

ACC 10000/145/253 20421/1

PROPOSED USE OF BUILDINGS OF AMERICAN ACADEMY

OCT. 1943. JUNE 1945

PROPOSED USE OF BUILDINGS OF AMERICAN ACADEMY IN ROME

OCT. 1943. JUNE 1945

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785016

On His Majesty's Service

**WAR ECONOMY**

Open by slitting along  
the flap edge.

**RE-USE ENVELOPE**

by sealing with Economy  
Label to cover old  
address and post marks.

Major E.T. D. Wald

Adv. HQ. ACE.

CMF

PERSONAL

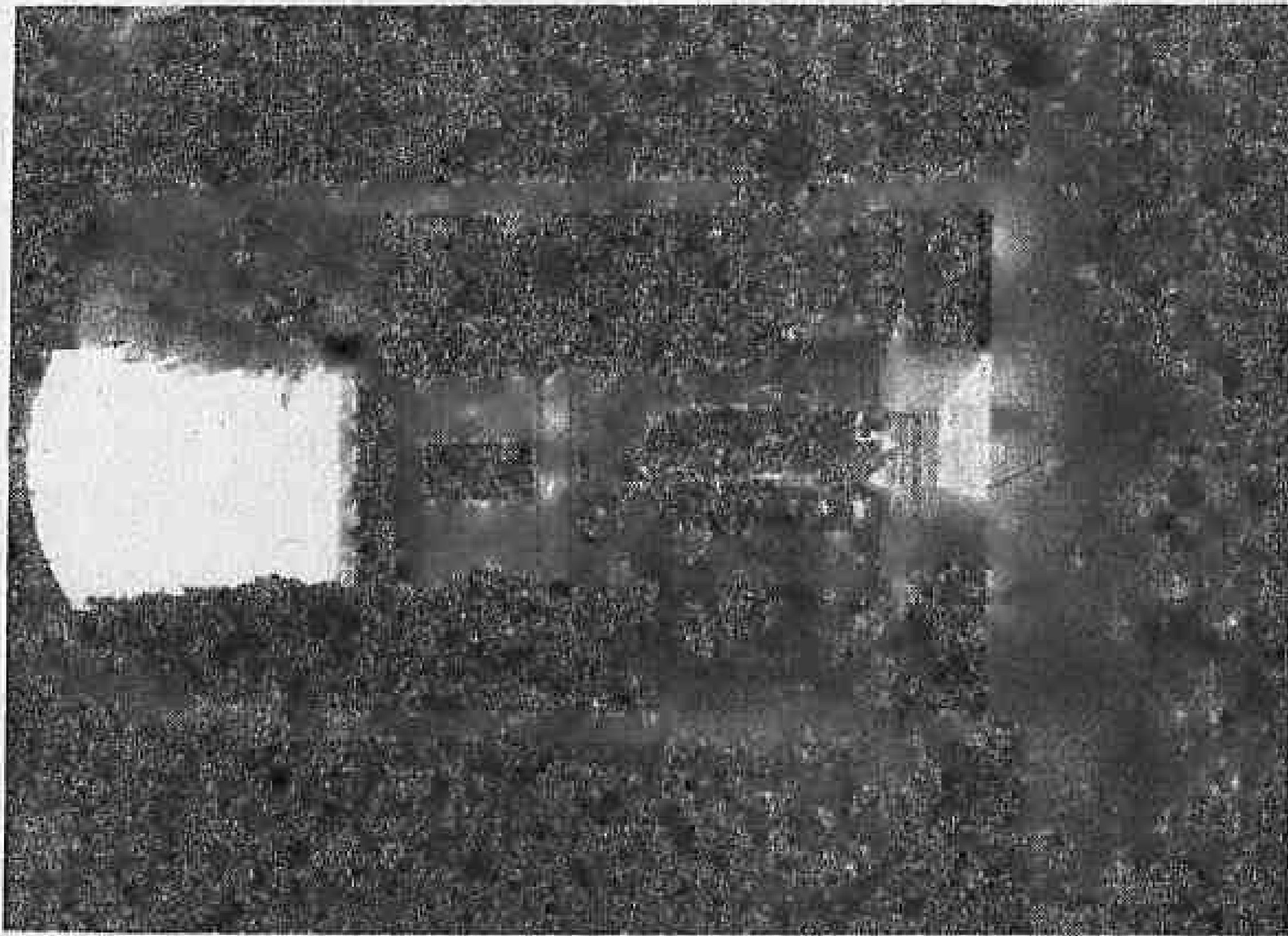


7 GIU. 1945

## THE STARS AND STRIPES

Thursday, June 7, 1945

## GI TOURIST HEADQUARTERS



The lovely grounds of the American Academy of Rome have been taken over by the Army as a headquarters for lectures and tours. GIs on pass will find this courtyard there.

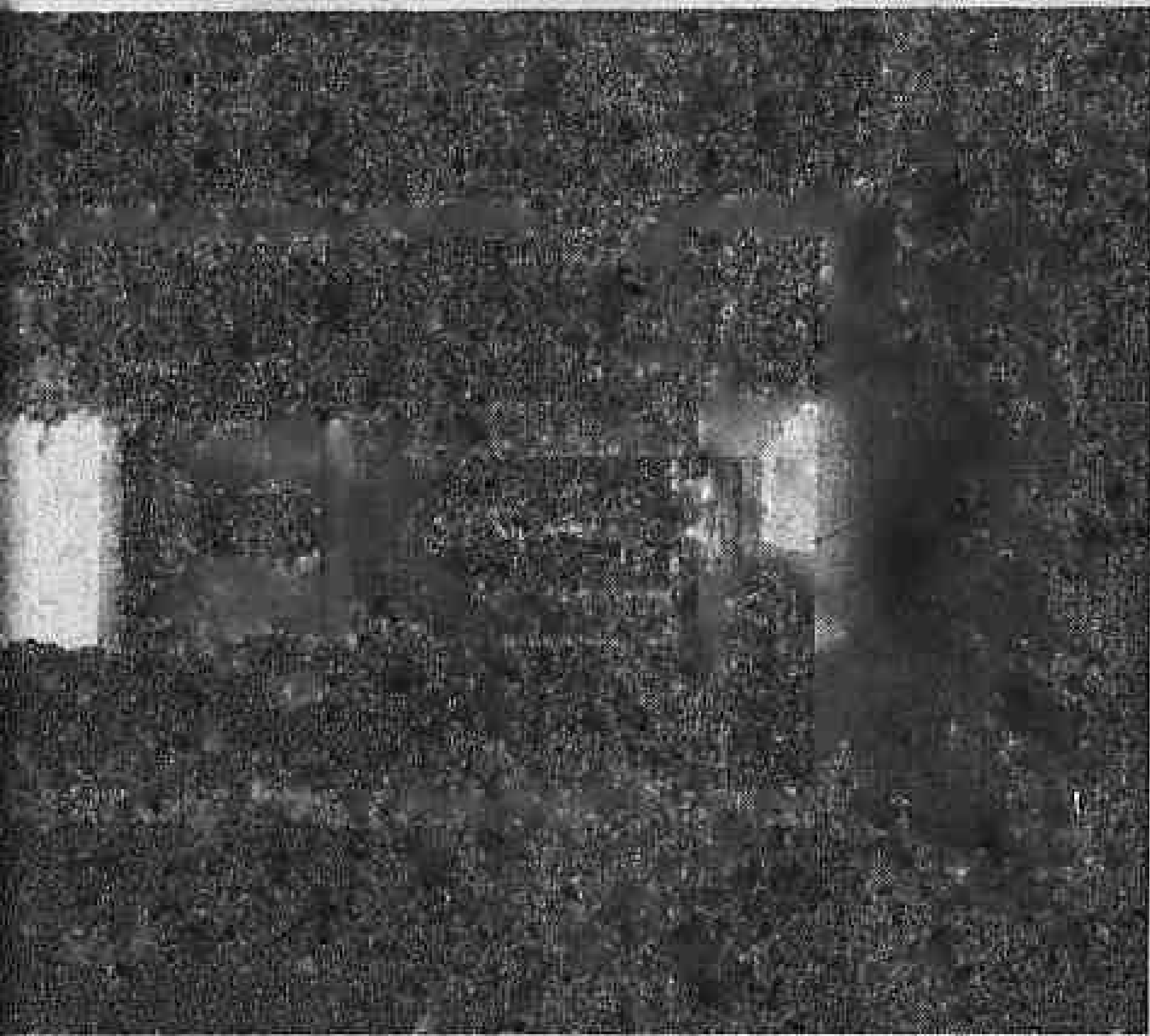
(Staff Photo by Sgt. G. Udell)

2857

## Lectures On Roman Culture For GIs Will Start Monday

ROME, June 6—The first of a regular series of free "Leave Lectures" for American military personnel visiting Rome will start Monday afternoon, June 11, at the American Academy of Rome.

Designed by the Information and Education Section, MTO-USA, to "brief" visiting GIs on the stories behind the famous Roman landmarks, the lecture-discussions will cover the high points of Italian art, history, and architecture. Field trips will be conducted by professors from the leading universities at Rome, Milan and Turin, and the Vatican Museum.



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Three 45-minute lecture and discussion periods will make up each afternoon's work, along with free refreshments and other entertainment. GIs will also have free access to the Academy's famous library and museum.

The complete series of lectures will extend over three afternoons, and a new series will start every Monday and Thursday. Men who expect to visit Rome may register for the free courses at their nearest Red Cross, their I and E officer, the Red Cross desk at the Rest Center, or by simply dropping a note to Leave Lectures, APO 794. Free buses will take GIs to the academies.

The Leave Lectures are under the immediate direction of Lt. Lawrence J. Watken, and S-Sgt. Edwin P. Edwinn.

3 MAR 1945

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION  
APO 394

ETDW/mb

Subcommission for Monuments Fine Arts and Archives  
(Tel. 489081, ext. 442 & 664; 478480)

20421/1/MFAA

3 March 1945

Your Excellency:

With regard to your enquiry concerning the occupation of any of the buildings of the American Academy by the Monuments and Fine Arts Subcommission, the situation is as follows.

Cognizant of the generous suggestion by the Trustees of the Academy that its buildings might be used by this Subcommission, we fully intended to avail ourselves of it. However, since the buildings are so far removed from the centre of the city and the problem of transport not only for ourselves but for anyone who wished to consult with us was critical, and particularly since our Subcommission was required by the Executive Officer of AG to be under the same roof with the other Subcommissions, the pleasant prospect of being housed on the Gianicolo had to be abandoned.

May I herewith again express to you and to the Trustees of the Academy my deep appreciation and thanks for this generous offer.

Yours very truly,

2856

His Excellency  
Myron C. Taylor  
Via Boncompagni  
- R O M E -  
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*Ernest T. De Wald*  
ERNEST T. DE WALD  
Lt.Col., Spec. Res.  
Director.

3 MAR 1945



HEAD QUARTERS  
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION  
APO 394

Subcommission for Monuments Fine Arts and Archives  
(Tel. 439081, ext. 442 & 664; 478490)

20421/1/MFAA

16 October 1944

Subject: Use of Library, American Academy.

To : American Academy in ROME.

1. The two American citizens, unnamed have expressed a desire to use the library of the American Academy in connection with studies they are following at the Gregorian University. Their request appears reasonable.

2. It is therefore requested that the facilities of the library, so far as they are now available, be granted to them.

*E. F. Jew*  
ARNEST F. DE WILD  
Major, Spec. Res.  
Director.

Rev. Salvatore De Vita )  
of the Fathers of St. Charles, Via Calandrelli 11  
Rev. Dominic Valentino ) (Monteverde).



MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD  
OF TRUSTEES OF THE AMERICAN ACADEMY IN ROME  
HELD AT THE OFFICE OF YORK AND SAWYER, 101  
PARK AVENUE, NEW YORK CITY, ON JANUARY 31,  
1944, AT 4:30 P.M.

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Present: Messrs. Adams, Baldwin, Clarke, Cortissoz, Damrosch,  
Dinsmoor, Faulkner, Gugler, Jay, Johnson, Manship,  
Moe, F. H. Taylor and Guernsey.

In the absence of the President and First Vice  
President, Mr. Adams, Second Vice President, presided.

On motion, the minutes of the Annual Meeting of the  
Board held on December 14, 1943, were approved.

The Chairman presented the written request signed by  
five trustees asking that a special meeting be called for the  
purpose of considering the matter of the proposed utiliza-  
tion of the Academy's facilities in Rome by the Allied  
military authorities, AMG and other Allied Government activ-  
ities. This question had previously been considered by the  
Executive Committee at two special meetings, October 14, 1943,  
and January 10, 1944. At the latter meeting a committee  
(Messrs. Moe, Dinsmoor and Baldwin) had been appointed to  
draft a letter explaining to Allied Force Headquarters, thr  
through appropriate channels, the Academy's attitude in this  
matter. The committee's draft of a letter had been circulated  
among the members of the Executive Committee for criticism  
or approval. As a result the committee had made minor changes  
in the letter. At the request of the Chair, Mr. Moe present-  
ed the matter to the Board and read the latest draft of the  
letter. After careful consideration and some slight revision  
of the draft, on motion, the following resolution was unani-  
mously adopted:

2854

Resolved, that the Trustees of the American Academy  
in Rome adopt with the force of a resolution the following  
letter containing a statement of the Trustees' position with  
reference to the use of the Academy's property in Rome:

20120

-2-

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.

2853

-3-

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.

2852

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."



-4-

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.

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

Sincerely yours,

Roscoe Guernsey,  
Executive Secretary.

2851



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Mr. Faulkner, who had paid a special visit to President Smith during the week-end, brought from him cordial greetings to the Board and also a suggestion of a committee to clarify the minds of all as to the relations to be established between the future Acting Director and the Board of Trustees.

After discussion, it was, on motion, voted that the Committee to nominate an Acting Director for the emergency period be requested to study the question of the relations between the emergency Acting Director and the Board of Trustees, and draft a statement setting forth those relations as viewed by the committee.

Mr. Moe reported that the committee had not yet decided upon a nominee and would canvass the field further.

The question was raised as to the date on which the April meeting of the Board should be held. As no one desired any change from the second Tuesday as specified in the By-Laws, the date will be April 11th, unless later change is made.

On motion, the meeting was adjourned at 5:25 P.M.

Roscoe Guernsey,  
Executive Secretary.

2850

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING  
OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF  
THE AMERICAN ACADEMY IN ROME  
HELD AT THE OFFICE OF YORK AND  
SAWYER, 101 PARK AVENUE, NEW  
YORK CITY, ON JANUARY 10, 1944,  
AT 4:30 P.M.

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Present: Messrs. Adams, Ayres, Baldwin (by invitation), Clarke, Dinsmoor, Faulkner, Gugler, Manship, Moe, and Guernsey.

Since the Acting President, Professor Egbert, was absent because of illness, Mr. Adams, Second Vice President, presided.

Before the committee took up the principal business of the meeting the Secretary read three letters of general interest: One from Headquarters New York Port of Embarkation, Special Service Supply Division, expressing gratitude for three Master Record Libraries just received as a gift from the Academy and soon to be sent to the armed forces overseas;

Two other very interesting letters were read, one from Captain Mason Hammond and one from Lt. Robert McKnight, both conveying heartiest thanks for the Christmas boxes sent them in the name of the Trustees, and adding informative and entertaining accounts of their experiences in the service.

The special business of the meeting was the consideration of the proposed utilization of Academy facilities by A M G. A communication (transmitted by Major General Hildring, Director, Civil Affairs Division, War Department, Washington, D. C.) had been received from Allied Force Headquarters, gratefully accepting the Academy's offer to provide facilities for the use of the monuments and fine arts subcommission of the Allied Control Commission, but also adding the following comments and suggestion:

"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.

2849

"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.

"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

-2-

arrival of civilians. Such authorization would allow AMG to occupy the Academy without requisition and to forestall less desirable occupancy by others."

A copy of the communication, together with a letter received by the Secretary from President Smith outlining his views of the proposal, had previous to the meeting been mailed to all members of the committee.

The Secretary presented for discussion a tentative draft of a resolution in line with the suggestion of the Allied Force Headquarters and the comments of Mr. Smith. The committee was unanimously of the opinion that the Academy's property should be used by the Allied military authorities for whatever purpose would most effectively contribute to the winning of the war. It was also hoped that its use could be confined to those activities that would least impair the future value of the Academy as a spiritual national asset in our country's foreign relations. It was felt that this end could best be achieved if the Academy's facilities were to be associated as far as possible with activities closely related to the Academy's aims.

It therefore seemed best to the committee not to adopt the suggested formal resolution but by letter to explain fully the attitude of the committee.

After very careful consideration of the whole matter, upon motion, it was unanimously voted that Messrs. Moe, Dinsmoor, and Baldwin be appointed as a committee, with power, to reply to the communication from Allied Force Headquarters.

The committee proposed, in consultation with the President, to draft a letter and send copies to all members of the Executive Committee for comments. 2848

For the Committee to Nominate an Acting Director, Mr. Moe reported considerable progress. The committee had met with and been very favorably impressed by one possible candidate - Dr. Halfdan I. Gregersen (aged 47), Associate Professor of Romance languages and Dean of Williams College since 1938, a scholar of broad training and very successful experience.

Mr. Moe planned to write concerning him to the President, and requested the members to get all information they could about Dr. Gregersen and transmit it to the committee.

This report of progress was accepted.

The Secretary then read a letter addressed to the Trustees by Mr. Bradford, offering a plan for promoting the



-3-

interests of Italian artists in reconstruction work in Italy.

It was suggested that the proposals might later be brought to the attention of the Acting Director.

As it seemed that no definite action could appropriately be taken at the present stage of developments, it was voted to refer the letter to the Executive Committee as a whole, and the Secretary was instructed to send copies to all members.

Since it was believed that there would be no more important business to be transacted during this month, it was voted to omit the stated meeting of the Executive Committee in January unless the Acting President should deem such meeting necessary.

On motion, the meeting was adjourned at 5:50 P.M.

Roscoe Guernsey,  
Executive Secretary.

2847



HEADQUARTERS  
ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT  
APO 512

15 December 1943

Refer to:  
AMG/619.3/AD.

SUBJECT: American Academy in Rome.

TO: Commanding General, A.P.H.Q., M.G.S.

1. Reference letter, your headquarters, file MGS 619.3, dated 3 December 1943, same subject as above.

2. This headquarters has considered the generous offer of the Committee on the American Academy in Rome and recommends that it be gratefully accepted.

3. It is premature to say that the American Academy will in fact be used as the committee suggests until its condition is ascertained. A complete report will be rendered through channels at the earliest opportunity.

4. It is presumed that the same offer will be extended to the Allied Control Commission when it functions in Rome with the Italian Government.

For the Commanding Officer:

2846

*R.R. Cripps*

R.R. CRIPPS,  
Lt. Col.,

for the Administrative Director.

*Copy to M.F.A. ✓*

MEMORANDUM  
 ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT  
 MONTELEONE MIN: AREA AND ASSIGNED SUBCOMMISSION

AFSA/PKBR

12 December 1943

MEMORANDUM.

SUBJECT: American Academy in Rome.

TO: Administrative Director.

Reference #35 - 615.3 and attached correspondence:

1. I consider that the generous offer of the Committee of the American Academy in Rome should be gratefully accepted, and that a promise should be made that a report on the condition of the Academy will be rendered to the Committee at the earliest opportunity.
2. It would be premature to say that the American Academy will in fact be used as the Committee proposes, until its condition is known.
3. The American Academy stands on the Janiculum, some considerable distance from the centre of Rome, and across the Tiber, and it may not in practice be found convenient by H.Q. A.C.C. for the use suggested.

*PKBR* 2345  
 P. R. Phillips Reynolds.  
 Major R.A.  
 A/Director, AFSA Subcom.

Ref.  
FA&M  
Rome  
Private Comments

Memorandum to: Major Ashburn, Adviser on Ed. and FA&M,  
Region IV  
Subject : Care of the American Academy in Rome and  
other similar institutions.

1. Sicilian experience has shown that the chief risks to Cultural and Scientific Institutions, apart from bombing, are seeking by civilians during the confusion of Occupation and by troops quartered in them immediately after the Occupation when the troops have the feeling that to the victor belongs the spoils. In Palermo, for instance, the scientific Institute of the University suffered heavy losses by the removal of lenses and mirrors from microscopes and other scientific equipment and in some cases this was certainly due to the troops quartered in them immediately after the occupation. In Augusta, troops have removed absolutely all the furniture.

2. It is therefore recommended that ANZOT Officers attached to advancing troops make strong representations to the Commanding General, to go down through the command right to company commanders, that great care be exercised in the quartering of troops in public, cultural, educational, etc. buildings. Where possible this should be avoided. If it is absolutely necessary, a responsible officer should see that contents are if possible inventoried and if not that easily movable stuff, like books, instruments, etc., are stored under lock and key. It is also recommended that measures be taken to post guards on all such buildings to prevent civilian sacking.

3. In Region 2, particular attention is called to the Foreign Institutes of Learning. What the Italians have done about these is unknown, but in Rome there are well-established and equipped Schools or Academies of the US (Porta San Pancrazio), England (Viale Italia), France (Palazzo Farnese), Germany (Via Sardegna), Sweden, Russia, Belgium, Holland, etc.

4. It is requested that a particular effort be made to prevent the re-quisitioning of four of these: The American Academy in Rome, which has the Academy proper, two adjacent villas (the Belletti and the Caravaggio) and the Villa Aurelia (one of the best sites in Rome) on the Janiculum near the Porta San Pancrazio. Capt. Harbord is a Trustee. Secondly, the British School has a building in the Viale Giulia. Thirdly, the German Epigraphical Institute has one of the finest archaeological collections in the world in the Vatican Church Hall on Via Sardegna. Fourthly the French Academy in the Villa Medici and the French School in the Palazzo Farnese.

ANZOT HQ.  
16 Oct. 1943.  
Thm File  
actually  
with you.

For Director  
to see for File

204211-



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Mason Hammond  
Capt. MC  
Adviser on Fine Arts and Monuments.

20044



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