



**Commission for
Art Recovery**

affiliated with the
World Jewish Congress
and the World Jewish
Restitution Organization

767 Fifth Avenue
Suite 4200
New York, NY 10153

tel: 212 • 872 • 9893
fax: 212 • 872 • 9815

e-mail: info@comartrecovery.org
www.comartrecovery.org

August 25, 2005

The Honorable Adam Daniel Rotfeld
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Al J. Ch. Szucha 23
00-580 Warsaw
Republic of Poland

Courbet, "Landscape Around Ornans"

Dear Minister Rotfeld:

Dr. Helen J. Wechsler, has forwarded to me a copy of your letter dated March 8, 2005 in which you praise the American Association of Museums for having created the Nazi-Era Provenance Internet Portal which led to the return of *Madonna and Child* to the National Museum.

The Commission for Art Recovery, Ronald S. Lauder, Chairman, was one of the founding contributors to this project. The Commission has always supported requests by the Government of Poland for the return of art displaced during World War II.

We think it appropriate, however, to bring to your attention the fact that the Ministry of Culture of Poland has refused to permit the return of art looted in Hungary during the Holocaust, i.e., the above-captioned Courbet, to its rightful owner, Mrs. Martha Nierenberg, heir to the collection of Baron Mór Herzog notwithstanding a decision by the National Museum of Poland that the painting should be returned to her. The purported justification for the action taken by the Ministry of Culture involved its own unsubstantiated assertion, made without explanation, that Mrs. Nierenberg is not the owner of the painting even though her title, as heir, had been confirmed not only by German and U.S. governments as well as the Hungarian government which itself returned another Herzog painting to her.

Ronald S. Lauder
Chairman

Charles A. Goldstein
Counsel

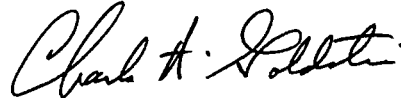
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As an advocate of the rule of law in international order, I assume that you would agree that it is unfortunate that the Government of Poland seeks and accepts the help of others in obtaining the return of art looted during the Holocaust but refuses to return Holocaust loot in its custody which, it admits, never was lawfully obtained by Poland and which it never owned.

If the time has come that the Government of Poland is willing to deal with matters of restitution of Holocaust loot in a fair and equitable manner as pledged at the Washington Conference (1998), your intervention at this time would be welcome. Attached is pertinent data. Further information on this matter as well as the decision made by the National Museum to return the painting is available from Tomasz Zasacki, Wardynski & Partners, Aleje Ujazdowskie 12, 00-478 Warsaw, Poland, Telephone: 4822-537-82 00, 4822-437-82 01, Email: tomasz.zasacki@wardynski.com.pl. Mr. Zasacki is counsel to Mrs. Nierenberg and the Commission for Art Recovery in Poland.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Very truly yours,



Charles A. Goldstein
Direct Telephone: 212-572-4092
Fax: 212-572-6758
Direct Email: Cgoldstein@rslmgmt.com

cc: Dr. Helen J. Wechsler
Mr. Erik Ledbetter
Tomasz Zasacki, Esq.