

26 February 2016, New York.

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **NAZI LOOTED ART CLAIM WITHDRAWN FROM GERMAN MEDIATION PANEL BECAUSE PROCEDURES WERE PREJUDICED – WILL ONLY RETURN WHEN SAFEGUARDS ARE RATIFIED -**

Today, the family of Alfred Flechtheim unilaterally withdrew their claim from the German looted art mediation panel in Germany, known as the Limbach Commission.

Dr. Hulton said he was treated unfairly and called on the German cultural minister to launch an investigation into the the secretariat's behavior. He alleges the administration failed to notify him in advance of the absence of half the panel at a hearing two weeks ago in Berlin. He flew in from San Francisco and was appalled to see the room half empty, with only four out of eight panelists present for the entire hearing. Three years ago, in a similar matter, he had the full panel in attendance and received an outstanding recommendation, recognizing the persecution of his great uncle, Alfred Flechtheim and the return of the artwork. His attempt to rectify this by addressing a post-hearing letter to all members, was frustrated by the secretariat, who failed to distribute his letter for over a week during a crucial deliberation window, he claims. This denied him “due process”, he said, “and is shameful.” Alfred Flechtheim became the whipping post for the Nazis as early as 1933 and they defaced his image in their Nazi newspaper. (See attached)

“There have been a number of complaints about the lack of rules and procedures and it is anticipated that the commission will be reformed in the coming weeks. Shoah victims deserve to have their ‘day in court’ when it comes to these sensitive and emotional issues. Germany has to listen and issue recommendations that match history. Early Nazi terror was brutal and these people’s relatives suffered unimaginable horrors” said Markus Stoetzel and Mel Urbach, lawyers resenting the family, and pioneers in achieving belated justice for victim’s families. They plan to continue their quest for justice in this and other cases.

#### **For further information please contact:**

Markus H. Stoetzel, Rechtsanwalt Uferstrasse 11 D-35037 Marburg, Germany Phone: +49 6421-794560 e-mail: <a href="mailto:rastoetzel@aol.com">rastoetzel@aol.com</a>	Law Office of Mel Urbach 275 Madison Ave, Suite 1105 New York, New York 10016 Phone: +1 201-984-4720 e-mail: <a href="mailto:melurbach@me.com">melurbach@me.com</a>
---	--



Illustrierter Boebachter - January 1933, back cover of Nazi Newspaper defaming Alfred Flecheim (right) with an ugly doctoring of his face giving him a devilish appearance and asking Germans to choose which image they wanted for the future of Germany. Flechtheim fled Germany shortly thereafter in fear of his life. His heirs were in Berlin two weeks ago seeking to reestablish his art collection.