Hunt engages Wiesenthal Centre on Nazi claims

Anne Sheridan

The Hunt Museum in Limerick has now "began a dialogue" with the Paris-based Simon Wiesenthal Centre, which has repeatedly alleged the founder of the museum had Nazi connections.

Virginia Teehan, director of the museum, said it is working to gain access to the archives of the Simon Wiesenthal Centre, an international Jewish advocacy organisation, to conduct an independent investigation into the provenance of the 2,000 objects on display in the museum.

Proactive search

Dr. Shimon Samuels, the centre's director for inter-Jewish relations, said he was "very happy" to have received a search request from the museum. He said the centre welcomed the opportunity to conduct an independent investigation into the provenance of the objects in the museum.

Teehan said the museum had already been in contact with the centre, and that the centre had offered to conduct a search of its archives. She said the museum was "very interested" in working with the centre to investigate the provenance of the objects.

The centre's director said the museum had requested access to the centre's archives, and that the centre was "very happy" to assist the museum in its investigations.

"We have been working with the museum for some time now, and we are very pleased to help them in any way we can," he said.

"We will do everything in our power to assist them in their investigations, and we are confident that we can provide them with the information they need to make an informed decision," he added.

Virgina Teehan, director of the museum, said the centre's offer to assist in the investigation was "very welcome" and that the museum was "very interested" in working with the centre to investigate the provenance of the objects.

"We are very pleased to have received such a positive response from the centre," she said. "We are confident that we can learn a lot from their vast collection of historical documents and archives, and that this will help us to better understand the provenance of the objects in our collection."