order the return of five sculptures (mostly tombstones) of Turkish origine and now exhibited in the Antiken-Museum Basel. — 18 August 1995

The painting "The Skat Players" of Otto Dix (1891–1969) was about to be sold by Sotheby's in New York. Berliners raised most of the $ 4.4 million purchase price by performing fund-raising Skat-tournaments and fund-raising auctions of modern art sponsored by artists, collectors and art galleries: *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung,* 29 August 1995, p. 27, and 2 December 1995, p. 41; *ARTnews,* November 1995, p. 78. — 26/27 August 1995

https://doi.org/10.1017/S0940739196000318 Published online by Cambridge University Press

7 September 1995 — Two small drawings of Henri Toulouse-Lautrec (part of the Antonio Santamarina collection) were stolen from Buenos Aires' National Museum of Fine Arts: *ARTnewsletter*, 3 October 1995, vol. XXI, no. 3, p. 8.

17–20 September 1995 — At the end of a conference held in Sicily the "Declaration of Segesta" has been formulated. This declaration is directed towards the protection of antique places against deterioration by art performances (theatre): *Il giornale dell'arte*, October 1995, vol. XIII, no. 137, p. 2.

20 September 1995 — The Museums of France bought for the Louvre the painting "Portrait de M. Levett et de Mlle. Glavani sur un divan" of Jean-Etienne Liotard (1702–1789) for the price of about 10 million French francs (about 2 million $). In 1993 this painting of a Swiss artist was sold to a Swiss purchaser for the same price, but France granted no export licence: cp. *Antiques Trade Gazette* of 25 September 1993 p. 68, *Le Journal des Art*, November 1995, p. 39.

29 September 1995 — Conference on "World Heritage Protection" in Venice, organized by the Association Internationale du Droit et de l'Art.

29 September 1995 — The famous ancient mosaics of Piazza Armerina (Sicily) dating from 3d and 4th century AD, were severely damaged by vandals by spilling them with red and black automobile paint: *Le Journal des Arts*, November 1995, p. 31; Il giornale dell'arte, November 1995, vol. XIII, no. 138, p. 56.

29 September 1995 to 7 January 1996 — Exhibition in the Center for Art and Culture (St.Peter's Abbey) in the Belgian City of Gent on "De stoutmoedige diefte van hat Lam Gods" (The bold theft of the Mystic Lamb), commemorating the theft of two panels of the Gent Altar of van Eyck in 1934 and the still missing panel "The Righteous Judges". A catalogue is available (cp. Bibliography).

2 October 1995 — The Russian Deputy Minister of Culture, Mikhail Shvidkoi, opened in Moscow at the Pushkin Museum of Fine Arts the exhibition called "Five Centuries of European Drawing, surveying 1380 to 1830" being part of the Koenigs Collection owned by the Rotterdam Museum Boymans-van-Beuningen, "bought" by the Nazis, and after the Second World War taken to the SU and hidden in Russia: *ARTnewsletter*, 17 October 1995, p. 2–4.

2 October 1995 — Conference on "UNIDROIT Convention on Stolen or Illegally Exported Cultural Objects" in Lausanne, organized by the Geneva Art-Law-Centre. The papers of this Conference will be edited by Quentin Byrne-Sutton and Marc-André Renold in 1996 and published in Zürich.

5–21 October 1995 — Auction of the collection of Margrave Max von Baden by Sotheby's Germany in Baden-Baden. Some pieces of national heritage were sold prior the auction for $ 32 million to the State Baden-Württem-

https://doi.org/10.1017/S0940739196000318 Published online by Cambridge University Press

berg and the rest of the collection were auctioned for about $ 55.3 million: *ARTnewsletter,* 31 October 1995, vol. XXI, no. 5, pp. 5 et seq.

Conference on "Schutz archäologischer Kulturgüter" (Protection of Archaeological Objects) in Bergama (Turkey), organized by the German-Turkish Law Association and the Dokuz Eylül University of Izmir. The papers of this conference will be published in 1996 in Germany and in Turkey. — 9–12 October 1995

The Italian catalogue "L'opera a ritrovare" has been published and presented to the public. This catalogue lists the works of art taken by the German Nazis during World War II. The cataloguing was done by Rodolfo Siviero. The book is published by the Poligrafico dello Stato in Italian, English and German: *Il giornale dell'arte,* October 1995, vol. XIII, no. 137, p. 1, 3. — 10 October 1995

Fourteen paintings (of G. Bellini, S. del Piombo, G. Reni) have been stolen from the Palazzo della Cancelleria (office of the President of the Commission for Cultural Property of the Holy See) and have been found two weeks later in the quater Aurelio of Rome: *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung,* 19 and 25 October 1995, p. 46 and 17. — 15 October 1995

The French Tribunal de grande instance de Paris held responsible a French auctioneer (commissaire-priseur) for the damage caused to public libraries because he helped to sell stolen valuable books in New York: *Le journal des arts*, January 1996, no. 21, p. 40. — 18 October 1995

Exhibition in Cologne (Josef-Haubrich-Art Gallery) on "Lust und Verlust" (Joy and Loss) about the art collectors of Cologne (e.g. Boisserée, Hüpsch, Wallraf) of the early 19th century and the dispersal of their collections and integration in other collections or museums in Amsterdam, Cleveland, London, Ottawa, Paris, Rome, Vienna and Warsaw. A catalogue, edited by Krier and Zehnder is available (cp. Bibliography). — 28 October 1995 to 28 January 1996

Abdel Halim Nureddin, the president of the Egyptian Supreme Council of Antiquities opened the tomb of Queen Nofretiri (wife of Ramesses II) deceased at about 1260 B. C., for the public. The tomb is situated in the valley of queens close to Luxor: *Neue Zürcher Zeitung,* 6 November 1995, p. 36. — 4 November 1995

23 tombs have been found in Israel which prove the existence of the Maccabeans of the second century B. C: *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung,* 21 November 1995, p. 37. — 13 November 1995

Conference on "Art Theft and its Control" in London, organized by the Art Loss Register and the University College London: *ARTnewsletter,* 12 December 1995, vol. XXI, no. 8, p. 6. — 14–15 November 1995

French minister of justice Jacques Toubon announced that the French government has decided to allow commercial firms and not only the — 15 November 1995

https://doi.org/10.1017/S0940739196000318 Published online by Cambridge University Press

state-appointed French auctioneers (commissaires-priseurs) to stage auctions in France as of January 1, 1998. Then the monopoly of the French auctioneers comes to an end: *ARTnewsletter,* 28 November 1995, vol. XXI, no. 7, p. 1; *Le Journal des Arts,* December 1995, p. 49.

22 November 1995 — The Galleria Salamon of Milan received a notification of the Italian Ministry of Cultural Property that the painting "Il Palazzo dei Giureconsulti e il Broletto Nuovo a Milano" of Bernardo Bellotto (1720–1780), temporarily imported from England for an exhibition and for sale with the Galleria, forms part of the Italian national cultural treasure. The painting had, however, already been taken back by the English owner when the notification was issued. The painting is recorded to have left Italy since the second half of the 18th century: *Il giornale dell'arte*, December 1995, vol. XIII, no. 139, p. 1, and January 1996, vol. XIV, no. 140, p. 61; *Le journal des arts*, January 1996, no. 21, p. 34; and *The Art Newspaper*, January 1996, vol. VII, no. 55, p. 32.

November 1995 — Christie's in New York sold at auction the canvas "Abaporú" of the Brazilian artist Tarsila do Amaral for $ 1.4 million to Gilberto Chauteaubriand, one of Brazil's major private collectors. This painting was legally exported from Brazil but this decision was heavily criticized by local papers in São Paulo: *ARTnewsletter,* 28 November 1995, vol. XXI, no. 7, p. 5.

November 1995 — Another Poussin-affair is pending in Paris concerning the painting "Rest on the Flight" sold for 1.6 million French francs as a painting "of the vicinity of Nicolas Poussin". Ten years later the painting is mentioned in the catalogue raisonné of J. Thuillier. The seller filed a law suit against the auctioneers: *Neue Zürcher Zeitung,* 25/26 November 1995, p. 47.

November 1995 — The Getty Museum in Malibu (California) announced that it will retreat to large extent from the antiquities market and, if at all, buy only those pieces with an impeccable provenance: *The Art Newspaper,* December 1995, vol. VI, no. 54, p. 16.

28 November 1995, 1 December 1995 — The German collection Morat of paintings and drawings of Giorgio Morandi was sold at auction with Sotheby's in London for about 3.5 million £: *Die Zeit,* 8 December 1995, p. 62.

6 December 1995 — The statue "Bété-Gouro" (cp. illustration in: Cent objets disparus – Pillage en Afrique, ICOM 1994, p. 50), stolen in 1979 while on exhibition in Europe, has been given back in Paris to the National Museum in Abidjan (Republic of Ivory Coast): *Le journal des arts*, January 1996, no. 21, p. 43.

:ember 1995 — Sotheby's London sold at auction Orazio Gentileschi's (1563–1639) "Finding of Moses" for £ 4.6 million to Ben Jansen of the Oriental Art Gallery. This prompted a crisis at Sotheby's because the National

https://doi.org/10.1017/S0940739196000318 Published online by Cambridge University Press

Gallery could not buy the masterpiece although a sale to the National Gallery would have had a generous tax advantage for the seller. Sotheby's and Christie's announced that they will introduce a "private treaty sale" system for Britain's public institutions allowing them to collect money for the purchase price before the buyer could make payment in full and thereby gains the right of title: *The Art Newspaper*, January 1996, vol. VII, no. 55, p. 1 and 3, and *ARTnewsletter*, 26 December 1995, vol. XXI, no. 9, p. 3.

The Barnes Collection returned to Merion near Philadelphia after having been exhibited in Washington, Paris, Tokyo, Fort Worth, Toronto, Philadelphia and Munich and having raised $ 189 million. The museum in Merion could be renovated in the meantime for $ 12 million. In a law suit the entrance fees were raised from $ 1 to $ 5: *ARTnews*, January 1996, p. 45 and *ART*, January 1996, p. 97. — December 1995

The Czech Republic and the Slovakian Republic exchanged cultural property. The Czech Republic returned the important polyptych of the Florentine painter of Nardo di Cione (about 1320–1365/66) of the Prague National Gallery, formerly owned by the Hungarian Count Janos Palffy and exhibited from 1900–1933 in his castle Bojnice (Slovakia). The Slovakian Republic transferred ten gothic paintings from the Slovakian National Gallery in Bratislava to the Czech Republic: *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, 18 December 1995, p. 31. — December 1995

The European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage, signed in La Valetta (Malta) on 16 January 1992 (European Treaty Series No. 143), approved by the French Décret No. 95–1039 of 18 September 1995, Journal Officiel of 23 September 1995, p. 13947, entered into force in France: *La Semaine Juridique. Juris-Classeur Périodique*, 1995, III, no. 67631. — 10 January 1996

Seminar on "Museums in the Gobal Enterprise Society – International Opportunities and Threats", organised in London by Committee 20 (Art & Cultural Property Law) of the International Bar Association's Section on General Practice. — 15/16 February 1996

https://doi.org/10.1017/S0940739196000318 Published online by Cambridge University Press