

about the jdcrp foundation.

In 2019, the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany (Claims Conference) and the Commission for Art Recovery (CAR) established the Jewish Digital Cultural Recovery Project (JDCRP) Foundation as a coordinating network of archival and research institutions related to Jewish-owned cultural objects plundered from 1933 to 1945 by the National Socialists, their allies, and collaborators. The foundation is creating a comprehensive, open-source platform that assembles widely scattered archival material on stolen cultural objects. Using state-of-the-art technology, the database and accompanying research projects will profile the events, people, and places that shaped the plundering, thus exposing the gaps it left behind in European cultural heritage. Educational material will help bring the history of the National Socialist looting into Holocaust curricula. The foundation's work supports the reconstruction of the lives and fates of the owners, lending dignity and moral justice to survivors and heirs.



Interior of the Schloss mansion, courtesy of the Museum of the Art and History of Judaism (mahj), Paris.

funding.

The pilot project: "The Fate of the Adolphe Schloss Collection", is co-funded by the European Union, the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany (Claims Conference), and the Commission for Art Recovery (CAR).



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Pilot Project: The Fate of the Adolphe Schloss Collection

JDCRP

JEWISH DIGITAL CULTURAL RECOVERY PROJECT

an old masters collection.

Following the 1940 occupation of France, Nazi officials spent years searching for the famed Adolphe Schloss Collection of 333 Dutch and Flemish paintings. It took them three years to locate and seize the collection, which Schloss family members had moved from Paris to southern France for safekeeping. German and Vichy officials divided up the collection, with the majority of works sent to Munich for an art museum designed by Hitler in Linz, Austria. On April 29th, 1945, the day before U.S. troops entered Munich, local thieves stole more than a thousand Nazi-looted paintings, including 262 works from the Schloss collection. Numerous works were later found and restituted to Schloss family heirs. However, more than 150 paintings remain missing.

The project contributes to EU support of European cultural heritage, Holocaust memory, Jewish life, and measures to combat antisemitism.

outcomes.

An innovative web application was developed for the pilot project database, employing methodologies of digital humanities to link information related to the objects and create a broader historical understanding of events. The project includes a digital website that combines an object-based database, event-based timelines, and information on the theft, its victims and perpetrators.

pilot-demo.jdcrp.org



Pieter Jansz, The Interior of Saint Bavo, Harlem

"It is our mutual obligation [...] to instill in current and future generations the understanding of what happens when virulent prejudice and hatred are allowed to flourish."

- Roman Kent,
Auschwitz survivor

advisory groups.

Guidance for the pilot project came from distinguished experts participating in three advisory groups: Archives; Digital Technology and Art History; and Provenance Research and Educational Materials. Members of the three groups provided peer review and ensured the maintenance of high professional and ethical standards, helping steer the project to its successful completion.

seizing the moment.

Public awareness of Nazi-looted art has heightened considerably in the past 20 years, fanned by high-profile restitution cases, popular films and literature, and the discovery of an art trove that belonged to one of Hitler's chief art dealers.

Given rapid technological advancements for open-source databases, it is time to seize the moment to realize the long-held vision of a central database uniting scattered archival information. This unique opportunity to document comprehensively the plunder of the National Socialists and their allies will help ensure that the Nazi attempt to eradicate centuries of Jewish life and culture and remove it from European cultural history will not be forgotten.

The JDCRP database will be an invaluable tool for scholars, educators, students, and art world professionals, affirming the endurance of Jewish and European identity, despite the genocide perpetrated by the Nazis and their allies. The JDCRP Foundation will stimulate research, expand public awareness, and reach new and younger audiences through educational materials to ensure that the cultural voids left behind by the Holocaust will not be forgotten.

In an era of growing antisemitism, it is more important than ever to retell the stories of persecuted Jews and Jewish communities, thereby mapping the dangers to democracy of leaving hatred and antisemitism unaddressed.

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JEWISH DIGITAL CULTURAL RECOVERY PROJECT

Camille Pissarro, Le Boulevard Montmartre, matinée de printemps



Gustav Klimt, Adele Bloch-Bauer I