



AMERICAN
INSTITUTE FOR
CONSERVATION
OF HISTORIC AND
ARTISTIC WORKS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 28, 2014

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Honoring the Monuments Men of WWII by Saving Art Today

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The American Institute for Conservation of Historic & Artistic Works applauds The Monuments Men movie, whose cast depict some of those who served in the Monuments, Fine Arts, and Archives program under the Civil Affairs and Military Government Sections of the Allied armies during World War II. This group of approximately 350 men and women protected and preserved millions of pieces of artwork, sculpture, and other cultural artifacts in Europe that had been stolen by the Nazis.

Public awareness of the heroic accomplishments of the Monuments Men is being raised by The Monuments Men movie, based on the book of the same title by Robert Edsel and being released in February. What few know today is that men and women continue in the footsteps of the Monument Men—protecting art for future generations.

The American Institute for Conservation (AIC) honors the Monuments Men, in addition to the profession that grew in the wake of their work. George Stout, depicted by George Clooney in the movie, was one of AIC's founding members and a proponent of the creation of formal conservation training programs. Conservators today are highly skilled professionals, many of whom are willing and able to respond to human conflicts or natural disasters that threaten cultural property anywhere in the world. AIC members are experts in treating damaged art and educating owners and stewards of art in preservation practices. AIC's Foundation manages a specially-trained group of experts in emergency preparedness and response (AIC-CERT), teams that respond at no cost to calls for assistance from collecting institutions and others in need following a disaster.

Be sure to see The Monuments Men movie, but also keep in mind the heroic work being undertaken today by a variety of experts dedicated to protecting and preserving our cultural legacy.

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About AIC

The American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works is a national membership organization supporting the professionals who preserve our cultural heritage. AIC plays a crucial role in establishing and upholding professional standards, promoting research and publications, providing educational opportunities, and fostering the exchange of knowledge among conservators, allied professionals, and the public. Learn more about AIC at www.conservation-us.org.