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## Prints and Drawings Department

The main focus was the cataloguing – and to some extent also the restoration and digitisation – of a selection from the over one million photographs. As of the beginning of 2009 a part of these will be accessible in *HelveticArchives*.

### Photography: *Memoriav* Projects

Two new projects in the field of landscape photography could be started in 2008 thanks to support from *Memoriav*<sup>14</sup>: *Archive of Place* and *How a Postcard Publisher Portrayed Switzerland 100 Years Ago*. Work continued on the projects *Photoglob-Wehrli Collection* and *Views and Landscapes of Switzerland*. The aim of all four projects is to conserve – at least in part – and where necessary, to restore, catalogue, digitise and make the collections accessible.

In *Archive of Place: Prints of Swiss Towns and Landscapes from the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries* approximately 6'000 vintage prints will be analysed, to evaluate how images reveal the change of the concept of Switzerland as a place. Running parallel with this is a research project with the Zurich University of the Arts supported by the Swiss National Science Foundation.

In the project *How a Postcard Publisher Portrayed Switzerland 100 Years Ago* 203 sample albums of the postcard publisher *Photoglob-Wehrli* containing over 37'000 photographs will be processed. Approximately 15'000 of these will be digitised. The priority of the *Photoglob-Wehrli Collection* project is the preservation of the image information of approximately 2'500 documents that are already showing signs of deterioration; but in addition, making the collection known is also an important consideration.

### Collection

Among the new acquisitions the following are particularly worth mentioning: five landscape drawings by Michael Günzburger, which were created in the context of the project *Arte Bregaglia*; etchings, lithographs and experimental pigment prints by Filip Haag; twelve original watercolours by Lisa Hoever Looock. The latter were conceived in the context of her first major retrospective in the *Kunstmuseum Winterthur* in the summer of 2008 as preliminary studies for the cover of the exhibition catalogue; but they may equally be considered as artworks in themselves.

In the Swiss Posters union catalogue<sup>15</sup> 51'876 posters were available online as of the end of 2008 (End 2007: 41'113). Thanks to the previously mentioned *Memoriav* projects and the launch of the online *HelveticArchives*, as of 2009 the cataloguing of the photo collection will be improved considerably.

### User Services

There were 155 visitors to the Prints and Drawings Department in the past year. In addition, replies were made to 429 written, electronic and telephone enquires. A total of 3'420 reproductions, photocopies and copyrights of documents were ordered, of these 2'691 alone from the Federal Archives of Historical Monuments: in comparison to the previous year (612 documents) the demand has quadrupled.

Thanks to participation in national and international symposia the significance of the Photo and the *Schweizer Kleinmeister* collections are being recognized among experts. The Head of the Prints and Drawings Department is Chair of the Photography Expert Group of *Memoriav* since 2008.



From the *Photoglob-Wehrli* Collection. Geneva, *Quai des Bergues* (1908); Basel, *Freiestrasse* (1908); St. Gallen, Cathedral (1906)



<sup>14</sup> Association for the Preservation of Swiss Audiovisual Heritage  
<sup>15</sup> [www.nb.admin.ch/posters](http://www.nb.admin.ch/posters)