

The Collection

Due to the meticulous documentation kept by the perpetrators, a detailed reconstruction is possible of the storage and seizure of the art, textile, and jewelry collections of Hugo Daniel and Elisabeth Andriessse.

Art, Textiles, Antiquities

The art collection and textile collections can be reconstructed with the help of inventory lists that document the storage of 29 Old Master paintings in the Musées royaux d'Art et d'Histoire on December 12, 1939, signed by Chief Conservator Jean Capart. There are additional details in subsequent documents of seizure by the Devisenschuttkommando België, the looting agency for Belgium, on November 28, 1941, as well as documents and

photographs from the Einsatzstab Reichsleiter Rosenberg (ERR), the chief German looting agency based in the Jeu de Paume in Paris.

There is similar documentation confirming the deposit of the Andriessse textile collection at the Musées royaux d'Art et d'Histoire on December 20, 1939, subsequently looted by the Devisenschuttkommando België, and then transferred to the ERR. Although there is detailed written documentation of the theft, few photographs exist documenting the five wall tapestries and 17 Oriental rugs.

Additional paintings and antiques that remained in the private home of the Andriesses were confiscated and disappeared following their flight, with their whereabouts unknown. Basic data

on these objects, lacking photographs, is registered with the Database on the Unrecovered Works of Art during the Second World War in Belgium.

Jewelry, Books and Furniture

Little is known about the fate of the library and furniture left in the private home of the Andriesses, except for archival evidence documenting the looting of at least some of their books. There is no inventory list for either their personal library or for their furniture. The jewelry collection was not looted. It was stored in a separate room at the Musées royaux d'Art et d'Histoire in Brussels. It was not discovered by looting authorities and could be recovered after the war.

