

Eastern European Art: Crimes and Unsolved Mysteries

Art History · Answer Key · 10 Questions

1. The enigmatic 'Amber Room', originally crafted in Prussia and later looted by Nazis, was last definitively seen in what Eastern European location before its disappearance?

A) Königsberg Castle (now Kaliningrad, Russia)

B) Wawel Castle, Krakow, Poland

C) Peles Castle, Sinaia, Romania

D) Peterhof Palace, Saint Petersburg, Russia

2. Which prominent Russian avant-garde artist's early canvases, particularly those from his purported 'lost period' between 1908 and 1910, remain a subject of scholarly debate and potential forgeries due to a lack of definitive provenance?

A) Kazimir Malevich

B) Natalia Goncharova

C) Mikhail Larionov

D) El Lissitzky

3. The notorious 'Vienna Forgery Ring' in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, which produced numerous convincing fakes of Old Masters, had significant ties to art dealers and collectors operating in which major Central/Eastern European city?

A) Prague

B) Budapest

C) Warsaw

D) Vienna

4. The 'Disappearance of the Scythian Gold' from the National Museum of Ukraine during the Nazi occupation is one of the most significant unsolved art losses of the 20th century. What year did this estimated large-scale looting occur?

A) 1941

B) 1943

C) 1944

D) 1945

5. Which Polish sculptor, known for his early abstract works, is rumored to have created a series of small, highly detailed metal sculptures in the 1960s that were never publicly exhibited and whose existence is largely unconfirmed, fueling speculation and potential forgeries?

- A) Xawery Dunikowski
- B) Jerzy Jarnuszkiewicz
- C) Alina Szapocznikow**
- D) Magdalena Abakanowicz

6. The 'Linz Album,' a collection of seemingly authentic Old Master drawings attributed to artists like Dürer and Bosch, was later revealed to be largely a masterful forgery. What was the primary geographical origin of the forger's known activities?

- A) The Netherlands
- B) The Italian Renaissance
- C) Bohemia (modern Czech Republic)**
- D) Northern France

7. The fate of many artworks looted from the Jewish population of Eastern Europe during WWII, particularly from Poland and the Baltic states, remains a persistent mystery. What specific category of art, often personalized, is notoriously difficult to trace and recover?

- A) Religious icons
- B) Textile art and tapestries
- C) Personal jewelry and silverware with engraved initials**
- D) Early photographic negatives

8. The enigmatic 'Prague Astronomical Clock' holds a legend of its creator, Master Hanus, being blinded to prevent him from replicating his masterpiece. While the clock itself is not a painting or sculpture, this legend pertains to the creation of a highly complex and unique artistic-mechanical artifact. In which century was this elaborate clock constructed?

- A) 12th Century
- B) 13th Century
- C) 14th Century
- D) 15th Century**

9. The 'Titian's Madonna and Child with St. Catherine and St. John the Baptist,' a significant 16th-century painting, was looted by the Nazis and is still considered missing. It was last documented in the possession of what high-ranking Nazi official, suggesting a personal acquisition?

- A) Hermann Göring**
- B) Heinrich Himmler
- C) Joseph Goebbels
- D) Reinhard Heydrich

10. The 'Dresden Green Diamond,' a legendary gemstone, was stolen from the Grünes Gewölbe (Green Vault) in a daring heist in 2019, alongside numerous other priceless artifacts. While the diamond has since been recovered, the whereabouts of several other significant pieces of historical jewelry from the collection remain a continuing mystery, representing a major unresolved art crime in Eastern Europe.

- A) The theft occurred in Prague, Czech Republic.
- B) The perpetrators were identified as an international art theft syndicate.
- C) The recovery of the diamond was hampered by significant ransom demands.

D) This question is factually incorrect as the Dresden Green Diamond was the only major artifact stolen and recovered.