

News Advisory



FOR PRESS NOTIFICATION

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Looted Holocaust-Era Assets

Paintings in Forced Sale by Nazis to be Returned to Descendents of Jewish Family

California State Parks is honored to return three paintings to the descendents of a Jewish couple that lost the artwork in a "judenauktionen," a coerced sale by the Nazis in 1935. After the forced sale, the couple perished during the Holocaust.

Those paintings have been hanging on the walls of Hearst Castle, a unit of California State Parks, for decades, without the Hearst family or State Parks being aware of the circumstances of their ownership until recently.

The return will occur in Sacramento, as follows:

- WHO:** Ruth Coleman, Director, California State Parks, will officially return the three paintings to heirs of the family who will be traveling from Argentina and Florida. Attending also will be the attorney representing the family from Paris, France. The ceremony is not open to the public.
- WHAT:** The three paintings have been removed from Hearst Castle and will be brought to Sacramento for a formal repatriation ceremony.
- WHERE:** Leland Stanford Mansion State Historic Park, 800 N Street, Sacramento – Reporters should enter through the gated side entrance on 8th Street, near the corner of 8th and N.
- WHEN:** April 10, 2009 -- 11 A.M. (Please arrive by 10:45 a.m.)

This ceremony is not open to the public. At this ceremony, reporters will be able view and photograph the paintings and interview the descendents and those who worked to verify the claim. California State Parks will also provide a summary of the history of the paintings from 1935 to the present. ###