

Press Statement 13 March 2000

The Bavarian State Collection of Paintings is handing back a painting by von Kalckreuth to the former owners

On Monday 13 March 2000 the Director General of the Bavarian State Collection of Paintings, Dr. Reinhold Baumstark, will hand back the triptych *The Three Stages of Life* by Count Leopold von Kalckreuth (1895-1928) in London to the heirs of Elizabeth Glanville. In doing this, he is acknowledging the claim made by the heirs, as well as by the London based Commission for Looted Art in Europe, but at the same time he sees this handover as an indication of the fact that the Bavarian State Collection of Paintings recognises the entitlement of owners, or their heirs, to property they had formerly owned, whose rights had been violated by the National Socialists.

Count Leopold von Kalckreuth painted the triptych *The Three Stages of Life*, also known as *Our Life Lasts 70 Years*, in 1898. By 1900 it had already been mentioned as being part of a private collection in Vienna. In 1930 Elizabeth Glanville (1901-1983) inherited the work from her father, the Austrian art collector Fritz Redlich. In March 1938 she had to abandon the triptych in Vienna, together with all her property, when she was forced to emigrate with her husband and children because she was of Jewish descent.

In 1942 the Bavarian State Collection of Paintings acquired the triptych from a Viennese private collection for the price of 15,000 Reichsmarks for the Neue Pinakothek, without knowing who the original owner had been. Since 1971 Elizabeth Glanville had continually brought the question of the ownership to the attention of the authorities in Munich, but her efforts to reclaim the painting were unsuccessful because her entitlement was not recognised by the Compensation Office in the Berlin district court.

This has made the Bavarian State Collection of Paintings even more determined to act in accordance with its moral duty and to give back the painting, which is currently in the exhibition **1900: Art at the Crossroads** at the Royal Academy, to the heirs of Elizabeth Glanville. Apart from this, the Bavarian State Collection of Paintings is currently engaged in researching other relevant acquisitions, in order to examine the possible restitution of further works which were taken illegally from their Jewish or other owners during the National Socialist period.