

Christian Pfaff

# **The administrative department for the restitution of nazi confiscated assets @ the University Library of the Freie Universität Berlin**

**30.06.2016**

# Who we are: our staff

Ringo Narewski (Head of the Department)

Christian Pfaff (legal affairs)

Coordination and  
Guidance

Special Project: 1952-1968

Elena Brasier  
(Collection „Alfred  
Weiland“)

Susanne Paul  
(Collections OSI)

Matthias Maede

Sina Latza

Student  
assistents

# Washington Principles on Nazi-Confiscated Art



The screenshot shows the official website of the U.S. Department of State. The header includes the Department of State logo and the text "U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE DIPLOMACY IN ACTION". A search bar is located in the top right corner. Below the header, there is a navigation menu with links to various sections: SECRETARY KERRY, MEDIA CENTER, BLOG, TRAVEL, CAREERS, BUSINESS, YOUTH & EDUCATION, and MyStateDepartment. A secondary menu lists topics such as ABOUT STATE, POLICY ISSUES, COUNTRIES & REGIONS, ECONOMICS, ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT, ARMS CONTROL & INTERNATIONAL SECURITY, CIVILIAN SECURITY & DEMOCRACY, PUBLIC DIPLOMACY & PUBLIC AFFAIRS, and ASSISTANCE & DEVELOPMENT.

The main content area features a breadcrumb trail: Home » Under Secretary for Political Affairs » Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs » Regional Topics » Holocaust Issues » Documents and Links » Holocaust Issues: Fact Sheets and Press Releases » Washington Conference Principles on Nazi-Confiscated Art. The title "Washington Conference Principles on Nazi-Confiscated Art" is prominently displayed. Below the title, it states "BUREAU OF EUROPEAN AND EURASIAN AFFAIRS" and includes a "Share" button. The text indicates that the principles were released in connection with "The Washington Conference on Holocaust Era Assets" in Washington, DC, on December 3, 1998. The principles are listed as follows:

1. Art that had been confiscated by the Nazis and not subsequently restituted should be identified.
2. Relevant records and archives should be open and accessible to researchers, in accordance with the guidelines of the International Council on Archives.
3. Resources and personnel should be made available to facilitate the identification of all art that had been confiscated by the Nazis and not subsequently restituted.
4. In establishing that a work of art had been confiscated by the Nazis and not subsequently restituted, consideration should be given to unavoidable gaps or ambiguities in the provenance in light of the passage of time and the circumstances of the Holocaust era.
5. Every effort should be made to publicize art that is found to have been confiscated by the Nazis and not subsequently restituted in order to locate its pre-War owners or their heirs.
6. Efforts should be made to establish a central registry of such information.
7. Pre-War owners and their heirs should be encouraged to come forward and make known their claims to art that was confiscated by the Nazis and not subsequently restituted.
8. If the pre-War owners of art that is found to have been confiscated by the Nazis and not subsequently restituted, or their heirs, can be identified, steps should be taken expeditiously to achieve a just and fair solution, recognizing this may vary according to the facts and circumstances surrounding a specific case.
9. If the pre-War owners of art that is found to have been confiscated by the Nazis, or their heirs, can not be identified, steps should be taken expeditiously to achieve a just and fair solution.
10. Commissions or other bodies established to identify art that was confiscated by the Nazis and to assist in addressing ownership issues should have a balanced membership.
11. Nations are encouraged to develop national processes to implement these principles, particularly as they relate to alternative dispute resolution mechanisms for resolving ownership issues.

At the bottom of the page, there is a "Back to Top" link.

## 2. Nazi-confiscated assets

Cultural goods which were expropriated between 1933 and 1945

„Raubgut“

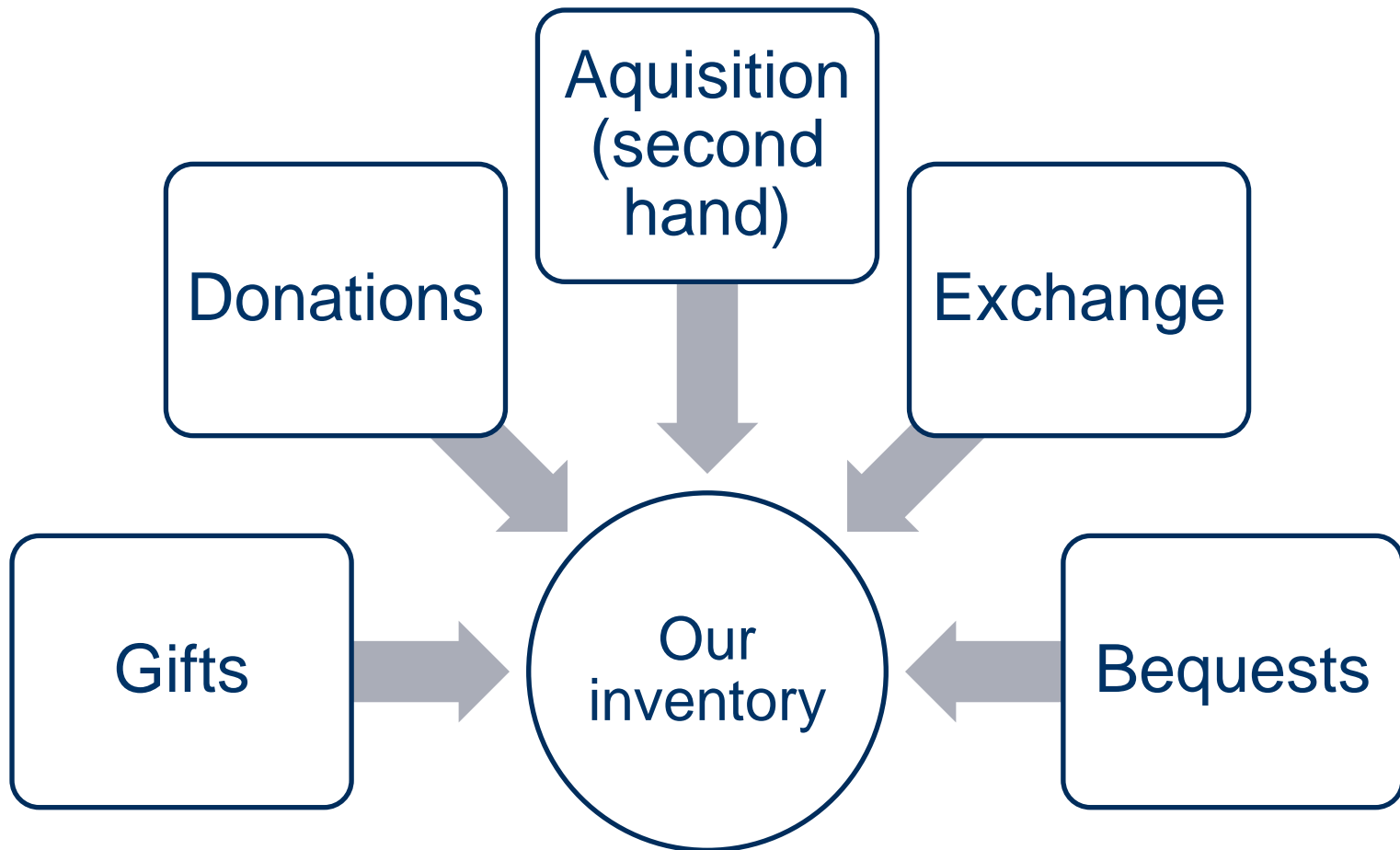
„Beutegut“



# Provenances in the University Library



# Nazi-looted Books at the University Library





# Cooperation

## Looted Cultural Assets

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Deutsch

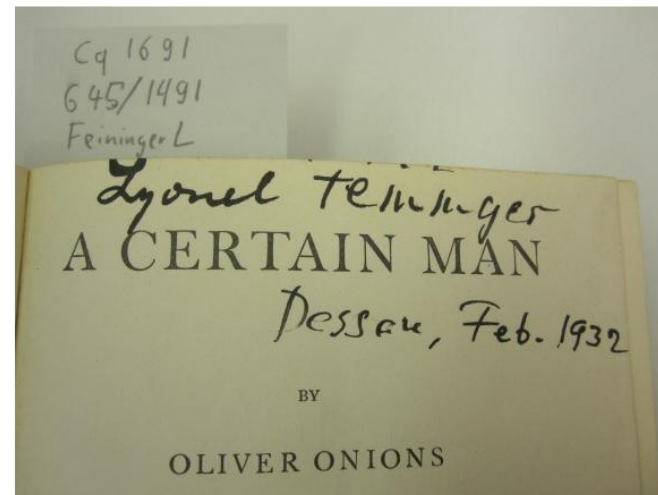
Search 

### Four institutions under one roof

Nazi-looted cultural goods — more precisely, looted cultural goods and war booty seized through Nazi persecution — should be understood as items that the Nazi Regime took from their rightful owners for reasons of persecution in the years 1933 to 1945. (FAQ).

These books came in libraries in many different ways. In various institutions, the library holdings are checked, identified and documented for items stolen and looted by the Nazis. The aim of the work is the return (restitution) of books as well as to find a fair and equitable solution for the rightful owners or their heirs. The results are entered in the shared **Looted Cultural Assets** database and made searchable.

With currently more than 27,000 provenances and close cooperation in the investigation of individual finds, the institutions involved are adopting a new way for libraries to bring justice to their mandates. The Stiftung Neue Synagoge Berlin – Centrum Judaicum Library, the Freie Universität Berlin University Library, the Potsdam University Library, and the Berlin Central and Regional Library (partners) want to sustainably secure and develop the networking of institutions. With this basic idea of **Looted Cultural Assets**, suggestions for supporting our work and getting involved are welcome.



G45 / 1491 (Feininger, Lyonel), Von Hand: Autogramm, Name, Ortsangabe, Datum:  
Allgemein; 'Lyonel Feininger Dessau, Feb. 1932'.

# The Case of Prof. Dr. Leo Polak

Leo Polak (1880 - 1941) Professor of Law and Philosophy



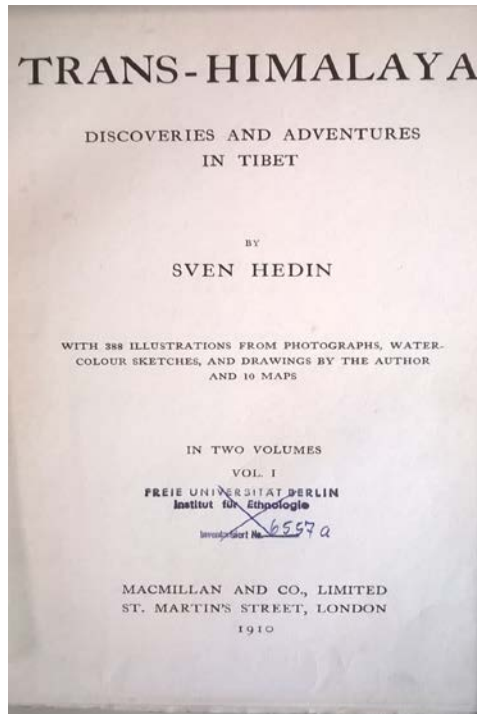


# The Case of Prof. Dr. Leo Polak

Hedin, Sven

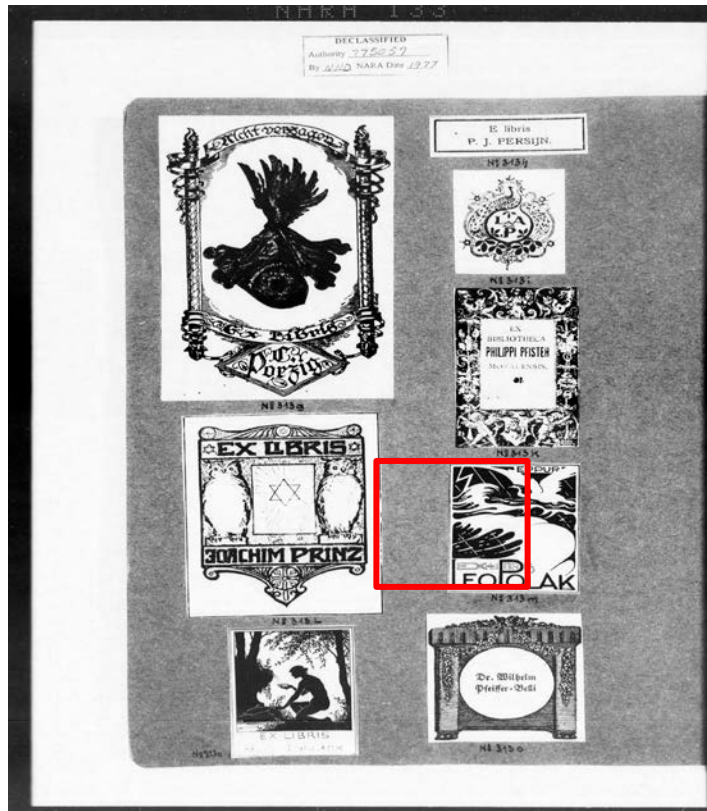
Trans-Himalaya – Discoveries and Adventures in Tibet

London: MacMillan und Co 1910



# The Case of Prof. Dr. Leo Polak

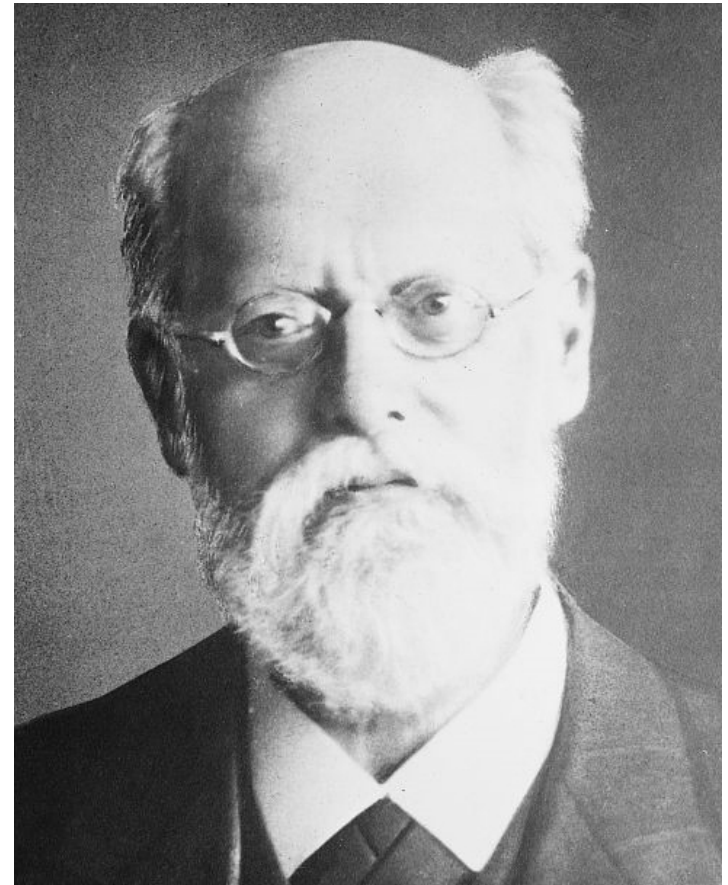
Fold3 Holocaust Archives – Offenbach Archival Depot



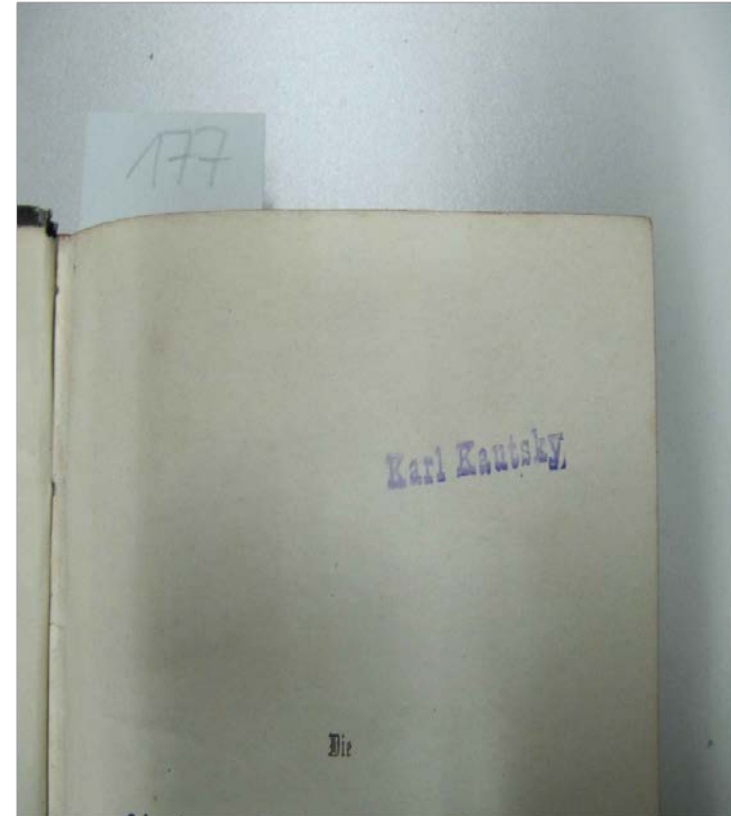
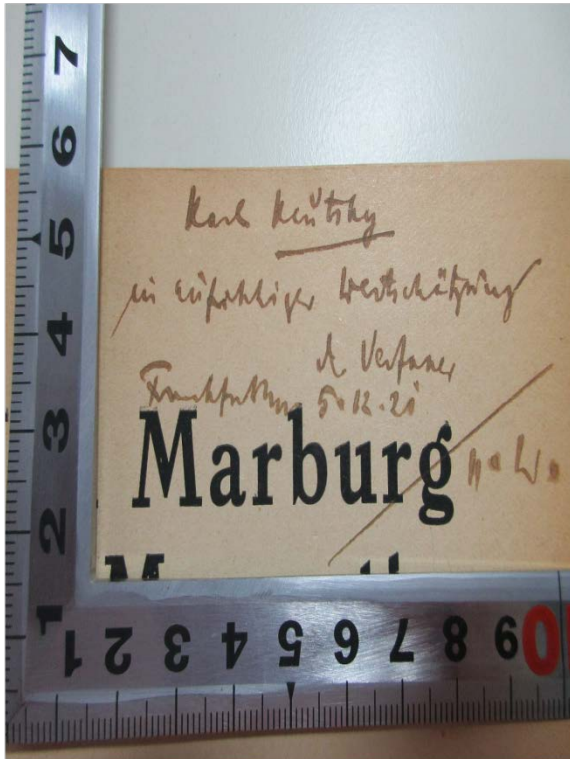
# The Case of Karl Kautsky

Karl Johann Kautsky (1854-1938)

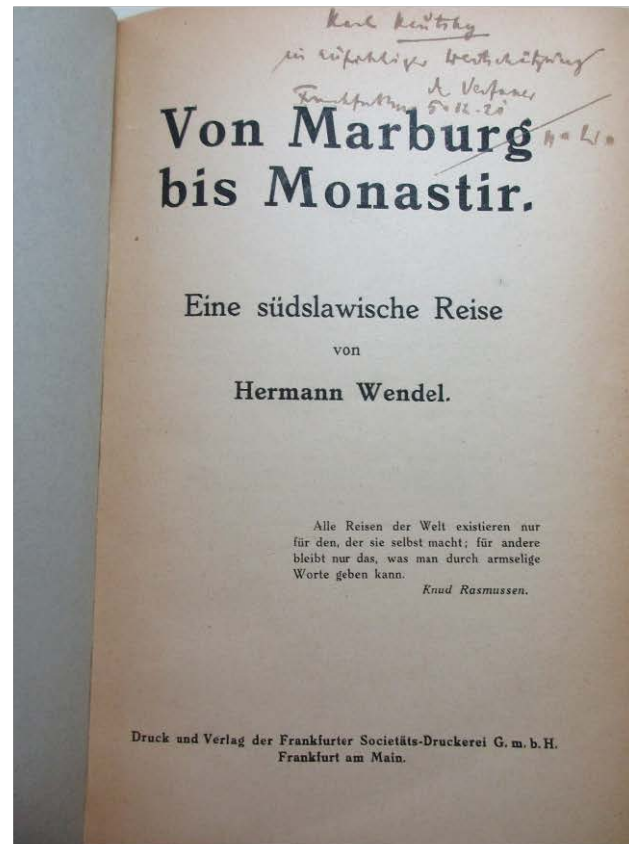
Social Democratic Politician and Philosopher



# The Case of Karl Kautsky




# The Case of Karl Kautsky





# International Institute of Social history



**international institute  
of social history**

Conducts research and collects data  
on the global history of labour,  
workers, and labour relations

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In Budapest a large exhibition is launched on the official Olympics in Berlin, 1936, and the planned Olimpiada Popular in Barcelona. The latter event... [+ more](#)

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Starting this week, photos, posters, prints and drawings from the IISH collections are again digitally displayed in the catalogue search.... [+ more](#)

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80 years ago, the Spanish Civil War started. Approximately seven hundred Dutch young men - and a single girl - left for Spain in the period '36-'38... [+ more](#)

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**events**

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30 June 2016  
In: IISG  
[+ more](#)

**47th IALHI Conference**  
7 September 2016 to 10 September 2016  
In: Helsinki, Finland  
[+ more](#)

**CFP/workshop on Slave Trade in Asia**  
10 November 2016 to 11 November 2016  
In: IISH  
[+ more](#)

**today in labour history**


 29 June 1931  
**Workers' Choirs**  
 German workers' choirs at various locations in Czech Northern Bohemia joined in a varied musical weekend at the end of June 1931... [more](#)

**About IISH Research**

Leo Lucassen about the IISH Research Programme

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 **IISH** 

 **Book Blog** 