



THE PROVENANCE RESEARCH TRAINING PROGRAM

INAUGURAL WORKSHOP IN MAGDEBURG, GERMANY, JUNE 10-15, 2012

The European Shoah Legacy Institute is pleased to announce the establishment of the Provenance Research Training Program to provide advanced training in provenance research and related issues concerning Nazi-looted art, Judaica, and other cultural property. Intensive five-day workshops repeated several times a year in different locations across Europe and the Americas will provide advanced training for the international community of current and future experts engaged in dealing with issues concerning cultural plunder during the Third Reich, the Holocaust and World War II. The first intensive workshop will take place in Magdeburg, Germany, hosted by the Coordination Office for Lost Cultural Assets (Kordinierungsstelle Magdeburg), from June 10 to June 15, 2012.

Taught by internationally known specialists who have developed their expertise in provenance research and restitution matters since the late 1980's, each workshop will be articulated around research, history, and law. The first day will focus largely on the analytical and comparative methodologies to be used throughout the workshop, including the interactive use of geographic tools to apprehend the complexity of the topics under study, to visualize patterns, and to compare these processes and their international impact. The second day will focus on the pre-1939 period, the third day on wartime plunder across Europe, the fourth day on the postwar era and efforts to recover looted cultural assets. The fifth and final day will examine the legal and ethical implications of cultural plunder during the Nazi era, current international policies, and art trade practices.

There has been a near-absence of training programs in Europe and the Americas that develop and refine critical research and analytical skills in the emerging discipline of provenance research (the documentation of the ownership history of an art object from inception to the present day). Ever since the 44-government Washington Conference on Holocaust-Era Assets in December 1998, there have been numerous calls to create such a training program. The Holocaust-Era Assets Conference of June 2009 in Prague and the resulting Terezin Declaration endorsed by 47 countries reaffirmed the crying need for such a program, preferably one that would reflect the international nature of provenance research and that would lead to a worldwide community of specialists in this area. The European Shoah Legacy Institute (ESLI) strives to implement the Terezin Declaration.

Administration of the Provenance Research Training Program is assisted by the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany.

For further information and to apply for the first workshop that will be held in Magdeburg, Germany in June 2012 (Application Deadline: March 5, 2012), please see:

www.provenanceresearch.org