

ACC 10000/145/466

ROYAL PALACES NAPLES CAPODIMONTE + CASERTA

Feb. - July 1944

HQ
16 AUG 1944
0940

Y. Fine Arts (15480)

ADVANCE HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394

JBWP/rjj

Subcommission for Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives.

20034/1

13 July 1944.

SUBJECT: British Officer's Club, Naples.

TO : Regional Commissioner, Region III
Attn. Regional Fine Arts Officer.

1. Attached copy of letter received today from 57 Area is forwarded for action. Please contact 57 Area at the earliest opportunity.

2. Copy of any report would be welcomed by this HQ.

Ernest T. De Wald
ERNEST T. DE WALD
Major, Spec. Res.
Director.

Copy to:
OC, 57 Area, CMF.

2505

COPY

SUBJECT:- British Officers Club, NAPLES.

Q 704

HQ A.C.C.

1. The British Officers Club, as you probably know, is located in the Casino, which forms the Northern end of the San Carlo Opera House. It is proposed to increase the accommodation by certain minor alterations within the Casino and by building an additional room on the Terrace on the East side.
2. This latter may be considered as affecting the outside structure of the San Carlo Opera House which is scheduled as an "ancient monument". I am anxious therefore that you should know of the intention and I should of course be most willing to show you the plans.
3. Part of the present wall is being pulled down, but this is simply because in its present state it is dangerous. Nothing is contemplated which will in the least prejudice the future restoration of this very badly damaged part of the building, and no other part is affected.

(signed) J. B. RANDALL (?)
Brigadier
Comd 57 Area.

Field
9 Jul 44
JGBR/RMcG

2505

HEADQUARTERS
REGION 3, ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
A.P.O. 394, U. S. ARMY

22 July 1944

FA - 92

SUBJECT: Proposed Alterations For British Officers Club
in San Carlo Theatre, Naples.

TO : Subcommittee for Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives,
Advance Headquarters, ACC.

1. The plans of the proposed alterations for the British Officers Club in the San Carlo Theatre of Naples were studied today with Captain Wandsley of the 10 C.R.E. and the building visited.

2. The alterations within the Casino are minor and concern only the adjustment of fairly modern partitions and in no structural way effect the monument.

3. The additional room on the east Terrace concerns a section of the Palace and Theatre which has been seriously damaged by bombs. The room is to be built on top of the Terrace of the Foyer of the Theatre - at present almost completely demolished by bombs - and this section is a fairly modern addition. The room and its corridor will run along the main structural wall of the Palace which is pierced by several doors or windows with elaborate mouldings and pediments and the wall is decorated with flat pilasters and capitals. All the decoration of this wall is an integral part of the Palace. 2506

4. The proposed alterations were discussed with the Superintendent of Monuments and he saw no objection to them provided a solid wall were built to protect these decorative elements; namely that they not be destroyed or removed by tearing away. The undersigned concurs in this.

5. The upper part of this east wall of the Palace has been seriously damaged and there seems no objection to removing the upper parts which are in danger of collapsing.

For The Regional Commissioner:

Paul Gardner,
Major, AUS,
Regional Fine Arts Officer

Copy

Subject:- Theatre - Royal Palace, NAPLES

HQ AAI,
C.M.F.

2072/4/Q2.

11 May 44

Works.

1. Reference your letter 3560/DEW of 26 Apr., 44, on the above subject, addressed to this HQ only.
2. Approval for work to commence on forming a modern theatre in the Palace is given. The theatre will include sloping floor, and plans will be based on the provision of a balcony at a later stage.
3. Plans should be submitted to Fine Arts Officer, No.3 Region, A.C.C., for comment. If he raises any objections, the matter should be discussed with "Q" Branch at this HQ before the work commences.
4. Sketches are returned herewith.

....., Maj.
for Brigadier,
D.Q.M.G.

Copy to:- 3 District.
ACC
"A"
Welfare
DC EPL.

Majr Gardner.
In your file

2503

Donker
MFA-A.

3560/DW
13 May 44

Reference Memo. No. CE 4024. dated 20 Apr and this H.Q.
Memo. No. 2072/4/Q2 dated 11 May 44.

1. The proposals as outlined in the preliminary sketch plans have been approved by the Regional Fine Arts Officer, Region 3, A.C.C.
2. Welfare Branch of this H.Q., D.C., E.F.I. and a representative of E.N.S.A. have also approved the plans.
3. Details of stage layout, lighting access etc. should be agreed with E.F.I. and E.N.S.A. The supply of seats is not R.E. but some assistance may be required in fixing. Emergency Exits and fire precaution measures should be agreed with the Area Provost and your Fire Officer.
4. The theatre may be taken over for the work after 21 May viz. when the Region 3 Fine Arts Officer will have given the Palace authorities an opportunity of removing the statues.

250'

HEADQUARTERS
ARMED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394

ECM/vt

Subcommission for Monuments Fine Arts and Archives

20054/1/MEAA

8 May 1944

Subject: Removal of Furniture and Pictures from the
Royal Palace of Naples to Capodimonte.

To : Director, MEAA Subcommission.

1. On 4 and 5 May 1944, with the cooperation of Major Grant, Control Section, P.B.S., who kindly supplied transport, all the pictures and the more interesting pieces of furniture belonging to the Royal Palace of Naples, which had been stored below the terrace of that building, were removed to Capodimonte.

2. The selection of the furniture to be removed was made by Prof. Comm. de Filippis, and I superintended the actual removal of the material to Capodimonte, where it has been stored on the Piano Reale along with other furnishings from the Royal Palace of Naples.

3. A letter has been sent to Major Grant of P.B.S. to thank him for his cooperation.

Edward Croft Murray
E. CROFT-MURRAY
Captain
Subcomm. for MEAA.

Copy to:
Major Gardner.

2501

D.O.

20034/1

HQ. ACC - APO 394
Subcomm. for MEAA

29 Apr 44

Subject: Royal Palace, Naples.

Dear Gardner,

I have been wrestling with the problem of keeping you fully informed over the recent correspondence regarding the Palace, but it has been ~~too~~ complex that I hope you will forgive me for taking the line of least resistance and indicating that it will be found, when next you find yourself this way, in two of our files:

20034/1 Royal Palace, Naples
20900/2 (items 19-21).

There is nothing of urgency.

I am very glad to hear your efforts on the Floridiana appear to be having effect.

Yours

John Gardner
2500

Major Paul Gardner
Division of Fine Arts
HQ. Reg. 3, AMG

Subject: - Royal Palace, Naples.

Directorate of Works,
H.Q. A.A.I. G.M.P.

3560/DWT

To: - H.Q. Region 5 Allied Control Commission.
(For Major Paul Gardner,
Regional Mine Area Officer).

15 May 44

1. Reference your note of 30 April enclosing Corpo Reale Del Genio Civile, Naples, memo No. 5009 dated 1 Apr and further to my memo No. 3560/DWT dated 14 Mar.
2. Assistance in rail transport only can be given. The nearest station to Bracciano is San Severino Rota. Please state dates and quantities of timber for which (a) flats and (b) wagons will be required to move from San Severino Rota to Naples Central Station. After receiving these requirements application will be made for the rail transport, and advice will be given when the wagons will be actually available. Genio Civile should be warned at this time that it will be necessary to load and off load quickly, so that rail wagons are not idle.
3. The original memo from Genio Civile is returned.

H. N. JAMES,
Major, R.E.,
for Brigadier,
D. D. W.

HEJ/NE.

2493



MINISTERO DEI LAVORI PUBBLICI
CORPO REALE DEL GENIO CIVILE
NAPOLI

AL
TO THE
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
REGION III

NAPLES

Napoli, 11/10/43

N. 5009 di prot. - Sez.

I bis

Risposta al foglio del

N.

Div.

Sez.

Allegati:

OGGETTO:

Napoli- Palazzo Reale

SUBJECT: Naples- Royal Palace

ristorino delle coperture del
Teatro e della Cappella.-

Restoration of the coverings
of the Theatre and Chapel.-

La Commissione finanziaria del
Comando Militare Alleato nella
riunione del 1/12/43 approvò una
perizia di L. 2.000.000 redatta
da questo Ufficio per i lavori
indicati in oggetto.

In seguito a gara i lavori ven-
nero aggiudicati all'impresa
Ing. Pasquale ROSSELLI.

La ricostruzione della copertu-
ra del teatro è ultimata mentre
per quella della Cappella si è
provveduto all'esecuzione delle
opere murarie.

L'impresa Roselli ha contrattato
con la ditta Francesco Avella
l'acquisto del legname necessa-
rio per costruire l'ossatura
del tetto di copertura della
cappella predetta, legname che
trovasi nei pressi di Bracciano
(provincia di Salerno).=

Vi sono però gravi difficoltà
per il trasporto anche perchè
nei pressi del cennato paese uno
dei ponti è interrotto.
L'impresa Roselli provvederebbe

The financial Commission of the
Allied Military Command, in the
meeting December 1st 1943, appro-
ved an estimate of 2.000.000 li-
ras, which regarded the works in
subject, and which had been
drawn up by this Office.

After a competition the works
were assigned to the contractor
Eng. Pasquale ROSSELLI.

The reconstruction of the Thea-
tre covering is almost finished
while it has been provided for
the execution of masonry for
the Chapel.

The contractor Roselli has ne-
gotiated with the Firm France-
sco AVELLA for the purchase of
the necessary lumber to build
the frame of the covering roof
of the said Chapel. This lumber
is near by Bracciano (Salerno
Province).=

Many difficulties have arisen
for the transportation also be-
cause neighbourhood of the men-
tioned country one of the

2498

a fare trasportare al punto dell'interruzione le travi in legno che dovrebbero essere trasferiti all'altro lato, a mezzo di una gru autotrasportata. Tratta si di circa 160 travi di castagno, ognuna di lunghezza m.8 e del peso approssimativo di q/113.-

Peso complessivo del legno q/1130 circa.-

Si richiede pertanto a codesta Commissione la concessione di tale gru e degli autocarri per il trasporto dei detti travi dal detto sito d'interruzione della strada sino a palazzo Reale in Napoli. La distanza da Napoli alla predetta località è di circa Km.70, (via Pompei-Nocera-Torre S. Giorgio-Bracciano). Dal momento che venisse comunicata l'assegnazione di tali mezzi, occorrerebbe un tempo di circa 8 giornate per trasferire i 160 travi alla località dell'interruzione stradale.-

L'Ingegnere Dirigente

[Signature]

Esquisse

Biraghi in charge

bridge is interrupted. The contractor Roselli would provide for the transportation of the materials as far as the interruption point the wooden girders which should be transported to the other side by a crane transported by car. They are almost 160 chestnut girders, each m.8 long and weighing approximately q/113.

The total weight of the lumber is of about 480 q/11.

Thereby this Commission is requested to furnish this crane and the trucks for the transportation of the said girders from the mentioned place of interruption of the road to the Royal Palace in Naples.

The distance from Naples to the mentioned place is of about Km.70, (Pompei-Nocera-Torre S. Giorgio-Bracciano).

If you can supply us with the required means, you should be so kind as to let us know about this allowance, some 5 days before, so that it will be possible to transport the 160 girders as far as the interrupted place.

[Signature]

M. Sbriziolo
Director Engineer

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394

JBWP/bmp

Subcommission for Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives

20034/1/1FAA

17 April 1944.

Subject: Repainting of Frescoes, Royal Palace, Naples.

To : Major Jenner, through 656 Artisan Work Coy., R.E.

1. I am writing to confirm a message left with Lieut. Jenkinson for transmission to yourself this morning. I was unable to contact you direct.

2. The repainting of damaged frescoes which you are undertaking in the Royal Palace is being done with an oil-base paint which is liable to cause serious damage to the adjacent patches of fresco. The rooms already treated are of 17th century work of secondary importance, and I do not wish to press the point.

3. Room 312 (the large restaurant) has on the other hand an 18th century fresco of some value, and if it is really necessary to treat it at all, to avoid gratuitous damage I would request that this be done with a distemper in neutral tone, as suggested verbally to Lieut. Jenkinson.

J. B. Ward Perkins

J.B. WARD PERKINS
Major, R.A.
Deputy Director

Copies to:

Regional MFAA Officer, Hq. Reg. 3, AMG
Lieut. Jenkinson

2497

Dott. Ing. PASQUALE ROSELLI

OPERE PUBBLICHE

Corso Vittorio Emanuele n. 89

NAPOLI

Tel. 11-273

LEGNAME DI ABETE OVVERO PINO SILANO NECESSARIO PER LA RICOSTRUZIONE DEI TETTI DEL TEATRO E DELLA CAPPELLA DEL PALAZZO REALE DI NAPOLI =

=====

1) Bordognali :

m. 12.00 x 0.30 x 0.40	n. 60 = mc. 86.40
m. 7.00 x 0.30 x 0.40	n. 45 = mc. 37.80
m. 7.00 x 0.30 x 0.30	n. 30 = mc. 18.90
m. 8.00 x 0.30 x 0.30	n. 10 = mc. 7.20
m. 6.00 x 0.30 x 0.30	n. 8 = mc. 4.30
m. 5.00 x 0.30 x 0.30	n. 15 = mc. 6.80

2495

2) Sostacchini :

m. 5.00 x 0.11 x 0.13	n. 100 = mc. 7.00
m. 6.00 x 0.11 x 0.13	n. 100 = mc. 8.40
m. 8.00 x 0.11 x 0.13	n. 100 = mc. 11.20

3) Tavole :

m. 4.00 di spess: m. 0.05	n. 600 = mc. 30.00
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Totale mc..... 213.00

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Napoli, 22 Marzo 1944

LEGNAME DI ABETE OVVERO FINO SILLIO ACCETTANDO
STRUZIONE DEI TETTI DEL TEATRO E DELLA CAPPILLA DEL PALAZZO
REALE DI NAPOLI =

=====

1) Bordoneggi :

m. 12.00 x 0.30 x 0.40	n. 60 = mc. 86.40
m. 7.00 x 0.30 x 0.40	n. 45 = mc. 57.60
m. 7.00 x 0.30 x 0.30	n. 30 = mc. 18.90
m. 8.00 x 0.30 x 0.30	n. 10 = mc. 7.20
m. 6.00 x 0.30 x 0.30	n. 8 = mc. 4.30
m. 5.00 x 0.30 x 0.30	n. 15 = mc. 6.80

2495

2) Sostacchini :

m. 5.00 x 0.11 x 0.13	n. 100 = mc. 7.00
m. 6.00 x 0.11 x 0.13	n. 100 = mc. 8.40
m. 8.00 x 0.11 x 0.13	n. 100 = mc. 11.20

3) Tavole :

m. 4.00 di spess: m. 0.05	n. 600 = mc. 30.00
Totale mc..... 218.00	
=====	

Napoli, 22 Marzo 1944

L' INTERESA
Ing. Giuseppe Torelli

1320

For Cite

ROUTINE

FROM: DLW PLAMBO 111500

TO : C E 3 DIST (Action)

Info (R) 10 CRE WORKS (R) FINE ARTS OFFICER REGION 3 APO 394

Ref DDIM/29551

FINE ARTS OFFICER REGION 3 CONFIRMED TODAY THAT ITALIANS HAVE NO OBJECTION TO MILITARY COMPLETING REPAIR AND DECORATION OF DAMAGED CEILINGS ROYAL PALACE IN ROOMS FOR EPI.

2495

1 April 1944

Division of Fine Arts, Reg. 3, AGO

NOTES ON THE ROYAL PALACE OF NAPLES.

1. At a meeting in General Pence's office (PBS) on 18 December 1943, he gave orders to the various liaison officers concerned, to have all troops billeted in the Royal Palace removed and a guard placed over it. It was stated this was following instructions in a telegram to the General from AFHQ.
2. On 28 December the American troops left and a guard was placed on the area that had been occupied by them. The English troops refused to leave, saying they had permission from authorities higher than the General, to remain. The French troops did not leave. Their liaison officer, Major Jenks, stated that if the English did not have to get out, he saw no reason why the French should. This was reported to the RC&O, Reg. 3.
3. On 22 January 1944, during a visit to the Palace, an English Engineer Colonel was encountered who stated he was surveying the Palace as a possible rest center for British troops.
4. On 23 January, I was given orders by phone from Lt. Col. Griffiths of Metropolitan Area, who said his instructions came from AFHQ, to allow nothing to leave the building that would detract from its appearance as a Palace. Furniture, paintings and painted doors were especially enumerated.
5. On 25 January, I was called to a conference on the Royal Palace in the office of General Pence. The meeting was also attended by Brig. Ritchie, Brig. Braxton Randall, General Immel, Lt. Col. Griffiths, Col. Davis and a representative of the British Navy. The General announced that AFHQ had agreed that the Palace could be used as a recreation or rest center for troops. It was determined that the space would be divided equally among the Americans, British and French. The British were given permission to leave the A.A. battery housed in one end of the Palace. It was indicated that there would be no objection to the British Navy quartering 1000 Italian sailors in the same end of the Palace. Brig. Ritchie again brought up the question of furnishing. He stated he had noted painted doors were disappearing and I was instructed to order the Italian authorities not to remove another thing from the Palace. To my objections, it was finally agreed that valuable pieces could be removed but no others. A commission of American, British and French representatives was to meet at the Palace the next day to study its facilities as a rest center. I brought up the question of the section of the Palace occupied by the Biblioteca Nazionale and its safety from interference in the project and the question of the storage spaces of the Super-

intendent of Monuments. The majority of the officers present did not know that the Library was housed in the Palace but I was assured that all such areas would be protected, although one officer suggested "the space be investigated as perhaps the Library had more than it needed". The active carrying out of the project depended on the abatement of the typhus epidemic and was set for a period 4 to 6 weeks away.

6. The same day I informed the Superintendent of Monuments of the plan and instructed him to have removed to the walled-up storage, all furniture, fittings, paintings etc. they wanted preserved and not used. This was done.

7. Some time in February a British guard unit took up its quarters in the Palace to guard access to the second floor and many "off limit signs" were posted in the Palace;

8. On 26 February, Major Jenners of the British Engineers came to my office and talked of the project and the work to be carried out. He stated it was their desire to do all the work in cooperation with the Division of Fine Arts, that trained and competent people would be in charge, their desire was to retain the atmosphere of a Palace and to do nothing to damage the present Palace as a monument. The question of the treatment of damaged ceilings was brought up at this time and the Major stated that in cases where the damage to any ceiling detracted from the appearance of a room, a temporary lower ceiling would be installed, leaving the present damaged ceiling untouched.

2493

W. for Jeeves will send promise
in writing that chapel with sarcophagus
of Maria Cristina will be walled up.

Will not allow pass to Custodian - he
comes to them with me.

Clarify all lamps fixtures, corners, mouldings,
doors, furniture to be used by them - what
not useable will be turned over to Italian.

Going to strip down theatre of decoration
which is only canvas & plaster - keep
room in original shape (line of
ceiling etc.) The side balconies to go - leaving
the Royal Box.

HEAD QUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394

DD/VF

Subcommission for Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives

10 April 1944

20031/1/SPAA

Subject: Palazzo Reale, Naples.

To : Director, SPAA Subcommission.

1. On 9 Apr 44 I visited the Royal Palace of Naples with Lieut. Perry Cott, U.S.N.R.

2. During our tour of inspection I noticed that three of the four large Empire-style chandeliers, which formerly stood in the Throne Room, had been taken to pieces. The sections (which are made of glass imitating bronze) had been left about on the ground in the Throne Room and the adjoining apartments, two of the sections had been broken and had been clumsily repaired with plaster. Two gilt-bronze rings belonging to two of them are missing.

3. On 10 Apr I interviewed one of the Sergeants of Engineers in charge of the works and he told me on 6 Apr his men had taken the three chandeliers to pieces and had placed the sections in an alcove in the Throne Room where he assumed they would be safe. When he put them away they were intact.

4. It would appear that one of the Italian plasterers, who were working in the room at the time, must have done the damage in question.

5. All the fittings have now been placed in the Palace Repository, with the exception of the two missing bronze rings, which have yet to be found.

E: C: M

2491

E. GOSPE-MURRAY
Captain.
Subcomm. for SPAA.

Copy to Regional SPAA Officer, Hq. Reg. III.

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394
Subcommission for Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives

31 March 1944

20034/1/AFMA

SUBJECT: Royal Palace at Naples

TO : Director, Subcommission for Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives.

1. On 29 March I visited the Palazzo Reale, Naples where I met Major Gardner and Professor Molaioli.

2. I informed them that I had been instructed to recover and place in store all furniture and other movable fittings, including the fine painted doors, belonging to the palace in order to insure their future preservation.

3. Major Gardner was doubtful as to whether I should be allowed to do this, as the British R.H. Unit in charge of the repairs and redecoration of the palace had refused entrance to any of the palace staff.

4. I later met Lt. Jenkinson and his C.O., Major Westerman, and explained what I had come to do. They remembered my previous visit when I had salvaged the silks from the walls of the palace.

5. Reference was made to the destruction of the Francesco De Mura ceiling in Sala dell'Oratorio Maria Cristina, and both Westerman and Jenkinson persisted in the story that there were no pieces of it remaining which were more than two feet square. I pointed out that even so these fragments should and could have been preserved for future reconstruction of the fresco.

6. Major Westerman, who is an architect in civilian life, is the officer who is virtually in charge of the work. He told me that he was going to reconstruct the little court theatre for entertainment purposes. His original plan was to remove the gallery as well as all the line of decoration above the statues, both of which he considered to be in unsound condition. I therefore explained to him that it would be a great pity to destroy anything belonging to such a characteristic interior, to which he agreed. He now contemplates putting a temporary shell inside the structure, covering the whole of the original decoration, which would then be left as it is for future restoration when the premises is no longer used by the Allied Forces.

7. Major Westerman has also agreed that Signore Meli, the Custodian of the Palace, and his staff should remove all furniture and other movable fittings into store. He has made certain reservations with regard to those painted doors which are still hanging on their hinges and some large console tables which normally stand in the sala da Pranzo Diplomatica.

8. The work of removal is progressing and will soon be completed. It will include all furnishings (except those mentioned above), all painted doors which have been unhinged and a marble chimney-piece from the Sala dell'Oratorio di Maria Cristina.

./.

Royal Palace at Naples (cont.)

Some of the fittings of the theatre, including the act-drop and the painted drapery around the proscenium arch, have also been taken down and carefully stored on one side of the stage, to prevent further deterioration.

9. The principle entrance to the part to be occupied by British troops is to be made through the little garden outside the Scala d'Onore, giving on to the Piazza Trieste e Trento, beside the Teatro S. Carlo. In the middle of this is a statue, and Lt. Jenkinson asked me whether I considered that the R.E. should take this down or put a railing around it. It is recommended that the latter course should be taken.

10. The entrance to the Oratorio di Maria Cristina has been walled up which will insure that the chapel will not be disturbed in the future. It is recommended that his Highness the Prince of Piedmont be informed of this.

11. At present my relations with Major Westerman and Lt. Jenkinson are good; they accept my presence in the building as a matter of course, and are willing to listen to my suggestions in order to preserve original features of the building, and (as stated above) are quite agreeable to the palace staff going about their present task of getting the furniture and fittings into store.

Edward Croft Murray
E. CROFT-MURRAY
Capt. R. I.

Copy to:
R.C., Reg. 3, attn...Div. F.A.

248

Subject: Roofing of Chapel
Royal Palace, Naples.

Director of Works,
HQ AAI (Ad Ech).
C.M.F.

To:

3560/DDW.

H.Q. Region 3.
Allied Control Commission,
A.P.O. 384. U.S. Army.
For Attention of Major Paul
Gardner, Regional Fine Arts
Officer.

14 Mar. 44.

1. Your request of 13 Mar for assistance in movement of 872 m.c of timber for the above from BOCCIGLIERO (Cosenza) has been received.
2. It is understood that the arrangement made at the conference was for timber for the Palace Chapel roof to be exchanged with the Contractor or brought from Potenza.
3. The list submitted is estimated to be about 3 times the quantity of timber necessary to roof the Chapel, and for movement or exchange Potenza is very different from Cosenza.
4. Please may your Contractor be requested to reduce the list, and nominate a store in the Potenza region from which it may be possible to assist with rail transport.

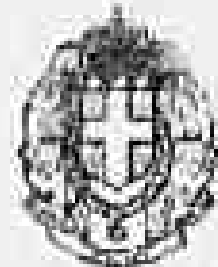
H. V. Jenner
H. V. JENNER,
Major, R.E.
for Brigadier,
D.D.W.

/en.

2483

25 MAR 1944

F.A.



*R. Soprintendenza ai Monumenti
della Campania*

Napoli

M ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT

N A P O L I

Prot. N.°

Sez.

Risposta a

del

Div.

Allegati

OGGETTO: - Palazzo Reale di Napoli. -

I lavori intrapresi dalle Forze Armate Britanniche per l'adattamento del Palazzo Reale di Napoli ai propri servizi, procedono attivamente e pur troppo senza nessun rispetto del carattere storico e artistico dell'edificio.

Con mio vivo rammarico, sono costretto a considerare la completa inefficacia di tutte le raccomandazioni e richieste che io ho ripetutamente rivolte su questo argomento all'A.M.G., all'A.C.C., e alla Commissione di inchiesta che visitò il Palazzo Reale il 1° gennaio 1944.

Tali mie raccomandazioni e richieste avevano il solo scopo di salvaguardare un importante edificio monumentale, già tanto duramente provato dall'incursioni aeree, ed erano strettamente relative ai doveri del mio Ufficio di Soprintendente. Esse inoltre erano formulate secondo un leale desiderio di positiva collaborazione che ritenevo doverosa e utile agli stessi fini che il Comando Militare Alleato si proponeva.

Invece ho dovuto e debbo assistere impotente al ripetersi di danni sempre più estesi.

Il più recente, grave e irreparabile fra questi danni, è costituito dalla completa distruzione del grande affresco che decorava intieramente il soffitto della "Sala di Maria Cristina". Esso raffigurava l'Allegoria dell'Aurora ed era pregevole opera di Francesco de Mura (1696-1782), assai nota a tutti i conoscitori della pittura napoletana del Settecento. L'affresco era rimasto salvo dall'azione delle bombe. Nessuna ragione di carattere tecnico o di esigenza pratica può giustificare la sua totale distruzione e la sua sostituzione con un nuovo intonaco bianco !.

Questo grave fatto (che io voglio sperare sia da attribuirsi soltanto ad arbitraria e deplorabile iniziativa di operai incompetenti e non sorvegliati) non si sarebbe verificato se - come io ho più volte proposto - gli impietati tecnici di questa Soprintendenza fossero stati chiamati ed ammessi a dare consiglio, assistenza e collaborazione ai lavori in corso. Al contrario, essi hanno avuto divieto d'ingresso nei locali dove si lavorava, e non possono nemmeno raccogliere e conservare ciò che viene tolto dalla antica decorazione delle Sale e viene abbandonato alle intemperie o distrutto senza ragione.

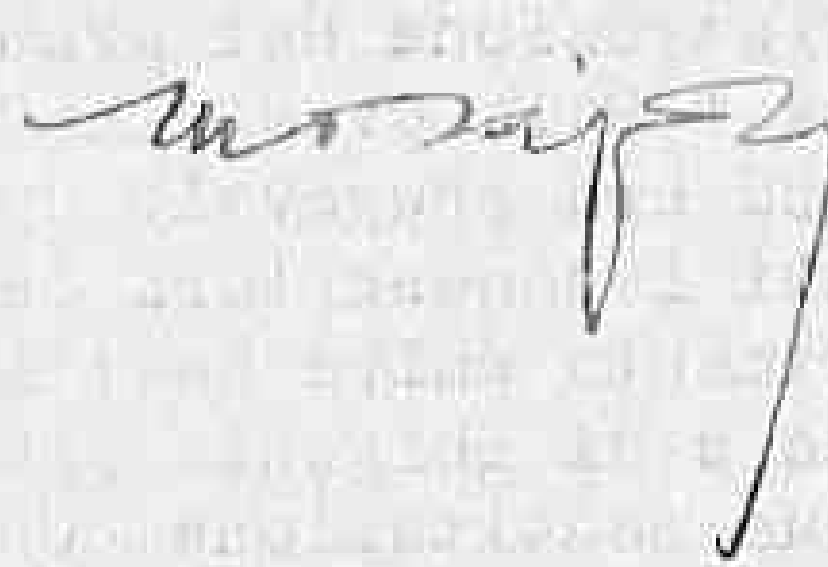
./.

Nella mia qualità di funzionario italiano, io credo di non aver ancora perduto il diritto di fare ascoltare la mia voce. Ma come studioso e come custode di opere storiche e artistiche, le quali interessano la cultura e la civiltà di ogni nazione e di ogni epoca, so che ho il dovere di deplorare e di fare ogni possibile tentativo per evitare inutili danni e inconsulte distruzioni.

Perciò, ancora una volta domando che siano adottati efficaci provvedimenti per la conservazione di quanto ancora rimane di pregio storico, artistico e decorativo nel Palazzo Reale, e più precisamente:

1. che i lavori siano ordinati e condotti con il rispetto che in ogni paese civile è dovuto ai Monumenti della storia e dell'arte;
 2. che un Ufficiale sia incaricato di dirigere e sorvegliare costantemente i lavori, e sia responsabile della loro esecuzione in conformità degli accordi e dei consigli che interverranno preventivamente coi funzionari competenti della Soprintendenza;
 3. che sia vietata ed effettivamente impedita la continua asportazione di materiale e di oggetti dal Palazzo Reale per altre destinazioni;
 4. che gli impiegati della Soprintendenza addetti alla Custodia e allo Ufficio tecnico del Palazzo Reale abbiano facoltà di accedere in tutti i locali, prestare la loro assistenza ai lavori e ricevere in consegna ciò che si ritiene di rimuovere come inutile per i nuovi adattamenti.
- In caso contrario, dovrei considerare inutile la presenza e l'ulteriore intervento dei funzionari della Soprintendenza in tutto quanto riguarda la conservazione del Palazzo Reale, lasciandone la intiera responsabilità ai competenti Uffici dell'A.M.G.

IL SOPRINTENDENTE



MEMORANDUM

The bearer, Federico SIANO, is an official of the Genio Civile of Naples and is supervising work at the Royal Palace. He should be admitted to the Royal Palace and to those sections, the Theatre and Chapel, where the Genio Civile are carrying out a project.

PAUL GARDNER
Major, A.U.S.
Regional Fine Arts Officer

MEMORANDUM

Il latore della presente, Federico SIANO, è un funzionario del Genio Civile di Napoli ed ha l'incarico di controllare i lavori al Palazzo Reale. Egli dovrebbe essere ammesso nel Palazzo Reale ed in quelle sezioni, il Teatro e la Cappella, dove il Genio Civile sta mettendo in attuazione un progetto.

PAUL GARDNER
Major, A.U.S.
Regional Fine Arts Officer

Napoli, 25. II. 1944.IL SOPRINTENDENTE AI MONUMENTI
DELLA CAMPANIAMAJ. PAUL GARDNER
DIVISION MONUMENTS AND FINE ARTS
A.M.G. , REG. 3.N A P O L I

S.A.R. il Principe di Piemonte mi ha richiesto di tutelare il piccolo oratorio della Regina Maria Cristina, attiguo alla Sala do ve è stato distrutto il soffitto del De Mura, come vedemmo insieme nell'ultima visita a Palazzo Reale.

In particolare S.A.R. intende che sia garantita la conservazio-
ne del sarcofago di rame, dell'altare e della tela del soffitto (di
pinto della Scuola di De Mura), e che l'oratorio sia chiuso e non
venga trasformato nè usato, trattandosi di luogo sacro, anche per ri-
spetto alla memoria di una Regina che la Chiesa Cattolica ha elevato
all'onore della pubblica venerazione religiosa. 2489

Ho detto a S.A.R. che avevo già espresso a Voi queste opportuni-
tà, e che soltanto a Voi avrei potuto nuovamente segnalarle e racco-
mandarle, come ora faccio, considerato che quanto si fa dalle Truppe
Britanniche in Palazzo Reale sfugge ormai completamente alle mie fa-
coltà.

Vi sarò grato se vorrete procurarmi in questo argomento una cor-
tese assicurazione scritta, per poterne a mia volta informare S.A.R.
il Principe di Piemonte.

Ringrazio e ossequio.

Bruno Moriz

HEADQUARTERS
REGION 3, ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
A.P.O. 394, U. S. ARMY

29 March, 1944

BA-41

Dr. Bruno Melajoli,
Museo Nazionale,
Napoli.

Dear Dr. Melajoli:

I have the assurance in writing from the Deputy Directorate of Works (British), HQ, A.A.I., C.M.F., that the small Chapel of the Queen Maria Cristina in the Palazzo Reale of Naples "will be carefully sealed, with contents left as at present. The doors giving access from the adjoining room will be closed and fastened in front of the seal."

This assurance will be checked within a reasonable time.

It will be appreciated if you will convey this information to H.R.H. The Prince of Piedmont.

Sincerely yours,

Paul Gardner
Major, AUS,
Regional Fine Arts Officer

2483

Subject: E.F.I. Restaurant & Welfare
Centre, Royal Palace, Naples.

Directorate of Works,
HQ AAT (Adm Ech).
C.M.F.

To: "Q".

3560/DDW.

27 Mar 44.

1. As requested by Lt. Col Hoare, Major Jenner has met Major Gardner, who deals with Regional Fine Arts for Region 3, Allied Control Commission.

2. Major Gardner was satisfied on all points except one, that an Italian Official, the Head Custodian of the Palace, should have free access to the portion allotted for accommodating the above.

This request was met by agreeing to the Head Custodian accompanying Major Gardner during the time he visits the work while it is in progress.

3. A copy of a letter to C.E. 3 District is attached, which shows the arrangements made at the meeting.

H.N. Jenner
H.N. JENNER.
Major. R.E.
for Brigadier 2483
D.D.W.

HNJ/er.

Copy to:

Region 3, Allied Control Commission for
Major Gardner.

H.Q. E.F.I.

C.E. 3 District.

Subject: Restaurant & Welfare
Centre, Royal Palace, Naples.

Directorate of
HQ AAI (Adm Ech.
C.E.P.

To:
C.E.
3 District.

3560/DDW.
27 Mar 44.

At a meeting with Major Gardner, Regional Fine Arts Officer, Region 3, Allied Control Commission, action on the points raised was decided upon as follows :-

1. Room No. 306 is a consecrated chapel containing a damaged sarcophagus and damaged altar. This room will be carefully sealed, with contents left as at present. The doors giving access from Room 305 will be closed and fastened in front of the seal.
2. There is nothing of value for preservation in the Theatre. Statues around the wall may be removed, but the niches and ornamentation behind the Royal Box will be retained.
3. All mouldings and gold leaf decoration salvaged will be safeguarded, and any remaining not reinstated in the decoration scheme will be handed over to the Palace Custodian on completion of the work. Furniture left in the rooms is not included, and may be used in the furnishing scheme.
4. The Head Custodian of the Palace will be permitted access only with Major Gardner, who will avoid interference with any work in progress.
5. Doors taken from the Palace by R.E. were badly damaged, and have been taken to woodworkshops for repair and ultimate reinstatement.

HMJ/er.

H. E. Jenner 2481
H.E. JENNER.
Major. R.E.
for Brigadier,
D.D.W.

Copy to: "Q".
H.Q. E.F.I. to note sealing of small chapel
(Room 306 on plan 1175/C).
Regional Fine Arts Officer,
Region 3, Allied Control Commission.

*Elenco del personale alloggiato nel Real Palazzo
di Napoli. -*

<i>Cognome e Nome</i>		<i>Grado</i>	<i>Località</i>	<i>Numero delle persone</i>
<i>Perito</i>	<i>Roberto</i>	<i>conservatore</i>	<i>2° Piano Scala V.</i>	<i>Otto</i>
<i>Barbieri</i>	<i>Maria</i>	<i>Impiegata costa di S. P. R. il Principe di Piemonte - idem. C. S.</i>	<i>2° Piano Scala V.</i>	<i>Sei</i>
<i>Terrecchia</i>	<i>Vincenzo</i>	<i>idem. C. S.</i>	<i>Scala V.</i>	<i>Quindici</i> ²⁴⁸⁹
<i>Agnesi</i>	<i>Anna</i>	<i>Impiegata R. Soprintendenza</i>	<i>Scala V.</i>	<i>Quattro</i>
<i>Migliore</i>	<i>Michele</i>	<i>Custode</i>	<i>Scala V.</i>	<i>Quattro</i>
<i>Baldassini</i>	<i>Paolo</i>	<i>Sorvegliante</i>	<i>Scala V.</i>	<i>Due</i>
<i>Marzà</i>	<i>Oreste</i>	<i>Questore</i>	<i>Scala A.</i>	<i>Quattro</i>
<i>Sott.</i>	<i>Guerrieri</i>	<i>Direttore Biblioteca</i>	<i>Scala A.</i>	<i>Due</i>
<i>Lavatore</i>		<i>Custode Biblioteca</i>	<i>Scala A.</i>	<i>Quattro</i>

Napoli, li 22.3.1944 -

*Il conservatore
Perito Roberto*

Subject:- Royal Palace, Naples.

Directorate of Works,
H.Q., A.A.I. (Adm Ech)
C.M.F.,

To:- H.Q. Region 3.
Allied Control Commission,
A.P.O. 394 U.S. Army.
for Attention of Major Gardner.

3560/DDW

16 March 44.

Please may arrangements be made to clear away the debris
of Theatre and Chapel roof dumped in the South Courtyard of the Naples Palace
by the Genio Civile Contractor.

H.N. Jenner

H.N. JENNER.
Major.R.E.,
for Brigadier,
D.D.W.

HNJ/ed.

Copy to:- 3 District. (3)

" " Metropolitan Area
for Lt.Col.Sweeney.
with note not repeated
on original sent to
A.M.G. Reg III.

*Contractor engaged by Genio Civile
claims he will remove this
P.S.*

2479

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
193 394

ECM/bmp

Subcommission for Monuments Fine Arts and Archives

20034/3/AFMA

11 March 1946.

etc.

Subject: Report on removal of hangings from walls of Royal Palace, Naples.

To : Director, AFMA Subcommission.

1. On March 7th., 1946, I arranged for the following rooms in the Palazzo Reale to be stripped of the remainder of their brocade hangings:-

Sala degli Ambasciatori
Sala Erce
Sala Terzaute Tesoro.

2. This material can be used to repair the upholstery of the furniture, now at Caserta, which formerly stood in the above rooms and which is covered with corresponding brocades.

3. The following rooms at Naples still remain to be stripped:-

Sala del Figliuolo Prodigo
Lo Studio
Sala Oratorio Maria Carolina
Sala Famiglia Lotti
Anticamera Appartamento Rappresentanze
Sala Adorazione dei Tre Magi
Sala Vittorio Emanuele.

3. I also removed a number of pieces of modern carpet from below the stage of the little Court Theatre in the Palazzo Reale at Naples. These will be useful in case Signor Battaglia is asked to produce floor-covering for messes or officers' quarters, and will prevent the requisition of the more valuable carpets for this purpose.

4. I should like to record the help given me by Lieut. A.D.P. Jenkinson, R.N., 600 Artisan Work Coy., who is now in charge of the work of repairing the Palazzo Reale at Naples.

H. GROFT-MURRAY
Captain.

Copy to:
Regional AFMA Officer, Reg. 3.

SUBJECT :- Royal Palace, I LES - RVI Restaurant & Welfare Centre.

Directorate of Works
HQ ACEF (Adm Ech)

3560/DDW

To : CE 3 District.

8 March 44

1. Reference this HQ memo 72/Q2 dated 12 Feb 44 and further to this office memos Nos as above dated 16 and 27 Feb, detailing preliminary works. The following is a statement of arrangements made and work required to prepare a portion of the NAPLES Palace as an R.F.I. Restaurant and Welfare Centre.

- (i) Attached sketch shows portions of the Palace allotted for the project.
- (ii) A Contract has been let by this Directorate and work has commenced on repairing the roof over all the R.F.I. portion of the Palace, except the Theatre. The work involved is, briefly, stripping and relaying existing tiles and roofing in C.G.I. where there are insufficient tiles or where bomb holed. Plan No 1187/C supersedes plan 1150/C issued with notes and has been issued with contract documents for supervision and arrangement by C.R.L.
- (iii) Major GARDNER of A.M.G. Reg III has arranged with Genio Civile to replace the theatre and chapel roof. Work is in progress. Major GARDNER has consulted Genio Civile and their contractor and arranged for priority to be given to re-roofing the theatre to complete and hand over for internal repairs and decorations by RVI in 6 weeks time. It was stated at a conference that Genio Civile had sufficient materials for the chapel and theatre, but would require assistance in transporting 100 cu metres of large section timber scantlings from POTENZA. This assistance will be given on application or an exchange arranged if possible to avoid cross transporting the same commodity. Major GARDNER instructed Genio Civile to arrange for their contractor to arrange their materials and work so that access via the main stairs and terrace will be free in 8 weeks time, during this time facilities will be given for roof repairs to chapel and theatre by Genio Civile Contractor.

(iv) The RVI Works Services authorised under this HQ letter referred to above is in 2 phases. The first phase is for work necessary for the building to be opened to operate and the second phase is completion. General details of phase 1 & 2 are as follows :-

Phase I All work shown on drawings Nos 1174/C, 1175/C and 1176/C (drawings already issued with this office letter referred to above). The repair and redecoration of all the rooms shown on drawings, rooms in ceiling voids, garrets, passages, stairways etc. Fencing off the portion of the terrace opposite RVI accommodation, repairing balustrade, and reinstating the terrace garden ornamentation etc., to be suitable for serving snacks and drinks. Providing surface and soil drainage. Providing hot and cold water service to showers, hairdressers shop, lavatories, Preparation room, Kitchen, Servery and Bars. Provide electric power for lifts, refrigeration appliances, equipment etc. Provide fans and points for heating in restaurants and welfare rooms. Provide clear glass and blackout to windows. Provide a high scale of electric lighting with wall and table lamps as necessary. ~~Provide a stand-by generator and switch 40-centime lighting in event of failure of main source of supply. Block off~~ the Palace not allotted for use (Note that room No 421 on drawing 1176/C is not now included).

will be from the Car Park beside the San Carlo

(ii) A Contract has been let by this Directorate and work has commenced on repairing the roof over all the E.M.I. portion of the Palace, except the Theatre. The work involved is, briefly, stripping and relaying existing tiles and roofing in C.G.I. where there are insufficient tiles or where bomb holed. Plan No 1187/C supersedes plan 1150/C issued with notes and has been issued with contract documents for supervision and arrangement by C.R.E.

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Phase I All work shown on drawings Nos 1174/C, 1175/C and 1176/C (drawings already issued with this office letter referred to above). The repair and redecoration of all the rooms shown on drawings, rooms in ceiling voids, garrets, passages, stairways etc. Fencing off the portion of the terrace opposite MY accommodation, repairing balustrade, and reinstating the terrace garden ornamentation etc., to be suitable for serving snacks and drinks. Providing surface and soil drainage. Providing hot and cold water service to showers, hairdressers shop, lavatories, Preparation room, Kitchen, Servery and Bars. Provide electric power for lifts, refrigeration appliances, equipment etc. Provide fans and points for heating in restaurants and welfare rooms. Provide clear glass and blackout to windows. Provide a high scale of electric lighting with wall and table lamps as necessary. Provide a standby generator and switch to continue lighting in event of failure of main source of supply. Block off the Palace not allotted for use (Note that room No 421 on drawing 1176/C is not now included).

The main entrance will be from the Car Park beside the San Carlo Opera House and by the main staircase - necessary work will be carried out to prepare this as the main entrance.

Phase II Completion of all the other work including repair and redecoration of Theatre for re-use as a theatre with all necessary services, also construction of secondary access as shown on drawing 1198/C.

Continued / Sheet 2.

- 2 -

The superficial finish of the work is to be of the highest standard that can be obtained with stores and labour available.

It is not possible to detail all small items, but the general direction to those in charge of the actual work is to produce an atmosphere of comfort and lightness and to tone down the effect of the high large dark rooms, catering for large numbers. Stall cubicles round the walls and "waiter only" snack and wine bars have been detailed to achieve this and handed to O i/c Catering to EPI - these and others with different methods of treating the walls and ceiling will achieve the required result. Major BEAULUX (O i/c Catering HQ EPI) is preparing some decoration schemes and arranging furnishing etc. Please arrange for the RE work to be carried out in conjunction with him.

[Signature]
K. N. JENNER,
Major RE,
for Brigadier,
D. D. W.

Copy to : '2'
'A'

HQ E.P.I.

Major CARDNER

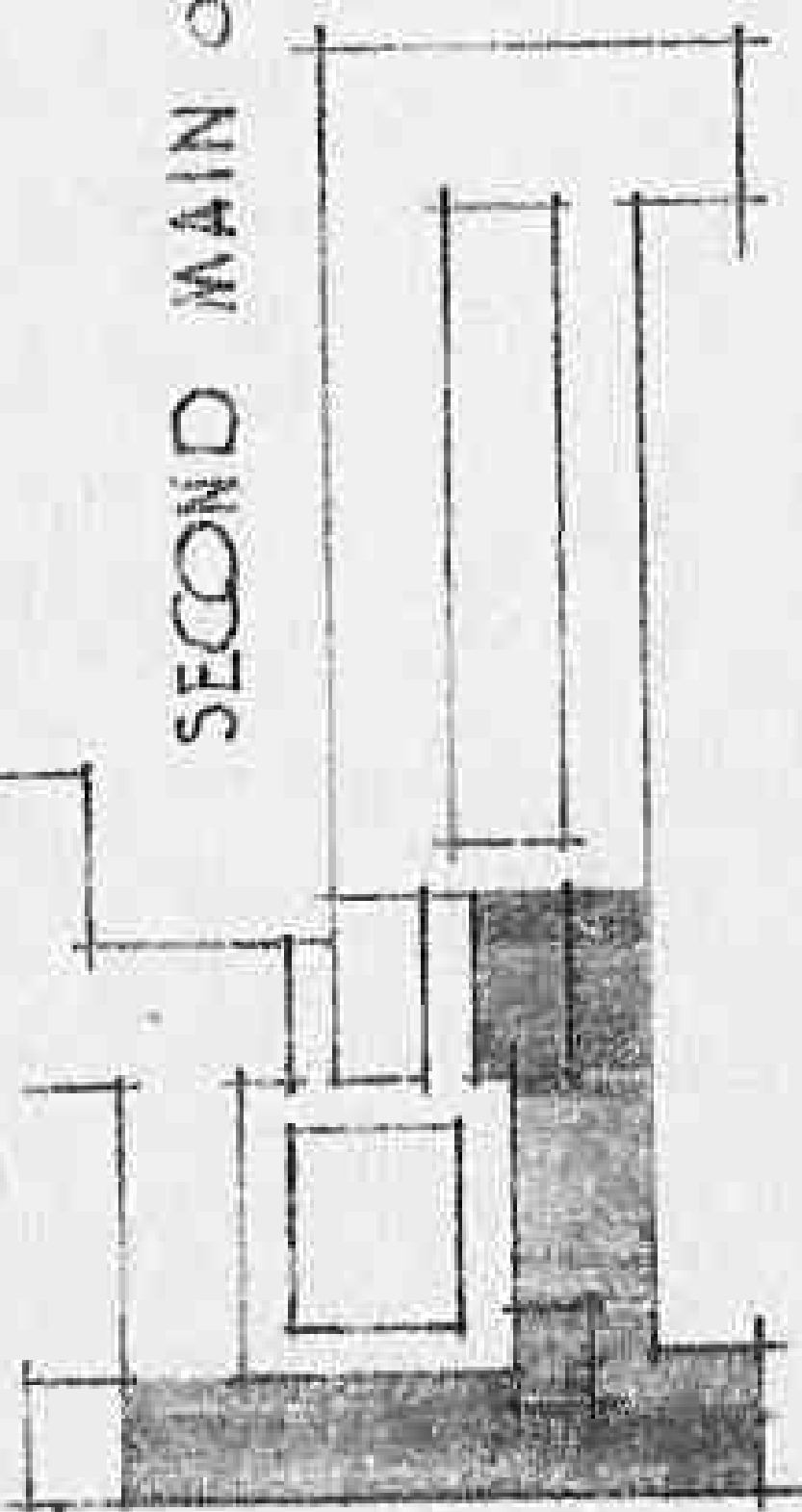
A.M.C. Region III

[Signature]

) In confirmation of arrangements made by you
at conference on 7 Mar 44.

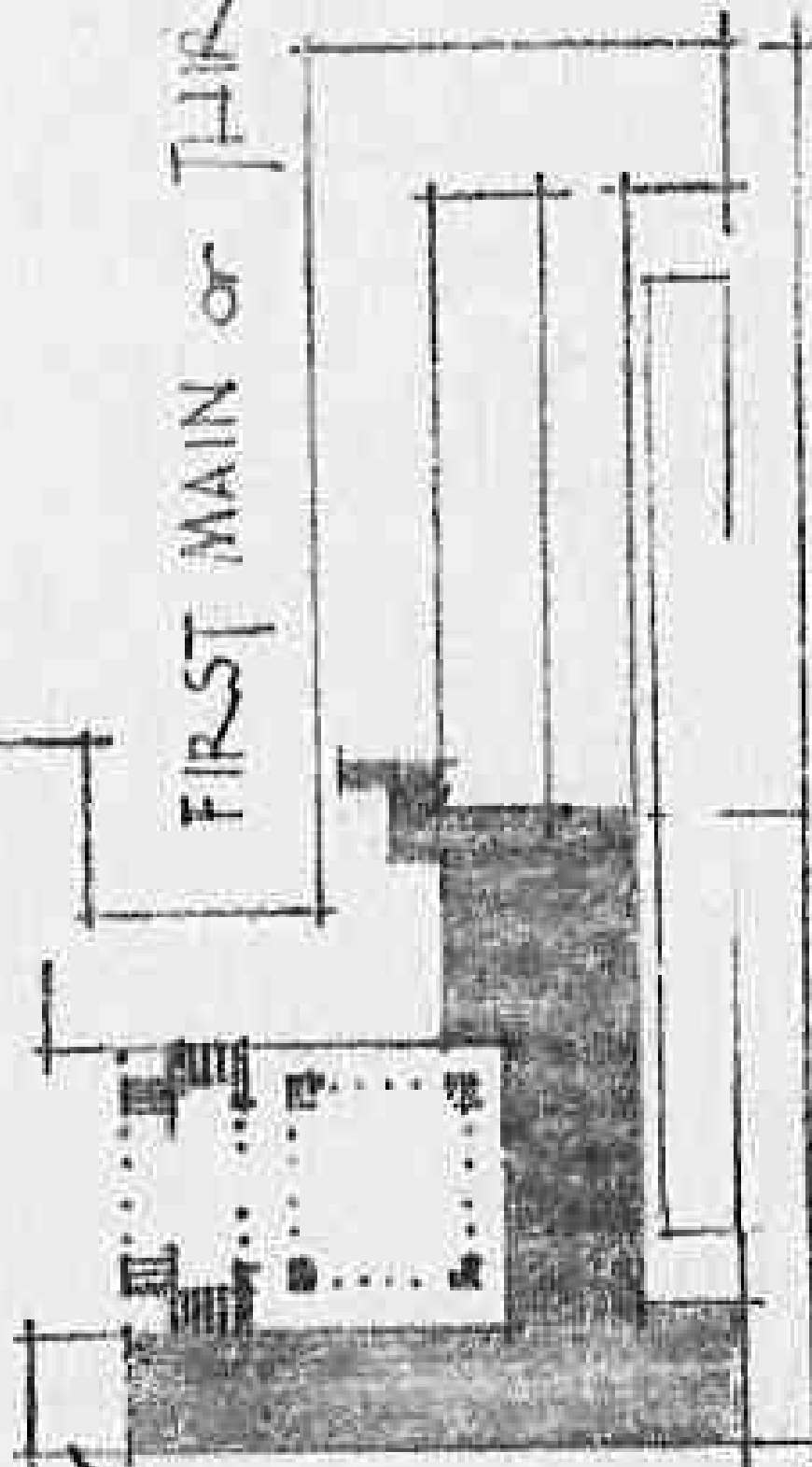
HWS/SE.

SECOND MAIN or TOP FLOOR

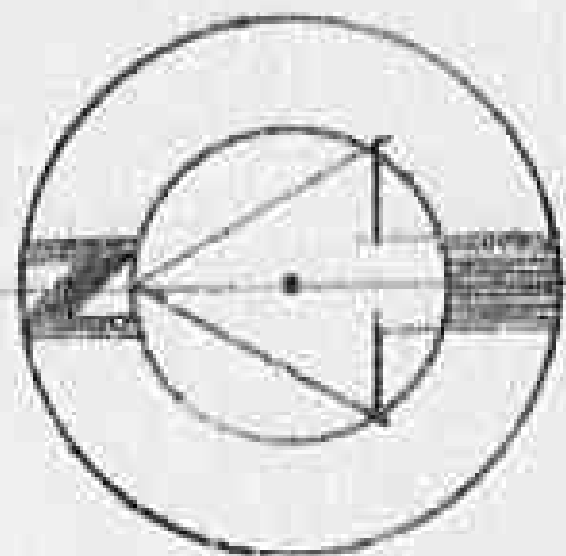


SPECIAL NOTE
EXIST. SUBJECT TO ARRANGEMENT
WITH PRESENT OCCUPIERS

FIRST MAIN or THIRD FLOOR

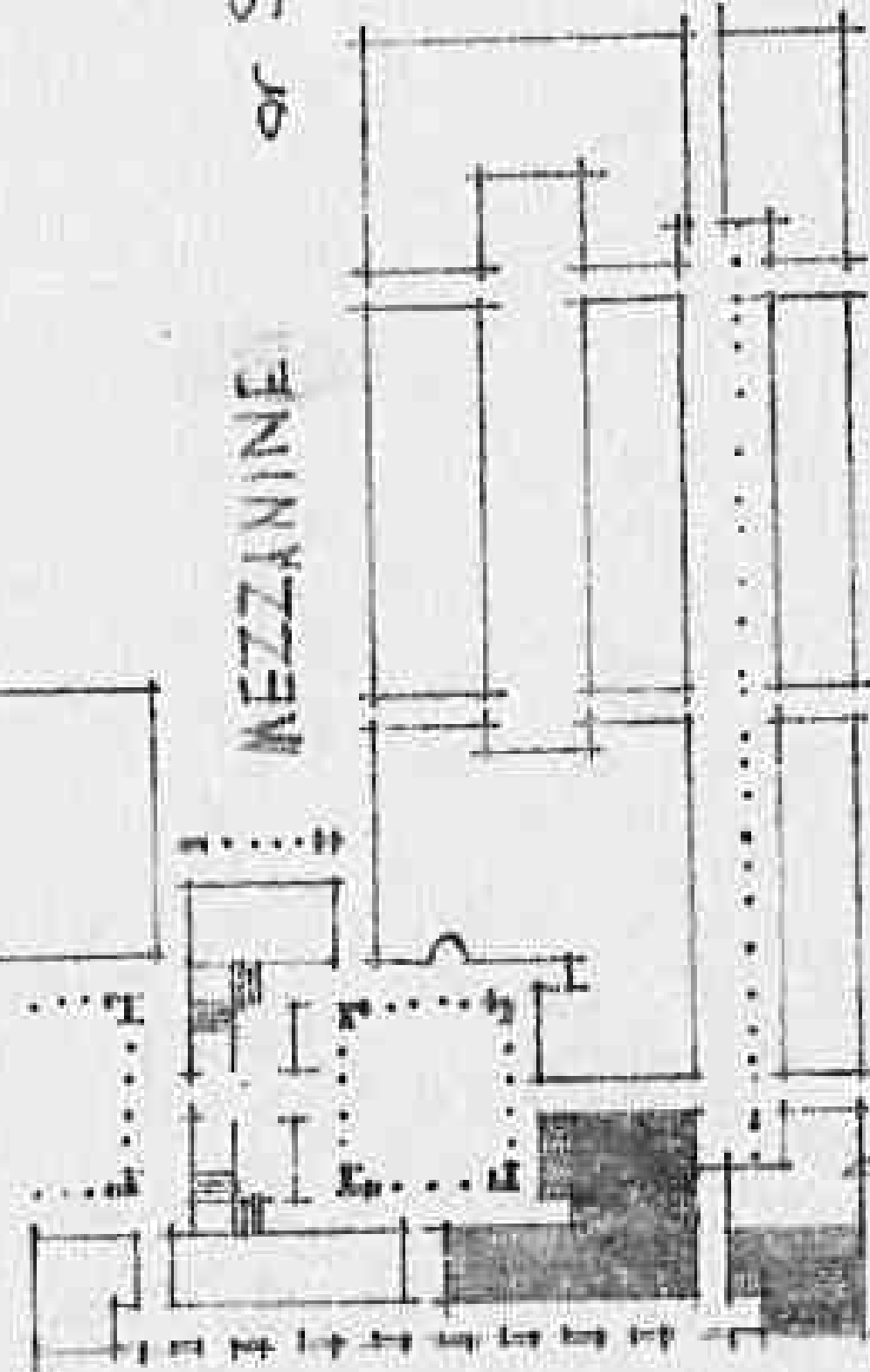


CLUB TERRACE



MEZZANINE or SECOND FLOOR

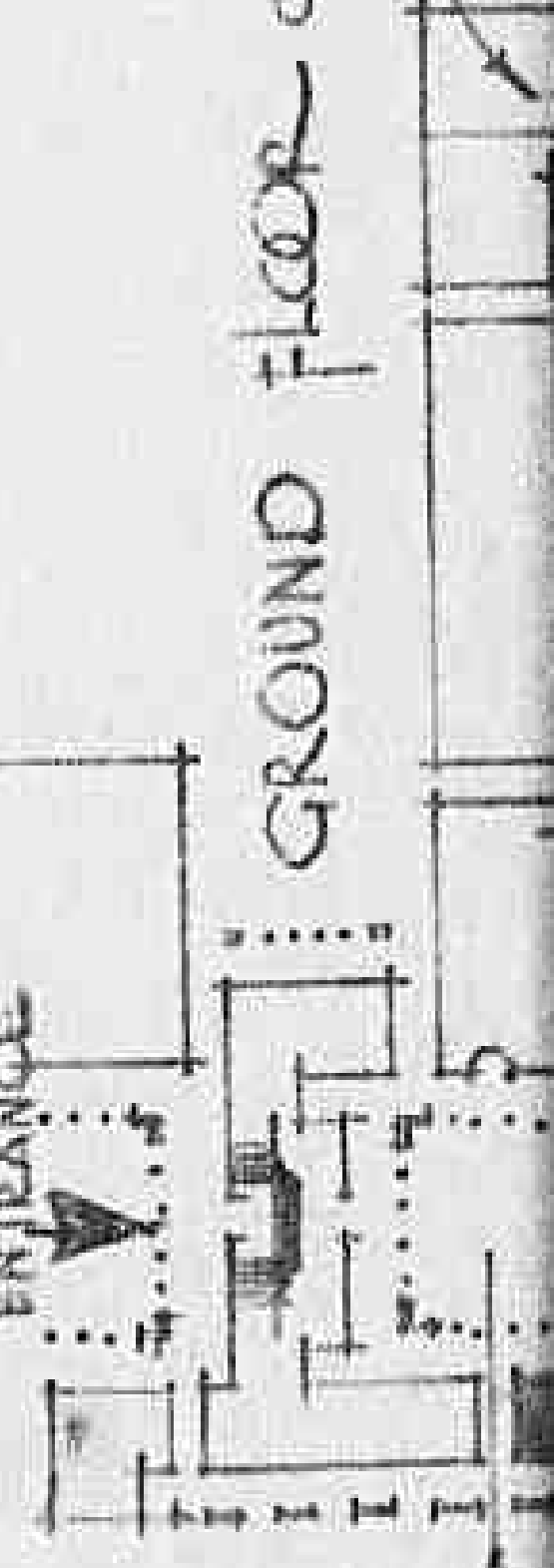
2478



PORTION OCCUPIED BY COL DANESSE TO BE LEFT

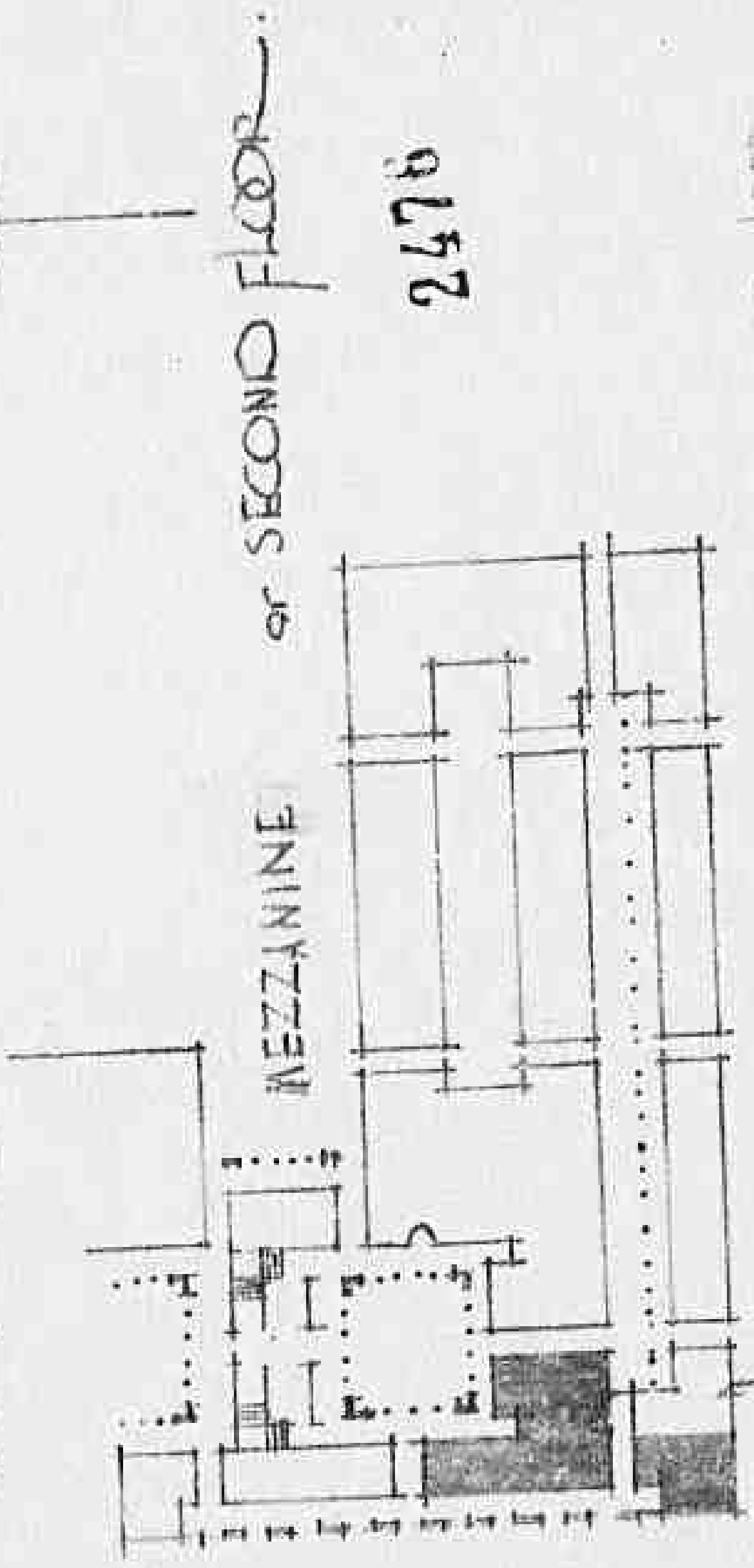
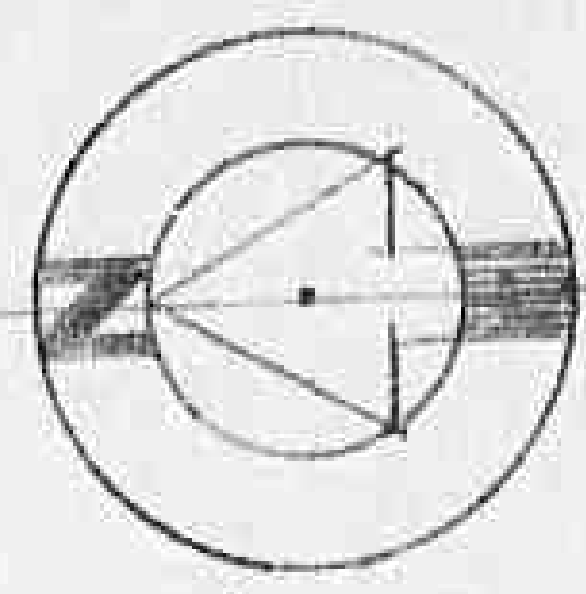
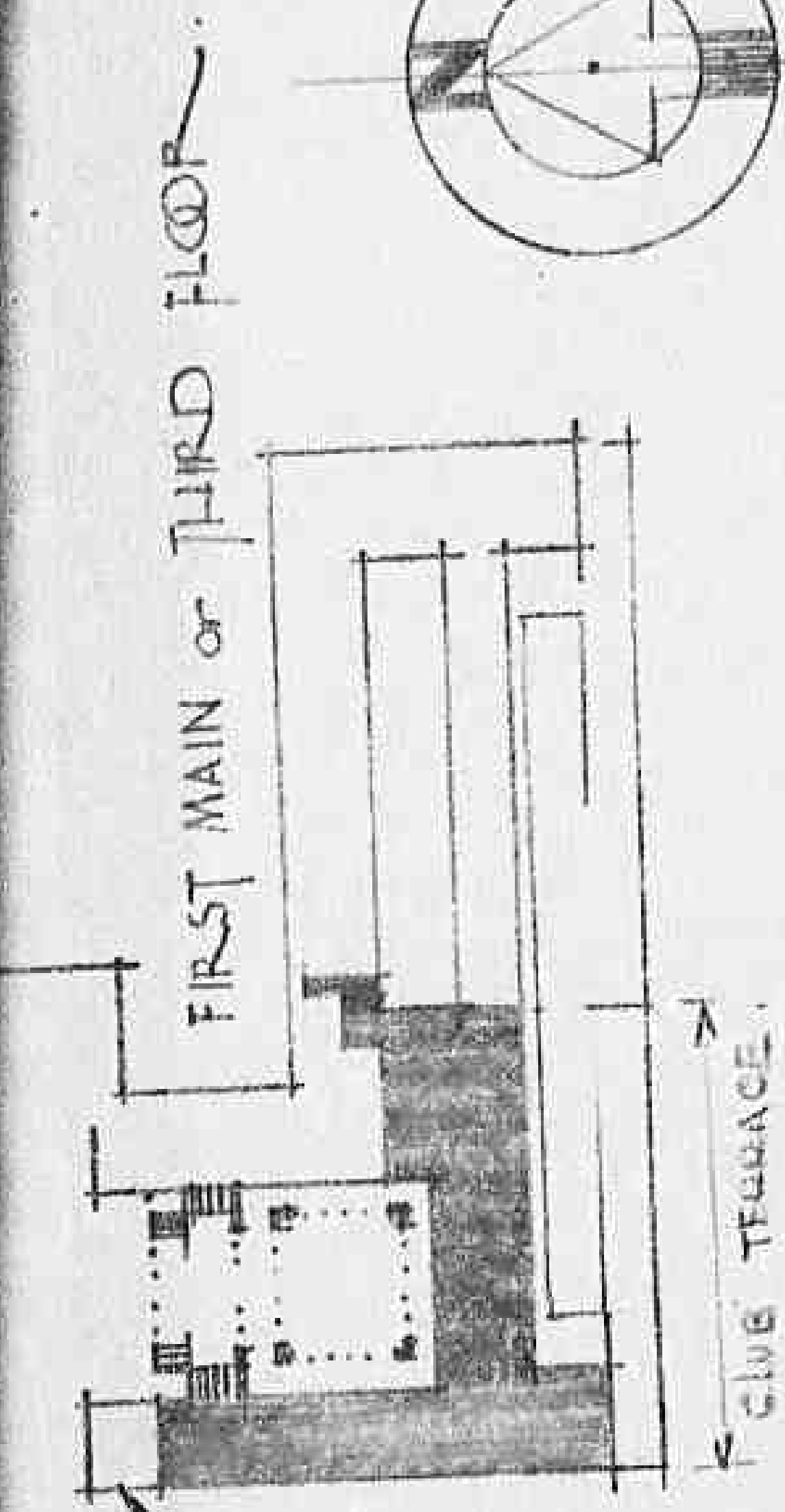
MAIN ENTRANCE

GROUND FLOOR or FIRST FLOOR



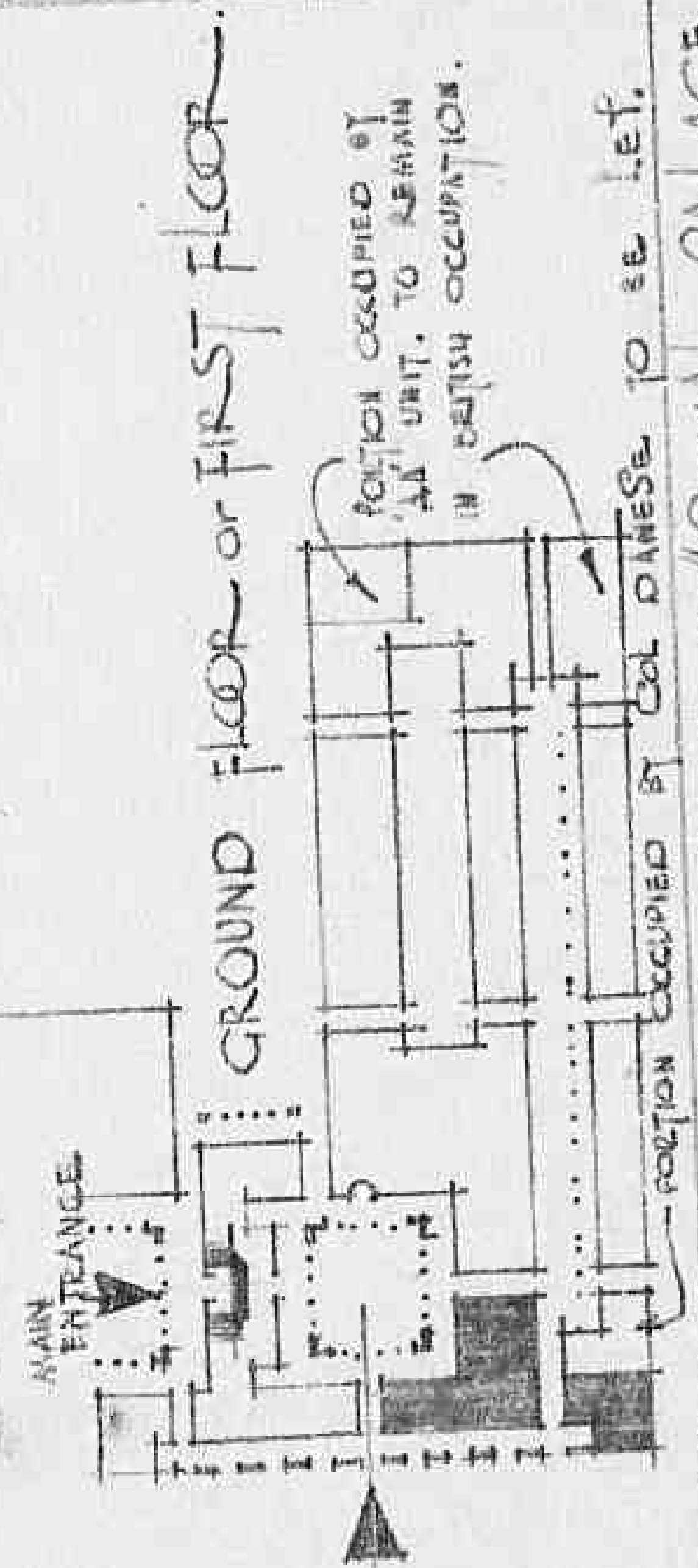
PORTION OCCUPIED BY

1342



2470

PORTION OCCUPIED BY COL. DANESI TO BE LEFT.



ACCOMMODATION, ALLOCATED IN "ROYAL PALACE" NAPLES, SHOWN THUS

SPECIAL NOTE
Subject to
with files

HEADQUARTERS
REGION 3, ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
A.P.O. 394, U. S. ARMY

13 March 1944

Major Jenner:

Attached is the list of sizes of wood needed by the contractor who is repairing the roofs of the Theatre and Chapel of the Palazzo Reale at Naples.

The material which he stated he had lined up for the work is at the Station of BOCCHIGLIERO in the Province of Cosenza. If equivalent sizes cannot be found locally, it will seem necessary to expedite the shipment from there.

Paul Gardner
Major, AUS,
Regional Fine Arts Officer

2473

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394

JBWP/bmp

Subcommission for Monuments Fine Arts and Archives

In reply refer to:
20900/MFAA

5 March 1944.

SUBJECT: Royal Palace at Naples.

TO : Executive Commissioner, R.C. & M.C. Section.

1. I refer to your 16/12/CA of 19 Feb. 1944. In view of the volume of correspondence which has now accumulated in connection with the occupation of the Royal Palace at Naples, I summarize the present situation.

2. The Commission of Enquiry appointed by the G.O. C.-in-C. to investigate damage alleged to have been caused to real and personal property of Historical and Educational Importance in Italy and sitting under the Presidency of Major General A.I. Collier, Commanding No. 3 District, found, after a meticulous examination of the evidence, (Sections 14-23) that considerable damage had been done to the Royal Palace at Naples other than that caused by bombing. Some of this was caused by troops, but the chaotic character of the occupation in most cases prevented the precise allocation of responsibility.

2474

3. The Commission recommended:
- a. that in general mixed occupation by more than one nationality be avoided (Sect. 70)
 - b. that in particular the French troops at present in occupation be withdrawn (Sect. 19).

4. Since the session of the Commission further allegations have been made by the Prince of Piedmont through Brigadier General R.B. Hume. These appear after investigation to be substantiated in two cases:

- a. Theft of an early printed book on SAVOY, published circa 1473 A.D. and believed unique, stolen (date uncertain) from a safe in the library.
- b. Theft in January of vestments and a tabernacle from the Oratoria chapel.

50 British and 250 French troops remain in occupation. Sikh and British guards have been posted but these are being partially withdrawn at 1800 hrs. today and will probably be replaced by Italians.

5. Through Lt. Col. Bowman, ACC liaison officer to PBS, I learn that the Palace is the direct responsibility of General Immel. He acts through Lt. Col. Griffith, Real Estate Officer

of PBS, who has allowed me to see a memorandum (extract appended) setting out the proposed policy with regard to the Palace.

6. This policy appears to run directly counter to the recommendations of the report submitted by the Commission of Enquiry, in particular in that it proposes to replace the present duality of nationalities by a mixed Franco-British-American (or -Italian) occupation. Without knowledge of the considerations behind this reallocation, it would appear to be a somewhat gratuitous solution.

7. In view of General Collier's verbally expressed opinion that the Palace can legitimately be used as a Rest Centre, it seems very doubtful whether any objections to this project will be upheld.

8. If the Palace is occupied as proposed, it will certainly suffer further damage. To keep this to a minimum it is essential that there should be a single authority appointed as responsible for the whole structure. This is specifically recommended by the Commission of Enquiry wherever mixed billeting is found to be essential (Sect. 70), and will allow the subcommission to retain at least some measure of useful liaison, and in particular to try to protect the National Library and the remaining fittings housed therein.

9. Lt. Col. Bowman advises me that in view of the expressed policy of PBS the matter ceases to be one of liaison, and I am therefore referring the matter to you for your decision.

J. B. Ward Perkins

J. B. WARD PERKINS

Major, R.A.

Deputy Director.

Copies to:
 REAA Officer, Reg. 3
 File 20031.
 Vice-President, Administrative Section

2473

Extract from Memorandum passed to Real Estate Officer, PBS setting out proposed policy for future of the Royal Palace, Naples.

1. "CC, PBS has decided to divide the Palace about equally with the French and British and Americans. You are to make an equitable division, each to make whatever use of their portion as they choose, assuming it for personnel."

2. Provides for separate entrances and exits, where possible.

3. Provides that in the event of its establishment as a Rest Camp the British Section shall pass under control of 57 Area.

NOTE: Lt. Col. Griffith states that in fact the Americans do not want their share and that it is probably to be offered to the Italians.

HEADQUARTERS
REGION 3, ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
APO 464, U.S. Army

8 December 1943

MEMORANDUM:

SUBJECT: Removal of Personal Furniture from Palazzo Reale
TO: Commanding officer of Quartered Troops.

1. The bearer, Engineer Siano Roberto, Technical Director of Works of the Palazzo Reale, has permission to remove his personal furniture from the Palazzo Reale, Naples.
2. He can be vouched for by the Curator of the Palazzo Reale, Terito Roberto.

PAUL GARDNER
Major AUS
Division of Education and Fine Arts.

2472

HEADQUARTERS FIFTH ARMY
ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
REGION 3 NAPLES
DIVISION OF MONUMENTS AND FINE ARTS

27 Dec. 1943.

Memorandum to: Major Gardner, Chief.

Subject : Storage of Pictures in Royal Palace, Naples.

1. I visited the Royal Palace 24 Dec. with the Superintendent of Galleries, Dr. Molajoli, and asked Sig. Perito, the Director, about the storage of pictures in the San Carlo Corridor. He referred me to the US unit where I interviewed a Lieutenant whose name I did not get.
2. The Lieutenant said that they did not intend to use the space but were concerned only with the safety of the pictures following your visit with the Inspectors General.
3. Sig. Perito will hang some back on the walls and stack others. They are too large to be removed through the doors.
4. Dr. Molajoli gave orders to have the means of access from the Theatre to the Royal Apartments walled up.
5. We did not have time to look for missing furniture in the quarters occupied by the various units.

W. A. Hammond

Wason Hammond
Capt. AC

2471

1348
Napoli, 19-12-1943

Il Capitano, Comandante
la Legazione Americana,
alloggiata in Palazzo Reale,
mi ha invitato a far
togliere, dal Passaggio di Carlo
tutti i quadri esistenti.
Poiché detti quadri sono di
dimensioni grandissime non
risce possibile trasportarli
altrove.

Occorrerà, perciò, che fossero
tolti dalle pareti (ed i loro
contenuti) avvolti e
portati in un'altra sede, che
la G. N. S. S. vorrà compiacersi
indicarci. 24/12
Sperto in attesa di ordini al
riguardo.

Con distinti ossequi

Oggetto:

Primoazione quadri del
Passaggio di Carlo

Oggetto:

Primozione quadri del
Passaggio S. Carlo

Il Capitano, Comandante
la Compagnia Americana,
alloggiata in Palazzo Reale,
mi ha invitato a far
vedere, dal Passaggio S. Carlo
tutti i quadri esistenti.
Poiché detti quadri sono di
dimensioni grandissime non
risce possibile trasportarli
altrove.

Occorre che, perciò, che fossero
tolti dalle cornici (dai persone
competenti) avvolte e
portati in un'altra sede, che
la S. N. Ill^{ma} vorrà compiacersi
indicarci. 21/11
Sperto in attesa di ordine al
riguardo.

Con distinti ossequi

Ill^{mo} Signor Comintendente
ai Monumenti

Rayoli

Il Conservatore

Luigi Strozzi

C O P Y

26 Nov '43

From: Custodian of Palazzo Reale, Naples

To : Superintendent of Monuments.

I beg to inform you that, in spite of the fact that I have taken all precautions available to me, the Anglo-American troops continue to force open doors of storerooms, depositories and private lodgings of the Palazzo Reale, carrying away anything that pleases them.

I am informing you as it is my responsibility and I trust that you will be able to take measures to prevent these grave incidents.

With all respects,

(signed) The Custodian
Roberto Perito

2463

Napoli, N. 26-11-1943

Degiovanni informare la
U.S. Gellusa che, nonostante siano
state prese tutte le misure precau-
zionali, a disposizione di
questo ufficio, gli Anglo americani
continuano a forare porte
di magazzini, depositi ed
alloggi privati, della Peggior
di Napoli, portando via tutto
quanto è di loro gradimento.

Di quanto sopra ne informo
la S. V. Gellusa, per quella respon-
sabilità che mi compete e per
quei provvedimenti che dovrà
provocare, per evitare che
simili gravi scarsi abbiano
ancora a ripetersi.

2468

Oggetto:

Scarsi che si verificano
nella Peggior di Napoli;

Gellusa Legua

Soprintendente di

Monumenti

Napoli.

Con ogni osservanza

F. B. B. B.

Napoli, 5-12-1948

Oggetto:

Mostruosi del Real Palazzo
portati via dagli angloamericani, sono spollati.

Gli angloamericani continuano
a portare via mostri del
Real Palazzo e dei privati, in
alloggiati, ma che attualmente
sono spollati.

A nulla valgono le proteste
e le dimostrazioni del sottoscritto
il quale, con rammarico,
deve assistere, senza poterlo
impedire, simile scenario.
Infine, infine, che quasi
tutti i giorni, il Comandante
americano manda a ritirare,
mediante camion, la legua
che era depositata nel cortile
con ogni osservanza.

MLM

Signor Soprintendente

ai Monumenti

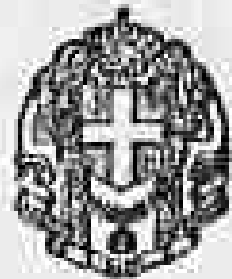
Belvedere.

2467

LL Conservatore

Napoli

F. M. M. M.



R. SOPRINTENDENZA ALLE GALLERIE
E ALLE OPERE D'ARTE DELLA CAMPANIA

NAPOLI, 17-12-1943

Al Soprintendente ai Monu-
menti

N A P O L I

Prot. N. Allegati

Risposta a N. del

COPIA

Oggetto: Mobili del Real Palazzo di Napoli spostati al Museo di S. Mar-
tino dagli anglo americani.-

Nella mia visita di ieri, al Museo di S. Martino, ho rile-
vato che un locale a pianterreno, di detto monumento, è arreda-
to con mobili appartenenti al Real Palazzo di Napoli.

L'asportazione dei mobili ed il conseguente arredamento
sarebbe stato compiuto, secondo informazioni assunte sul posto,
dalle truppe anglo americane, alloggiate nel Museo.

I mobili in oggetto erano prima depositati in un magazzini-
no del Real Palazzo, denominato "La Furiera" difatti, ho rico-
nosciuto dei tappeti, delle guide, tende, sediolino dorato, sedia
a braccioli, poltrone ecc. ecc., nonché stampe colorate di
proprietà di S.A.R. la Principessa di Piemonte, un pianoforte
del cav. Brulli, guardarobiere dell'Augusta Principessa ed
un apparecchio radio di proprietà degli autisti della Real
Casa.

2466

Quanto sopra conferma ancora una volta, le mie preceden-
ti precisazioni, relative all'inutile controllo che può esse-
re esercitato da me e dal personale dipendente nei movimenti
ed asportazione di oggetti giacenti in questo Real Palazzo,
che sono di proprietà dello Stato, della Real Casa e di priva

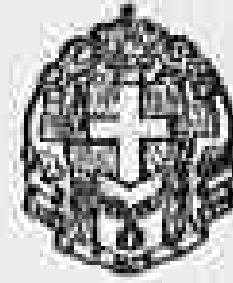
ti, ivi domiciliati, e ciò a causa dell'inefficiente autorità che hanno i Reali Carabinieri, gli Agenti di P.S. ed i Guardia portoni sui reparti anglo americani e francesi nel Palazzo istallatisi.

Ho ritenuto doveroso riferire l'odierna constatazione per la responsabilità che mi compete ed a ribadimento di quanto altra volta ho reso noto, e verbalmente e per iscritto.

Con osservanza

IL CONSERVATORE

F.to Perito Roberto



R. SOPRINTENDENZA ALLE GALLERIE
E ALLE OPERE D'ARTE DELLA CAMPANIA

NAPOLI, 20-12-1943

Ai l'Ill.mo Soprintendente
ai Monumenti

N A P O L I

Prot. N. _____ Allegati _____

Risposta a N. _____ del _____

COPIA

Oggetto: Inconvenienti nella Reggia di Napoli.-

Continuano i movimenti e le asportazioni di mobili ed oggetti di questo Real Palazzo, da parte degli anglo americani e francesi.

E mentre vien fatto divieto assoluto di trasportare fuori della Reggia mobili privati di funzionari sloggiati, nessuna disposizione al riguardo è stata emanata, dal Comando americano, per impedire che mobili, legna, rami, oggetti ecc. ecc. di proprietà dello Stato e di privati, vengano asportati fuori dal Palazzo, senza un regolare permesso.

Nonostante tutte le precauzioni prese, gli ingressi degli alloggi vengono continuamente forzati e spogliati dei mobili che li arredano. Il medesimo inconveniente avviene nella Biblioteca Nazionale.

Non è raro poi che donne estranee, accompagnate da militari americani o francesi, s'introducano nel Palazzo, lo visitano e ne escono con involti, il di cui contenuto non ci è permesso sapere.

Il traffico che dovrebbe effettuarsi dalla Porta Principale, spesso si verifica che altri cancelli o porte di comunicazione, che vengano aperti o forzati dai suddetti militari.

Tale è l'attuale dolorosa situazione di questa Reggia.

2465

Con ogni osservanza

IL CONSERVATORE

F.to Perito Roberto

ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
MAIN HEADQUARTERS
SUBCOMMISSION FOR MONUMENTS, FINE ARTS AND ARCHIVES

31 Dec. 1943.

Memorandum to: Major RIZZY AGO/AGO representative on the
Commission of Inquiry into damage done by
occupying troops.

Subject : Forceful entry of three soldiers into a
private apartment in the Palazzo Reale.

1. This memorandum is addressed to you not in the hope that anything can be done about the incident reported but to serve as a small example for the Commission of Inquiry as to the problems raised by the uncontrolled billeting of troops in such monuments as the Palazzo Reale. A copy will be submitted to Region 3 Hqs., through Major Gardner, Chief of Division of Monuments and Fine Arts.
2. Through the courtesy of the Superintendent of Monuments for Campania and the Director of the Royal Palace, I have been permitted to occupy two rooms of an apartment of an absent court official in the Royal Palace, Naples.
3. This evening, on my return, two ladies from the apartment below stopped me on the stairs and asked me if I had sent three soldiers to enter and examine their apartment. I replied that I had not and that any dealings I had with the Palace would be through the Director. They then related the following:
4. The apartment belongs to Oreste MARCA, the Chief Inspector of the Palace Police for the Prince of Piedmont. He has been cut off at Rome and the apartment is occupied by his elderly sister, her daughter, and the daughter's son, a small boy. The daughter's husband is in Sardinia so that the three are alone and unprotected in the apartment. 2464
5. They have had constant difficulty with troops entering this part of the Palace, which is not used for billets and on which "Off Limits" notices have been placed by the US Officer in charge of the unit recently moved out of here. They asked if I could make a more forceful notice but it is my experience that troops disregard "off limits" notices when there is no MP to enforce them. In the past, troops broke into their store rooms on the ground floor and took a good deal of household goods. They used to keep the main door to the stairway bolted but troops climbed in through windows. Now that I have to get in, they can no longer bolt the door.

-2-

6. This afternoon, about 1600 hrs., the daughter was out and the widow and ill child were alone in the apartment. Three soldiers knocked at the door and when the lady refused entrance they forcefully shoved her aside. Only one spoke a little Italian but they claimed to be police, though she states that they had no arm-bands or other insignia of police. They might, of course, have been GIC. They went all through the apartment and when they saw two electric stoves one apparently said that they might do for the "commandante" upstairs. They could only have known of my occupancy, if they in fact were referring to me, if they had already been upstairs and seen the notice which I placed on my door. As they left, the one who spoke some Italian asked the lady if she had any wine, apparently because she had two big demijohns in the bathroom which had been used for water. I gather that the lady is something of a prohibitionist from her condemnation of wine.

7. The three left without doing any damage or taking anything.

8. As usual, the lady could give no specific information. She spoke of two being clothed in linen and one in a wool uniform with a long jacket. It may even be doubted if they were US soldiers. It is probably too much to expect the Italians to demand identification and to put up a stiff front against such incursions.

9. This incident illustrates the difficulty which is faced in getting concrete evidence sufficient to fix guilt for damage done by occupying troops.

a) The troops have no respect for notices and do not hesitate to pretend to positions or orders which do not exist.

b) The Italians do not have the strength or sense to demand certificates or written requisitions etc.

c) The Italians do not secure any evidence which would suffice to identify the culprits.

10. The lack of centralized control in the Palace and the numerous possibilities of entrance make it at present impossible to prevent such incidents. Only two solutions are possible:

a) Either Allied soldier-guards must be posted much more numerous than at present.

b) Or the various entrances to the Palace must be locked or walled, save for one and a rigid control must be exercised at that. Furthermore the troops billeted in the Palace should be responsible, as far as conduct goes, to some one officer.

-2-

-3-

11. If the Royal Navy and the Italian Navy should be quartered in the Palace without adequate control measures both as regards closing off the parts not used for billets, ensuring adequate policing, and having a responsible officer in charge of their conduct, the situation is likely to get worse rather than better.

MASON HAYMOND
Capt. AC
SFAAA Officer, 15 Army Group.

2463

-3-

HEADQUARTERS
REGION 3, A.P.O. 394, U.S. ARMY

11 January 1944

SUBJECT: Vandalism in the Palazzo Reale of Naples

TO : R.C.A.O., Hq., Region 3, AMG

1. In the past few days, unknown persons have willfully slashed and practically destroyed ten large monumental paintings in the corridors of the Palazzo Reale leading to the San Carlo Theatre. These paintings had been left in the corridors as they were too large to be removed through the doorways.

2. The Palace is now occupied by British and French troops and a large number of Italian workmen are employed there in clearing away the wreckage of bombing. The iron grill connecting the Palace and the San Carlo Theatre has been continually broken open and was open at the time of the vandalism. Therefore civilians as well as soldiers could have had access to this section of the Palace.

3. The vandalism occurred after the departure of the American troops who had been billeted in the Palace.

4. So far it has not been possible to ascertain the perpetrators of this vandalism.

2462

Paul Gardner
Major, AUS
Division of Fine Arts.

ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
HEADQUARTERS
SUBMISSION FOR MONUMENTS FINE ARTS AND ARCHIVES

12 January 1944

Evidence submitted by Capt. Mason HAMMOND, Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives Officer to AAG Hq., 15 Army Group, to the Commission of Enquiry into damage done by Allied Occupation Forces to Monuments in Naples.

1. You have asked me to place on record certain incidents which have come to my attention in the Palazzo Reale of Naples in virtue of my residence at the moment in that Palazzo. I have not personally witnessed any of these incidents but they have been brought to my attention by the Italian personnel and others and I have no reason to doubt the reports.

2. About ten days ago, on my return to my apartment after dinner, I was stopped on the stairs by a lady from the apartment beneath and asked if I had sent three soldiers to examine her apartment. I said that I had not. She then stated that she, her daughter, and her young grandson lived in the apartment and that about 1600 hrs., while she was alone with her grandchild, three soldiers had knocked at her door and, when she opened it, pushed her aside on the ground that they were "police" and examined the whole apartment. They did not take anything though they remained on an electric heater which might do for "the commandante" upstairs, perhaps as if they had seen the notice on my door, and one asked for wine. The lady stated that earlier their storeroom on the ground floor had been broken into and much linen and other furnishing taken. She could not identify the nationality of the soldiers who molested her.

3. Four mornings ago, the custodian who looks after my room reported to me that on the previous day he had caught two French soldiers entering my apartment from the balcony which runs along the front of the Palace and which is accessible at several points. He turned the soldiers over to another custodian to take to the Director but they ran away. He was positive that they were French. A door opening from the rear of the apartment has been so often broken open that it has now been walled up.

4. Yesterday morning I interviewed Cav. Perito, the Director, and he stated that within a few days, he and a General, Aide de Camp to the Principe di Piedmonte, had gone down into a storeroom and found three French soldiers looking about with flashlights. They had not taken anything.

5. Cav. Perito further reported two days ago to the Superintendent and yesterday to me that on the preceding day, one of his patrolmen found that ten of thirteen very large pictures in the passage leading from the Palace to the San Carlo Opera House had been mutilated. I personally visited these pictures about three weeks ago with Cav. Perito and the Superintendent, Dr. Molajoli, in response to a request from the Captain in charge of the US troops then billeted in the Palace that they be removed to storage.

2461

-2-

I found on enquiry that the Captain had no intention of using the space but in view of the stir that was then being made about damage in the Palace he wanted them put in safety. As they were too large to move, I recommended that they be stacked together. This was not done. At that time, one had suffered heavy tearing from a bomb explosion, but the others were in good condition, with perhaps minor rents in one or two. Yesterday I saw that almost all had been pierced and torn. Some of the rents were clearly made with a knife or bayonet, others might have been made by fists or sticks. There is no evidence of who did this.

6. On Saturday last, I was taking a friend through the Palace and found some of the personnel moving books into a storeroom. They showed me how when this room was found locked, troops and climbed up to an inside window and let themselves down inside with ropes. Marks of their sliding feet still showed on the walls. They asserted that these were troops, not civilians. They could not assert that anything had been taken.

7. At present, the US troops have almost wholly left the Palace. There are only five or six in residence. There are said to be some twelve to fifteen British and over two hundred French, though several days ago it was reported to Major Gardner that the French were leaving.

8. I have consulted again with Cav. Perito and am quite prepared to accept his, and incidentally Dr. Molajoli's, statement that it is impossible without great expense so to wall off the various internal sections of the Palace that part could be used for billets without leaving access to other parts. I do not feel that great initiative has been shown in coping with the situation; e.g. on my previous visit we found that the iron gate leading to the stairs to the Opera had had its padlock smashed. Dr. Molajoli instructed that the entrance be welded. Nothing has been done and Cav. Perito states that workmen have not been sent from the engineer's office. We went down the stairs to a door at the foot which has been nailed up but, as I pointed out to Cav. Perito, it could be thoroughly closed by taking a piece of beam, much of which is lying about, and bracing it against the opposite wall. Nevertheless, the only real assurance is to empty the Palace of troops and secure the relatively few main entrances.

Submitted under oath by

2460

MASON HAMMOND
Capt. AG

-2-

HEADQUARTERS
REGION 3, A.P.O. 394, U.S. ARMY

11 January 1944

SUBJECT: Vandalism in the Palazzo Reale of Naples

TO : R.C.A.O., Hq., Region 3, AMG

1. In the past few days, unknown persons have willfully slashed and practically destroyed ten large monumental paintings in the corridors of the Palazzo Reale leading to the San Carlo Theatre. These paintings had been left in the corridors as they were too large to be removed through the doorways.

2. The Palace is now occupied by British and French troops and a large number of Italian workmen are employed there in clearing away the wreckage of bombing. The iron grill connecting the Palace and the San Carlo Theatre has been continually broken open and was open at the time of the vandalism. Therefore civilians as well as soldiers could have had access to this section of the Palace.

3. The vandalism occurred after the departure of the American troops who had been billeted in the Palace.

4. So far it has not been possible to ascertain the perpetrators of this vandalism.

2459

Paul Gardner
Major, AUS
Division of Fine Arts.

HEADQUARTERS
REGION 3, ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
A.P.O. 394, U.S. ARMY

22 January 1944

SUBJECT; French Troops in Palazzo Reale of Naples.

TO : R.C.A.O., Hq., Region 3, AMG.

1. Major Jenks, Liaison Officer with French Forces, states that he was told by Col. Griffith of the Metropolitan Base Area that the French troops billeted in the Palazzo Reale could remain there and that there have been no subsequent contradictory orders.

2. The claims of the Italian authorities of vandalism on the part of the French troops were reported to Major Jenks who states that they will be investigated and a report made to this office.

Paul Gardner
Major; AUS
Division of Fine Arts.

2458

RECD

2125

Education & Fa

HEADQUARTERS
METROPOLITAN AREA
PENINSULAR BASE SECTION
APO 782

RP/as
14 January 1944

SUBJECT: Report of Additional Recent Vandalism at Royal Palace (Via Roma).
TO : Commanding Officer, AMG, City of Naples.

1. This letter will confirm telephone conversations between Lt Col Perkins, of this office, and Maj Gardner, Fine Arts Division, Region III, AMG; and also, between Lt Col Perkins and Lt Col Kincaid, CO, AMG, City of Naples, on 13 January.

2. An unofficial and verbal report to this office was made on 13 January by Mr. Barriello, who is employed at this Hqs as civilian liaison agent, to the effect that he had been told by the Crown Prince of violent vandalism in the palace during the previous few days, particularly at or near the Prince's private apartments. The report was that books had been burned, statues had been overturned and furniture removed. Maj Gardner stated over the telephone that he visits the Palace every few days and that there have been no such depredations to his knowledge; but that there had been severe damages to some pictures within the past few days, oil paintings having been slashed and torn. Maj Gardner further stated that there was no indication whether such vandalism had been done by soldiers or civilians. He indicated that there exists reasonable evidence that damages to art treasures in Naples had been perpetrated by civilian elements unquestionably for the purpose of sabotage and discrediting the Allies and establishing confusion and misunderstanding.

3. For the record, all American troops occupying this Palace, consisting solely of Hqs Det, MA, FBS, were withdrawn as of 28 December 1943. By order of the Commanding General, FBS, this Detachment has maintained a guard since that date at the portion of the Palace it formerly occupied. The Det Comdr reports that no property has been removed without the approval of Maj. Gardner. Unauthorized persons are not permitted to enter.

4. Detachments of French and British still remain at the Palace.

Donald E. Adams
DONALD E. ADAMS,
Colonel, CE,
Commanding Officer.

Copies to:
Commanding General, FBS.
CO, Region III, AMG.

2457



*R. Soprintendenza alle Gallerie
Napoli*

IL SOPRINTENDENTE

Napoli, 8 gennaio 1944

Al Signor
Maj. PAUL GARDNER
Division Monuments & Fine Arts
A.M.G. N A P O L I

Vi rimetto, per conoscenza, la copia di un
"memorandum" da me presentato alla Commissione Militare Al-
leata, incaricata di accertare i danni provocati dall'occu-
pazione dei Musei e dei Palazzi Reali da parte delle Truppe
Alleate.

Con ossequio

IL SOPRINTENDENTE
(Dr. Bruno Molajoli)

2456

COPY, and Translation

Napoli, 7 gennaio 1944

Io sottoscritto, Dott. BRUNO MOLAJOLI, R. Soprintendente alle Gallerie e ai Monumenti della Campania, espongo alla COMMISSIONE MILITARE ALLEATA per l'accertamento dei danni prodotti dalle Truppe Alleate a proprietà immobiliari e mobiliari di importanza storica e artistica, le seguenti mie dichiarazioni generali, affinché possa acquisirle agli atti come aggiunta e parte integrante delle dichiarazioni particolari che ho già fatte o potrò ancora fare per richieste della stessa Commissione sui singoli casi:

1. I fabbricati di importanza storica, amministrati direttamente dalle due Soprintendenze alle mie dipendenze, e tuttora occupati parzialmente o totalmente da reparti di Truppe Alleate, sono i seguenti:

- a) Museo Nazionale "Duca di Martina" alla Floridiana
- b) Museo Nazionale di S. Martino
- c) Castel Nuovo
- d) Palazzo Reale di Napoli
- e) Palazzo Reale di Capodimonte (dipendenze e parco)
- f) Palazzo Reale di Caserta

Cioè, quasi la totalità degli Istituti direttamente affidati alla responsabilità delle Soprintendenze di cui sono a capo.

2. Nessuna Autorità ha finora autorizzato, con regolare decreto di requisizione, l'occupazione dei suddetti fabbricati da parte delle Truppe Alleate.

3. Trattandosi di edifici adibiti normalmente a scopo di Musei Statali, o di residenza della Famiglia Reale, o di uffici delle Soprintendenze, essi comprendono non soltanto proprietà mobiliari che sono generalmente ritenute come antichità, ma anche arredi, mobilio, forniture, attrezzi, libri, documenti, di uso comune, che, secondo le leggi italiane, il Soprintendente ha il dovere di conservare e di proteggere come cose strettamente inerenti all'uso e alla funzione dei suddetti palazzi, musei, etc., e come beni patrimoniali dello Stato.

4. Molti dei suddetti oggetti (mobili, damaschi, tappeti, ornamenti, etc.) hanno spesso singolare importanza storica. Ma anche quando non hanno per sé stessi importanza storica, la acquistano come elementi integranti e necessari dell'ambiente storico nel quale sono collocati o per il quale servono, e dal quale non possono essere separati, per danno o perdita, senza che per ciò stesso risultino danneggiate o diminuite la importanza storica dell'edificio antico e la possibilità di ripristinarne a suo tempo il normale funzionamento.

2455

(2)

5. In conseguenza dell'occupazione da parte delle Truppe Alleate, il suddetto materiale è stato ed è tuttora soggetto a sottrazioni e danneggiamenti di varia entità: in parte esso è stato prelevato con ordini di requisizione privi di specifica descrizione che consenta il riconoscimento degli oggetti; in parte è stato trasferito, senza ordini scritti, in località remote e non sconosciute; in parte è stato danneggiato o sottratto per opera di militari isolati o di persone da essi introdotte nei fabbricati. Durante il periodo dell'occupazione da parte delle Truppe Alleate, si sono trovati più volte forzati ed aperti i serramenti di chiusura alle porte dei locali di deposito e degli appartamenti non occupati dalle Truppe.

6. Per la stessa situazione derivante dall'occupazione da parte delle Truppe Alleate, il personale delle Soprintendenze si è trovato nella condizione di non avere più la facoltà e l'autorità di esercitare il suo compito di vigilanza e di custodia su gran parte del suddetto materiale di cui è, per legge, responsabile; e, tuttora, non è nemmeno in condizione di accertare esattamente l'entità dei danni e delle perdite, a causa del divieto d'ingresso in molti locali occupati dalle Truppe, e a causa del disordine derivato dai ripetuti spostamenti e prelievi da parte delle Truppe Alleate. - La medesima difficoltà di accesso e di sorveglianza rende privi di garanzia i depositi di opere d'arte situati entro i fabbricati stessi, non soltanto contro possibili sottrazioni, ma anche contro eventuali pericoli di incendio, infiltrazioni d'acqua, o altri involontari accidenti che possono compromettere l'integrità e la conservazione degli oggetti ivi raccolti. - Laddove accanto agli edifici esistono parchi e giardini (che per il loro carattere storico e monumentale sono affidati alla tutela della Soprintendenza, per la legge 29 giugno 1939, N. 1497 su la protezione delle Bellezze Naturali), i danneggiamenti alle piante e alle coltivazioni, provocati da tagli abusivi o da devastazioni casuali con mezzi meccanici, sono aggravati e spesso resi irreparabili dalla impossibilità di eseguire la normale manutenzione da parte del personale della Soprintendenza. - Infine, va anche considerato che, negli edifici danneggiati dalle bombe, l'occupazione da parte delle Truppe Alleate ostacola il sollecito e urgente inizio e la regolare esecuzione dei lavori di riparazione - per i quali, d'altra parte, il Governo Militare Alleato sta premurosamente mettendo a disposizione della Soprintendenza il necessario finanziamento - allo scopo di evitare più gravi rovine nei fabbricati monumentali.

7. Per tutti questi motivi, ritengo che la valutazione dei danni non possa essere limitata ai soli oggetti generalmente considerati come antichità, ma debba ragionevolmente essere estesa alla grave situazione generale nella quale sono venuti a trovarsi tutti gli Istituti dipendenti dalla Soprintendenze, in seguito all'occupazione da parte delle Truppe Alleate.

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8. Finora ho sinceramente desiderato di facilitare le necessità dei Comandi Militari Alleati nell'alloggiamento delle Truppe, ritenendo che si trattasse di occupazioni provvisorie e di breve durata. Ma se tali occupazioni debbono permanere con carattere di continuità e stabilità, ritengo mio dovere richiedere fin da ora un esame generale della situazione, allo scopo di stabilire, in modo sufficiente e definitivo, le garanzie strettamente relative alle gravi responsabilità dell'ufficio che ricopro, nonché alle assicurazioni più volte fatte dai Governi Alleati per il rispetto e la tutela dei Musei, dei Monumenti e delle opere di Belle Arti.

9. Dichiaro, con viva gratitudine, che nei numerosi miei interventi verbali o scritti, fatti allo scopo di limitare l'estensione dei danni e di conciliare possibilmente le necessità delle Truppe Alleate con gli obblighi del mio Ufficio, ho trovato sempre la più intelligente comprensione e il più pronto interessamento degli Ufficiali preposti alla Divisione Monumenti e Belle Arti, presso il Governo Militare Alleato, Reg. 3., Napoli. E sono sinceramente convinto delle difficoltà che hanno impedito più efficaci risultati del loro volenteroso intervento.

10. E' mia opinione che nei fabbricati sopra indicati, a causa della loro complessa conformazione, non è praticamente possibile isolare completamente i locali da riservare ad alloggio di Truppe, e separarli dai locali destinati a raccogliere gli oggetti storici e gli altri beni patrimoniali dello Stato, che sono in consegna della Soprintendenza, in modo tale da potersi stabilire una sicura indipendenza ed una reciproca garanzia di non-interferenza.

11. Esprimo il mio convincimento che, fino a quando i suddetti fabbricati non saranno restituiti liberi al completo uso delle Soprintendenze, non sarà possibile accertare i danni e le perdite avvenute, né ottenere efficace impedimento al loro ripetersi, né ristabilire l'ordine e i controlli necessari al ripristino della piena responsabilità amministrativa conferita dalle leggi italiane agli organi delle Soprintendenze.

12. Esprimo la mia speranza che la Commissione consideri nelle sue facoltà l'esame di tale situazione generale e possa ottenere dai Comandi competenti un provvedimento decisivo, conforme all'importanza che la questione assume sotto ogni punto di vista.

Con osservanza

IL SOPRINTENDENTE
alle Gallerie e ai Monumenti
(Dr. Bruno Molajoli)

[Handwritten signature]

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TRANSLATION

The undersigned Dr. BRUNO MOLAJOLI, R. Superintendent to Galleries and historical Monuments of Campania, brings to the attention of the ALLIED MILITARY COMMISSION for the ascertainment of damages caused by the Allied Troops to real or personal property of historical and educational importance, the following statements, in order to have them included and incorporated in the documents and special statements formerly produced or to be eventually produced at request of the above mentioned Commission on particular cases:

1. Historical buildings directly administrated by both the Offices under my management at present partially or totally occupied by the Allied Troops are the following:

- a) Museo Nazionale "Duca di Martina" alla Floridiana
- b) Museo Nazionale di S. Martino
- c) Castel Nuovo
- d) Palazzo Reale di Napoli
- e) Palazzo Reale di Capodimonte (dependences and park)
- f) Palazzo Reale di Caserta

That is, most of the Institutes of which I am directly responsible as Superintendent of both offices.

2. No Authority has yet authorized, by a regular declaration of requisition, the occupation of such buildings on the part of the Allied Troops.

3. Being but buildings generally used as museums or residence of the Royal Family or Superintendence offices, they include not only personal property which are generally considered as antiquities, but also furniture, books, documents and everything of general use of which keeping and protection the Superintendent is entrusted by Italian law, as they are strictly connected with the life and history of such palaces, museums, etc., being also State property.

4. Many of the above mentioned objects (furniture, damasks, carpets, decorations, etc.) have often a peculiar historical importance of their own, ^{or} not having it, they acquire it as being an important and indispensable part of the historical milieu where they are placed and whence they can not be removed by damage or loss, without damaging or impairing the historical importance of the ancient building and the possibility of restoring in due time its normal functioning.

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2) translation

5. As a consequence of the occupation of the Allied Troops, the above mentioned material was removed and heavily damaged. Some of it has been taken away on a requisition order with no specification of the objects to be removed, which prevented any further identification of them. Some of it has been removed with no written orders, to places which are still unknown to us. A part of it was damaged or taken away by single soldiers or by people they were entertaining in such buildings. During the period of the occupation of the Allied Troops we have found many times forced both locks and doors of store premises and apartments not occupied by the troops.

6. As a consequence of the occupation of the Allied Troops, the staff of the Superintendence offices was deprived of its main task: vigilance and keeping of the most part of the above mentioned material of which, by law, it is responsible. Further it has not been possible to ascertain the real extent of damages and losses because of the prohibition of the admittance to many premises occupied by the Troops and of the disorder caused by the numerous removals and appropriations on the part of Allied Troops. - The same difficulty of admittance and lack of vigilance is not a security for the stores of art treasures situated in the occupied buildings, since they are exposed to both removals and eventual dangers such as fires, water penetration or other occasional accidents which may undermine the integrity and maintenance of the stored objects. - In the places where parks and gardens are to be found (xx which for their historical and monumental character are committed to the care of the Superintendence office by the law June 29th 1939, n. 1497, about the protection of Natural Beauties) the damages caused to plants and cultivations by means of abusive cuts or occasional ravages by mechanical means, are aggravated by the impossibility of carrying out the usual maintenance on the part of the competent employees of the Superintendence. - It is further to be noticed that the occupation on the part of the Allied Troops of buildings damaged by bombs prevents the quick and urgent starting and the normal carrying out of repairing works - which have been promoted and financed by the Allied Military Government - in order to avoid further damage to the monumental buildings.

7. For the above stated reasons, in my opinion the ascertainment of damages shall not be limited to the only objects generally considered as antiquities, but is to be extended to the serious general condition of all the Institutes depending on the Superintendence office, after the occupation of the Allied Troops.

3) translation

8. Till now I have sincerely wished to collaborate with the Allied Military Commands in lodging the Troops, deeming it was but a temporary short lasting occupation. But if such occupations are meant to last a long time, I hold it my duty to request a general supervision of the situation, as to establish once for all the guarantees connected with the serious responsibilities of my office, and with the statements of the Allied Government promising protection and respect of Museums and artistic Monuments.

9. I state, with utmost gratitude, that through the numerous interviews I had with the aim of limiting the extension of damages and possibly conciliating the necessities of the Allied Troops with the duties of my Office I have always found the most complete understanding and the deepest interest on the part of the Allied Officers of the Division for Monuments and Fine Arts of A.M.G., Reg. 3d, Naples. I am sincerely persuaded of the difficulties which have prevented more efficacious results in their kind intervention.

10. It ^{is} ~~is~~ my opinion that because of the complex structure of the above mentioned buildings, it is not possible to isolate entirely the premises reserved as lodgings for the troops from those destined as repositories for historical objects and other State properties which have been committed to the care of the Superintendence office.

11. I am sure that as long as the above mentioned buildings will not be evacuated and given back to the Superintendence offices, it will be impossible to ascertain the damages and losses occurred, or prevent their occurring again, or re-establish the order and the controls which are so necessary to the restoration of the full administrative responsibility conferred by Italian law to the members of the Superintendence offices.

12. I hope the Commission will extend to its competence the supervision of such general situation as to obtain from the competent Commands a decisive measure, in conformity with the importance of the matter under any point of view.

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HEADQUARTERS
REGION 3, ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
A.P.O. 394, U. S. ARMY

7 February 1944

FA-10

SUBJECT: Destruction of Italian Property by Allied Soldiers.

TO : R.C.A.O., Hq., Region 3, AMG.

1. With reference to the attached correspondence, the Palazzo Reale of Naples has not been occupied by American troops for over a month. About fifty British troops and two hundred and fifty French troops are still billeted there.

2. The chief custodian of the Palace, Perito, was consulted about this reported destruction. He stated that a large Blanc de Chine statue of a kneeling man was found broken in a storeroom early in December 1943. This was seen. There are evidences that the statue had been broken before but it is doubtful if it can be repaired now as many pieces are missing. The statue had been in a locked storeroom No. 51 which was forced open. The portrait of Lord Nelson was in the same storeroom and was cut from the frame at the same time. Store-room No. 51 is located in the section of the Palace occupied by British troops.

3. No tapestries in the true sense of the word were left in the Palace but wall brocades in several of the State Apartments have been stripped from the walls during the occupation of the Allied troops. The Commission of Enquiry found some of these pieces in the billets of the occupying troops. The custodians have claimed that women of Naples visiting the soldiers in their quarters have carried away parts of these wall brocades but this has never been proven.

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4. The Royal Chapel is still buried under great piles of wreckage from the collapsed roof. The custodian Perito states that as far as he knows, nothing has been taken from there. A small subsidiary chapel, called the Oratoria, was broken into the middle of January. Vestments and a small plated tabernacle were taken. The stairway leading to this chapel is adjacent to

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the section occupied by French troops. This fact was reported to the French Liaison officer who promised an investigation and a report. None has been received to date.

5. Dr. Guerriera, the Director of the Biblioteca Nazionale, states that as far as she knows, only a few books from her Library have been found in the grounds of the Palace and that these were returned immediately to the Library. It is true that the Library, which is in the section occupied by British troops, has been broken into a number of times and books and medals have been taken. All efforts to find these by show-down inspections have failed. For the past month, the Library has been guarded day and night by special guards, arranged for by AMG, and there have been no recent reports of entering and looting.

6. There is another library in the Palace, called the Palatine, which had been housed in the apartments of the Prince. The greater part of this library was sent to Caserta months ago but some of it remained in the Palace. This librarian states that books have been taken from this remaining part and the covers of them have been found in the Palace grounds. No information could be obtained on the mentioned book on Savoy but a safe in the Library has been broken into since the occupation by Allied troops.

7. It should be borne in mind that at all times since the occupation by Allied forces, the grounds and the Palace have accessible to large numbers of civilians.

8. At present the sections of the Palace not actually occupied by Allied forces are guarded and are clearly marked with Out of Bounds signs.

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Paul Gardner
Major, AUS.
Division of Fine Arts.

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