

Rothschild collection to be sold

LONDON (AP) — The gilded objects, seized by the Nazis during World War II and only recently returned to the illustrious Rothschild family, transformed the shabby auction showroom into a lavish drawing room of fin-de-siecle Vienna.

The collection amassed by barons Nathaniel and Albert von Rothschild is expected to fetch more than \$40 million when it goes on sale Thursday.

"There are very few names as big as Rothschild," Alex Hope, who organized the sale for Christie's, said. "There will be very few collections that will rival this in importance."

The 250 paintings, pieces of furniture and decorative objects evoke another era — a time when the Rothschilds, scions

of the Austrian arm of the 250-year-old banking dynasty, were the foremost collectors in Europe.

"There will be very few collections that will rival this in importance."

— Alex Hope
Sale organizer

Their descendants are selling the treasures because they no longer have opulent homes in which to display the pieces. While the Nazis protected the family's art collection, they ruined the

Rothschild's financially, destroying their factories and investments.

Photographs of Nathaniel Rothschild's home in Vienna, included in the auction catalog, demonstrate the dramatic change in the family's fortunes since the first half of the century.

One photo shows a painting by the Dutch master Franz Hals, "Portrait of Rieleman Roosterman," valued by Christie's at \$4 million to \$5.5 million.

It was just one of many precious objects in the room, competing for attention with lavish furniture and Oriental carpets.

After the Nazis seized the Rothschilds' property in 1938, the art remained hidden, mostly in salt mines, until it was recovered by American soldiers after the war.

Tribunal charges former minister with persecution

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — A former Bosnian Serb Cabinet minister was charged Wednesday by the U.N. war crimes tribunal with allegedly helping orchestrate an ethnic purge of non-Serbs from parts of Bosnia in 1992.

Radislav Brdjanin, 51, is the most senior Bosnian Serb civilian official yet to be brought to the Yugoslav tribunal for trial. A lawmaker in the Bosnian Serb parliament, he was charged with persecution — a crime against humanity. He was arrested Tuesday in the northern Bosnian city of Banja Luka.

Prosecutors say Brdjanin led a campaign aimed at driving Muslims and Croats from the regions of Prijedor and Sanski Most in northwest Bosnia. The plan involved first pressuring non-Serbs to flee by creating "impossible conditions involving pressure and terror tactics," the indictment claims. Those who refused to leave allegedly were physically forced from their homes.

The former civil engineer, who served briefly as Bosnian Serb prime minister in the early part of the 1992-95 Bosnian war, was president of a staff in the region responsible for putting the plan into action in 1992, prosecutors said.

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Orange Order plans rally for 'Twelfth'

BELFAST, Northern Ireland (AP) — Raising fears of street violence, Northern Ireland's conservative Protestant brotherhood announced surprise plans Wednesday to parade 20,000 members near a hostile Catholic part of Belfast.

The Orange Order said members of its Belfast lodges would march in solidarity Monday to the spot where British authorities have already barred a much smaller group of Orangemen from parading past the hostile Catholic enclave of Lower Ormeau. Orange leaders insisted that their mass rally — just across

Belfast's narrow Lagan River from the Catholic area — would avoid confrontation with police lines.

The area's Catholic protest leader, Gerard Rice, denounced as "absolute madness" a plan he said would "increase tension, stress and intimidate this community." He said Orange leaders could not control such a large group on what is already Northern Ireland's most divisive day.

The demonstration would take place on July 12, a holiday in Northern Ireland known simply as "the Twelfth," when Protestants march beneath banners depicting

the British crown on an open field — accompanied by so-called "the pope" marching bands.

Scores of such marches in Northern Ireland on the day memorate a 1690 military victory by the Protestant King William of Orange over Catholic-led forces and underline the Protestant majority position today with the British-ruled state. Since 1968, militant Catholic groups have been trying to block marches that are predominantly Catholic areas, igniting simmering sectarian tensions to a boiling point.

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