

## MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

These are the Proceedings of the Washington Conference on Holocaust-Era Assets, held November 30 – December 3, 1998 in Washington, D.C. The Conference, co-hosted by the U.S. Department of State and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, was a government-organized, international meeting of forty-four governments and thirteen non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Participants sought to address the issue of assets confiscated by the Nazis during the Holocaust (1933-45), specifically art and insurance, as well as communal property, archives and books, and to conclude any remaining gold issues. In addition, the Conference dealt with the role of historical commissions and Holocaust education, remembrance and research. The agenda for the Conference (see Appendix E, pages 931-948) consisted of plenary sessions where all asset classes were discussed, followed by “break-out” sessions in which each topic was discussed in greater detail. The daylong session on Holocaust education, remembrance and research was also an integral element of the Washington Conference.

The Proceedings of the Washington Conference include the following: formal statements made by presenters during the Conference; “delegation statements” submitted during or after the Conference; “position papers” provided by delegations as part of the official record; interventions made from the floor during free discussion periods that were submitted in writing for purposes of publication; and related documents that are included for the historical record.

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J.D. Bindenagel  
February 19, 1999



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