

ARCHIVES DES SERVICES FRANÇAIS CHARGES DE LA RECUPERATION ARTISTIQUE (209SUP)

Principles and Terms of Access to Archives

The records of the French Services responsible for recovering the cultural assets, spoliated between 1940 and 1945 and held by the Archives Head Office of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development, are open to researchers without restriction under the conditions set by the French Heritage Code.

These precious records require special care because they are fragile (i.e. fragile nature of the medium), and because they have a legal value in claims subsequent to spoliated property.

The collection consists of 1.062 boxes containing records and is available under conditions.

1. The Collection

a) Search the collection

Researchers themselves search and order the boxes containing items under the Record Search "Mnesys" (a maximum of 6 boxes a day) with the inventory available in the inventory room. The record(s) will be delivered in the reading room (within 30 minutes approximately).

b) Using the collection

- **Already digitized documents** can be viewed in the microfilm room on a dedicated computer workstation. They include the E.R.R. lists (**box 90 to 106**), photographs (**box 962 to 1044**) and a few fragile paper documents (**box 147 and 315/C38**).
- **The boxes numbered 738 to 887** (files constituted immediately after World War II, particularly the Art Recovery Commission (C.R.A.), the Office for Private Property and Interests (OBIP) and the Central Office for Restitution in Baden Baden) are not open given their conservation status. Lots of these items are digitized (**boxes numbered 738 to 760; 783-784 ; 803-809 ; 822-823 ; 824-826**) and available on demand in the microfilm room.

2. Principles of consultation

- **The boxes are available in the reading room** under the supervision of a staff member of the Reading Room ;
- **It is permitted to photograph the records without flash and tripod;**
- **It is strictly forbidden to photocopy** the records ;
- It is possible to order copies of records from the Unit in charge of Photography at the Archives Department (For more information please contact the Reading Room Chairman).

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For all questions regarding the principles of access, please contact the staff member of the reading room (lecture.archives@diplomatie.gouv.fr).

For all questions regarding the conservation status of the collection, please contact the Archives Department (Mr Pascal Even, General Heritage Curator and Head of the Archives Department – Conservateur Général du Patrimoine, Chef du Département des Archives – under pascal.even@diplomatie.gouv.fr or via lecture.archives@diplomatie.gouv.fr).

Researchers are asked to report directly to the Archives Department about any document that is either damaged or in bad conservation status so that it can be restored./.