

The thefts of archives and their illicit trade
European Symposium
Roubaix, 20-21 November 2008
Service Archives nationales du monde du travail

The profession of archivists and responsables for heritage in general have been faced the last years with a noticeable increase in the incidence of the theft of documents and the development of specific networks for the trade of cultural goods. No institution, no archives service can be safe from theft, and more than ever, we should make efforts to share experience, enhance prevention, and develop partnerships.

This European symposium will be the opportunity to stress these ideas developing the reflection with the following objectives :

- raise the awareness of the archives services in the field of prevention
- underline the importance of archives as cultural goods with market value
- sensitize partners for the development of a concrete European co-operation to facilitate the fight against illicit trade and the reclaim of stolen documents.

Thursday 20 November

9.15 Welcome by Françoise Bosman, director of the *Service Archives nationales du monde du travail*

9.30 **Opening**

Tomas Lidman, director of the Swedish National Archives , chair of the European working group on theft of archives
Genesis of the European co-operation in the field of prevention from theft of archives and fight against their illicit trade.

10.00 **1st session : Theft in archives : a state of the art**

Chair: Elisabeth Rabut, chief of the General Inspection of French Archives

Towards awareness : Heritage facing theft

A European « lap »

- *The French experience*
Pascal Even, direction des Archives de France
- *The Danish Royal Library case*
Jesper During Jørgensen, responsible for security at the Royal Library

- *Dealing cultural heritage in Spain*
Miguel Angel Villanueva Guijarro, Capitaine , captain, chief of section of speciliazed criminality, Guardia Civil

11.00 *Questions*

11.15 *Coffee break*

11.30 A state of the art in Europe

- *Theft of archives in Europe : the European Archival Group report*
Anna-Karin Hermodsson, the Swedish national Archives
- *The HEREIN network*
Orane Proisy, French ministry of Culture and Communication

12.30 *Questions*

13.00 *Lunch*

14.30 2d session : Prevention

Chair : David Leitch, General Secretary of the International Council on archives, chair of the British and Irish national commission of Blue Shield (ICBS)

Standards and best practices

- *Recommendations of the European working group on theft of archives*
Norman James, The National Archives (United Kingdom)
- *Project for a guide on prevention and information from the Ministry of Culture and Communication on the use of public and private property: the case of museums*
Judith Kagan, Ministry of Culture and Communication (France)

15.45 *Coffee break*

16.00 Facing practice

Round table chaired by Colonel de gendarmerie Pierre Tabel, OCBC

Yvonne Bos-Rops (Nationaalarchief, The Netherlands), Anna Czajka (National Archives, Poland), Lauri Leht (National Archives, Estonia)

Friday 21 November

9.00 3d session : locating, reclaiming, recovering

Chair : Karel Velle, director of the *Archives générales du Royaume*(Belgium)

Implementing a legal framework

- *Return of cultural goods illegally displaced : a proposal from the European Commission*
Marketa Simerdova, European Commission
- *The legal framework for cultural heritage*
Marie Cornu, legal expert

Relying on networks

- *Professional networks : example of the Liber network*
Erland Kolding Nielsen, National Librarian of Denmark, former President of Liber
- *Commercial networks*
Frédéric Castaing, President of SLAM

11.00 *Coffee break*

11.15 Co-operation beyond borders

- *An example of French-Belgium co-operation : the Fiey case*
Claude Moreau de Gerbehaye, Archives générales du Royaume (Belgium), Commissaire Dorao (Belgium), Pascal Even (direction des Archives de France)
- *Tracking on the Internet : developing an experience with E-Bay*
Delphine Dauba-Pantanacce, E-Bay France

12.15 *Closing remarks and adoption of the declaration prepared by the national Archivists of the member states of the European Union*

Martine de Boisdeffre, directrice des Archives de France