

Zofia Schermann's letter to the District Commission for the Investigation of German Crimes in Poland concerning the plundering by the Germans of a collection of art works from the apartment of her brother, Prof. Rafał Schermann, the proceedings of Ludwig Fischer and others, evidence in the case of the plundering of a gallery of paintings, numismatic collections and movable property belonging to psychographologist Rafał Schermann, committed by Ludwig Leist, co-accused in the above-mentioned trial, IPN Gk 196/50.

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Zofia Bcherwenn Rosenetrauchown

Krakow, January 7, 1947 Barego 14.4

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District Commission for the Investigation of German Crimes in Poland

Cracow

Referring to the oral conversation of the 4th of this month, I am presenting below the case of the theft of a gallery of paintings, numismatic collections and other movable property belonging to my brother, psychographologist Rafał Sehermanns, a co-defendant in the trial currently underway in Warsaw of the "president of Warsaw during the German occupation, Ludwik Leist."

These collections, brought to Krakow from abroad in 1936, when my brother settled permanently in Poland, were transported to Warezama in the summer of 1939 and placed in my brother's apartment at 19 Konzykowa Street. A few days before the outbreak of the war, my brother left Warsaw and later found himself in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (ZBRR), and since he has not yet been included in the repatriation operation and I have no information about his fate, I have been conducting my own research regarding the collections.

A few days ago, I managed to make contact with the former tenant of the house at Koszykowa 19 in Warsaw, Major Wojciech Trobel, currently residing in Krakow, Sereno Fenna Street 2, apartment 2. He informed me that his brother's apartment had been vacated at the end of 1939. The deportation was led by a pre-war subordinate of Mar Wróbel, Lieutenant Laturski, who was employed by Leist as a Wunszcz officer. He was of German origin and reverted to his family name of Lutenberg during the occupation. He was considered a native Niemen Reichsdeutscher.

In a conversation with Major Wróbel, whom he met at the house at the time, Lutenberg-Laturski declared that he had come to Koszykowa 19 on an unpleasant mission: Leist's orders were to empty the apartment of graphologist Schermann, along with his personal belongings, and the artifacts located there would adorn Leist's offices and apartment. A specially appointed appraiser assessed the collections, and their removal took three months, as the five-room apartment was overloaded with furniture, paintings, and other items. Major Wróbel and other residents of the house saw Lutenberg-Laturski coming to the apartment with his wife in the evenings throughout the deportation, removing various items. According to Major Wróbel, Lutenberg-Laturski was sentenced to death as a traitor by a court martial during the Verezwawa Uprising in August 1944 and shot.

The testimony of Mr. Wróbel may, if necessary, be supported by the testimony of other surviving tenants of the house, e.g. Dr. Zorii Kołsut, currently residing in Łódź, ul. Piotrkowska 701. She does not know Lutenberg-Laturski, however, so Mr. Wróbel's information is more valuable in this respect.

Since the probability of the collections being destroyed during the uprising is extremely slim, it seems that only Leist could explain the collections' fate, whether and to what location they were taken, where the more valuable movables and documents from the Warsaw area were generally taken (Ausweichstelle), etc. Fontevat, on the other hand, has a justified concern that the seized collections, in whole or in part, were taken over by Leist's family; his German address and further details may prove essential for further repossession efforts. If Leist is unwilling to provide the necessary explanations, he will not be willing to provide the necessary explanations.

The attached photographic representations of the Krakow apartment are an example of what the collections are, and they are fragmentary, they do not cover all the walls and omit a significant part of the collections, because they were not made with the intention of using them for documenting the repossession proceedings.

My brother devoted several decades of his collecting career to collecting works of art and coins. Regardless of his limited financial resources, he utilized extensive contacts (and perhaps a significant portion of his collection comes from gifts) and travels around the world. As a pachygraphologist, possessing unique psychic abilities and paranormal insights, my brother enjoys widespread recognition in Western European countries and America, where he spent most of his life. Others in this field, such as Charles Richet Paris, Magnus Hirschfeld in Berlin, Oskar Fischer and Oskar Krauss Pradney, Maurice Benedikt and Wilhelm Stelkel in Vienna, Charles Loomis Dana, James Ramsay Hunt and Foster Kennedy in New York, to name just a few, experimented with his brother and published the results

of their research. Brother's books translated into 7 languages, one of them also into Polish:

In the Warsaw apartment, robbed by Leists, there were I. Collections:

1/ approx. 400 cataloged miscellanea paintings, including: Rembrandt Velasquez, Teniers /3 originals with certificates of authenticity Van Eyk, other originals of the Flemish school, gallery of recognized

value 2/ approx. 350 catalogued wall clocks, floor clocks and watches of various formats, shapes and systems, exclusively old unique items

3/ about 300 catalogued bells of rose-shaped, format 4/ about 100 catalogued various snuff boxes 5/ excavations/antiquities/s

II. Graphological Archive¹

1/ a collection of many thousands of expert opinions on handwriting, arranged for record-keeping purposes, arranged in 2 large-format azafachi

III. Apartment arrangement:

1/ furniture from a 4-room Krakow apartment, including a stylish English dining room

2/ stylish lamps, Persian carpets, a piano, white and color Lorove crystals, silver tableware and a 12-piece set of small golden astride set, all with RS monograms

5/ tapestry bed cover made of cream brocade embroidered

silver with a wide golden stripe running along its entire length and with such fringes, presented to the brother of the praes

One maharade 4/ odansezenis, personal souvenirs etc.

Among my brother's friends who visited his house and can testify to the truth of the above data, I am giving k ka neswinks

Stanisław Witold Belicki, editor-in-chief of "Dsiennika Polskies" Kraków, ul. Wielopole 11

Lehociñaki Aden, director of the Sales Office of Tinsmithing Eraków, ul. Batorego 51

Saczepanski Judnik, writer/koizak translator: "The scripture does not lie

Krakow, Enastowa Street 10, "Prasa"

Toubenschlag Rafak, dr, prof. U. J. Columbia University. 500 Meat 114th Street,
New-York City. Y

Żyleki Stefan, med. Dr. Ereków, ul. Krupnicse 48 II.

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I don't know, Dr. Stanisław Lorents, Haeselny Director of the Museum and Protection of Monuments, could not provide information about the state of his brother's collection in Warsaw, who, as is clear from his testimony given during the trial of Fischer and his associates in Warsaw, was active in his scientific specialty throughout the entire period of the German occupation.

For the sake of order, I would like to mention that in a letter dated October 24, 1946, to the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage in Warsaw regarding the repossession proceedings, although I did not fail to provide information from Major Wróbel, I assumed that the collections had fallen victim to the Germans. Regardless of this, I conducted extensive searches on the property, especially since, in response to my inquiry dated November 24, 1946, the National Directorate for the Protection of Monuments, which processed the repossession application, responded in a letter dated November 15, 1946, Ref. No. 5964/46/MDM, that my personal searches within the country would not be successful, as it may happen that they may be successful.

I am providing this Commission with the information obtained from Major Wróbel with a request to use it properly and promptly in connection with the trial against Ludwik Leist in Warsaw, which is coming to an end, because the direction and success of further repossession work depend on Leist's testimony in this case.

Rosenstrauchova

Explanation of photography:

1 1s

study general view Cleopatra, "b" Tower of Babel, about van Eyck

cabinet-levy kat 4-Crucifixion of Christ

left office, corner

"e" Teniers/3 originals/.

14: 1 51

office right corner office right wall

II 11 .

Jadainis general view

II

Rembrandt / visible in photo II 2 /, "g" icons 21 dining room fragment

Rembrandt /not visible in photo II 1/

111 13 bedroom fragment h-Velasquez Filip If Spanish?/

IV 1: hall - fragment

néjé photographic.