

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No.

785017

ACC

10000/109/1478

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AMERICAN ACADEMY, ROME  
DEC. 1943 - MAR. 1944

HEADQUARTERS  
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION  
R.C. & M.G. SECTION  
APO 394

Ref/181/10/CA

NEF/mrd  
14 March 1944

SUBJECT: American Academy in Rome

TO : Military Government Section, A.P.H.Q.

1. With reference to your letter 386.2 of 29 Feb. 44, the Chief Commissioner has asked me to say that the disposition of the American Academy in Rome has been discussed with the Commanding General designated Rome Garrison and with the S.C.A.O. 5th Army, A.M.G. Subject to military exigency it is not proposed to use the American Academy in Rome for any purpose except possibly for Monuments, Fine Arts and Education. The matter is, however, purely one of operational requirements and no assurances can be given to the Trustees of the Academy.

For the Chief Commissioner:

*J*  
NORMAN E. FISKE  
Colonel, Cavalry  
Deputy Executive Commissioner

6632  
*Per*  
*25*



9

Dep. Res. Com.

Please see whole file. You probably know a great deal about this ~~last~~ institution.

Refrence at 7 cannot be traced despite close inquiry

2. I suggest that the real reason for their reluctance to let see him the building is the fear that it will continue to be used for a long time after ~~the~~ it would be used if occupied by a purely military formation - an opinion which has some weight.

3. Subject to your local knowledge I suggest we (as Acc) make no special claim to it at the same time denying material para. at 3.

GB 10/3. 6631

8  
Ca Falty - Unit.

1. Re 1-7. In my view for HDines  
is right (vid. 1) and the Academy  
will be better off under AS than  
some unknown Unit - possibly  
Storinus!
2. The contrary opinion expressed  
in Div 3 (as marked) by the  
Academy is based on a mis-  
conception of the attitude of the  
Italians to AS. Our attitude  
to cultural institutions, monuments,  
education, the Church etc has been  
almost blameless and well do the  
Italians know it. The Academy  
be associated closely with such a  
"liberal" military post is to the adv.  
of the Academy. 8/7/3



*18186 MAR Recd*  
**CONFIDENTIAL**

*C A B 17*

*S-281*

*RECEIVED*  
*6 MAR 1944*  
*A. C. C.*

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS  
Military Government Section

MGS: 386.2

ATM/TBJ/cgs  
29 February 1944

SUBJECT: American Academy in Rome - Facilities

TO : H.Q., A.C.C.

*no trace here*

1. Reference letter to H.Q., A.M.G., C.M.F. on 3 December on above subject under reference MGS: 619.3, attached are the following:-

- (a) copy of this Section letter of 18 December to Major-General Hilldring.
- (b) copy letter from Mr. Huntington Cairns to Gen. Hilldring dated 10 February.
- (c) copy 1st endorsement on (b).
- (d) copy letter of 1 February from Executive Secretary of the American Academy in Rome to Mr. Huntington Cairns.

2. Your comments are requested on the above please with particular reference to the actual use proposed for the building.

*Apudman*  
*(18186 MAR 1944)*  
F. A. T. MAXWELL,  
Colonel, Acting Chief.

*6629*

Incls: as above

*see 10*

**CONFIDENTIAL**

C O P Y

6/

THE AMERICAN COMMISSION FOR THE PROTECTION AND SALVAGE  
OF ARTISTIC AND HISTORIC MONUMENTS IN EUROPE

February 10, 1944

Dear General Hildring:

I enclose a duplicate original of a letter  
I have received from the Executive Secretary of  
the American Academy in Rome.

If there is any further information you  
desire with respect to this matter I shall be  
pleased to send it to you.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Huntington Cairns,

Secretary

Major General J. H. Hildring  
Director, Civil Affairs Division  
War Department  
Washington 25, D. C.

Enclosure

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5  
On copy of letter from Mr. Huntington Cairns, Secretary, The American Commission for the Protection and Salvage of Artistic and Historic Monuments in Europe, to General Hildring, dated 10 February 1944.  
Subject: American Academy in Rome.

AG O&O American Academy in 1st Ind. EAR:mce  
Rome (1 Feb 44)OB-C-CAD  
War Department, A.G.O., 18 February 1944.

To: Lieutenant General Jacob L. Devers, Deputy Allied Commander in Chief,  
Allied Force Headquarters, Algeria, Algeria. (Attention: Military  
Government Section).

1. Reference is made to the memorandum concerning the American Academy in Rome, dated 18 December 1943, from the Chief, Military Government Section, Allied Force Headquarters (MGS-619.3). Pursuant to the request made in paragraph 5 of said memorandum, the suggestions made therein were transmitted to the American Commission for the Protection and Salvage of Artistic and Historic Monuments in Europe, on 24 December 1943, and in turn, transmitted by the Commission to the Executive Committee of the American Academy in Rome.

2. By letter dated 10 February 1944, the Commission forwarded to the Civil Affairs Division of the War Department a duplicate original of a letter received from the American Academy in Rome. A copy of the letter from the Commission, with the inclosed duplicate original letter from the American Academy in Rome, is forwarded for your information and such action as may be consistent with your policy.

By order of the Secretary of War:

A. N. HLODZINSKI

Adjutant General.

1 Inclosure.

Ltr. to Mr. Cairns, 1 Feb 44.



785017

C O P Y

AMERICAN ACADEMY IN ROME

February 1, 1944

Mr. Huntington Cairns  
Secretary, American Commission for the  
Protection and Salvage of Artistic and  
Historic Monuments in Europe  
National Gallery of Art  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Cairns:

The Trustees of the American Academy in Rome at a recent meeting received with pleasure the copy -- transmitted by you -- of General Hildring's letter of December 24th stating that the tender of the use of the Academy's facilities in Rome to the Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives Subcommittee of the Allied Control Commission for Italy had been accepted. Presumably because that Subcommittee is expected to use only a part of the Academy's facilities in Rome, the suggestion was made by Allied Force Headquarters that the Academy authorize the full use of its buildings in Rome by AMG and subsequently by the Allied Control Commission.

This suggestion raises doubts in the minds of the members of the Academy's Trustees which we shall state frankly for such consideration as may be given them amid the urgencies of war. But first let us state definitely and unequivocally that, not only because we realize that the Allied military authorities have full right to requisition the Academy's property, but also because as patriotic Americans the Trustees are concerned primarily that our efforts and resources be fully dedicated to the immediate aim of winning the war, we hereby freely offer the use of the Academy's property to the Allied military authorities for whatever purpose will contribute most effectively to that aim. There are no reservations to this offer, which we make despite our lack of understanding of our legal position under requisition as against our position under this offer. Our legal position appears unimportant and beside the main point, which is winning the war.

Our doubts in relation to the suggestion referred to above, go along these lines:

It is recognized by all agencies of government concerned with our foreign relations, that institutions, such as the American Academy in Rome, which have a long record of disinterested and highly respected cultural activity abroad, are fine national assets in times of international stress. As Americans we are interested that that kind of asset be not impaired for the future. We have the feeling, if the Academy becomes associated in Italians' minds with the controls which

inevitably must be imposed and maintained for a considerable period, that the asset represented by the Academy, in the sense herein meant, will inevitably be impaired for the future; and that accordingly the Academy's future usefulness to the Nation will be diminished to some degree. We have it in mind that, following the last war, the Academy's usefulness had been definitely enhanced by its use as a Red Cross center during that war.

Hence, we would respectfully suggest that -- because of the probable duration of their controls over the lives of the Italian people, and of the popular resentment against them which is almost sure to be evoked -- most branches of the AMG and the later Allied Control Commission would be peculiarly unsatisfactory agencies to occupy the Academy buildings in Rome; and we would request that, if the buildings are needed by the military authorities for uses other than those of the Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives Subcommittee and related activities, they be assigned if possible to some activity other than AMG. We make the suggestion with the less embarrassment because we have no doubt that, if Rome is not largely destroyed, plenty of other buildings -- more suitable -- will be available for AMG and the subsequent Control Commission.

The purposes of the American Academy in Rome, as incorporated by Act of Congress on March 3, 1905, and amended on June 6, 1912, are "to promote the study and practice of the fine arts and to aid and stimulate the education and training of architects, painters, sculptors, and other artists .... (and) the study and investigation of the archaeology, literature, and history of the classical and later periods."

If use of the Academy property in Rome in the line of those purposes can be found, such a solution of their use would, it goes without saying, be most satisfactory all around. But we recognize that this is war and that the highest arts of peace are likely to find little place in an occupied Rome. Still, we would draw attention to the fact that the American Academy in Rome, is a permanent American cultural institution in Italy, with a long record in the minds of the Italian people of contributions to the higher natures of men and, as such, has spiritual assets which are important even in war.

We deeply trust that this is said in such a way as to make our position clear. We know that, sitting in New York City, we are not likely to have any ideas about the military use of the Academy's buildings in Rome that will be of any moment to the Commanding General. To him we say: Use them in any way you want; if you can use them with a view to their future, long-term usefulness as a national American asset, so much the better.



2

Copies of this letter are enclosed for transmission to General Hildring and to any other persons or agencies as you may deem desirable.

The letter was adopted with the force of a resolution by the Board of Trustees.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ R. G.  
Roscoe Guernsey  
Executive Secretary

c c Associate Justice Owen J. Roberts  
Lt. Col. James Kellum Smith

6024

JCH/HTR/mit

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS  
Military Government Section

MGS-619.3

18 December 1943

SUBJECT: American Academy in Rome

TO : Major General J.H. Hildring, Chief,  
Civil Affairs Division, War Department  
Washington, D.C.

1. The generous offer of the American Academy in Rome transmitted in your memorandum of 10 November has been gratefully accepted by AMG.

2. It should be pointed out, however, that International Law permits the requisitioning of the Academy Building for military purposes and that such requisitioning is likely to be made by Allied Military Authorities, if the space afforded by the Academy Building is needed.

3. In view of this situation it is felt here that it would be to the best interests of the American Academy in Rome if its buildings in Rome were occupied by a military unit which would use the buildings with appropriate care and by virtue of its occupancy prevent their use by other units, the nature of whose duties might cause damage.

4. It is therefore, suggested that the Executive Committee of the American Academy in Rome should pass a resolution authorizing the use of its buildings in Rome by AMG and subsequently by the Allied Control Commission when it functions in Rome with the Italian Government during military occupation and before the arrival of civilians. Such authorization would allow AMG to occupy the Academy without requisition and to forestall less desirable occupancy by others.

5. It is requested that this suggestion should be transmitted to the Executive Committee of the American Academy in Rome and that these Headquarters should be informed of any action which may be taken.

J. C. HOLMES  
Brigadier General, G.S.C.  
Chief, Military Government Section

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