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Prints and Drawings Department

There are now collection level descriptions for all the holdings in HelveticArchives. The Gugelmann collection and the Daniel Spoerri archive are being catalogued in detail. An exhibition and a colloquium explore the photobook as artists' book.

Artists' books

The second exhibition and colloquium within the research project "Artists and Books (1880–2015). Switzerland as a Cultural Platform" were devoted to the photobook.[29] The project is funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation. It is being conducted by the University of Lausanne and the Prints and Drawings Department (PDD), and is scheduled for completion at the end of 2016. The results will then be documented in a publication. The in-depth research has also prompted the NL to expand its collection area of artists' books with the acquisition of unique editions, zines and photobooks.

From: Jean Emmanuel Locher and Markus Dinkel, *Recueil de portraits et costumes suisses les plus élégants […] Publié par J. P. Lamy, à Berne et Bâle,* ca. 1820 (section)

Collection

Important new acquisitions in the PDD include not just the artists' books but also the archive of the Domus Antiqua Helvetica association and the artist Madeleine Gekiere as well as works by the Schweizer Kleinmeister.[30] The latter were acquired thanks to the Stiftung Graphica Helvetica, which also awards a three-year research grant for cataloguing of the Kleinmeister collection. Although few concrete results are available as yet, this project has already met with considerable interest in the specialist community. Switzerland's prints and drawings collections that include Schweizer Kleinmeister have come together in a working group headed by the PDD. Interest in this characteristic art of the late 18th and early 19th centuries has also spread to universities, which are including them in their research and teaching.

In addition to cataloguing, the NL is also digitising and valorising the albums, portfolios and panoramas of the Rudolf and Annemarie Gugelmann collection, one of the most important collections of Schweizer Kleinmeister, again with support from the Stiftung Graphica Helvetica. Some 2500 individual works have already been digitised and have been available in HelveticArchives and on Wikimedia Commons since the start of 2015.[31] A further important holding that is available on both platforms is the approximately 1350 photos from the Max van Berchem collection, depicting places and buildings in the period around 1900.[32]

Johann Jakob Biedermann, Johann Jakob, [*Vue de la Ville de Lucerne*]. Coloured outline etching, ca. 1796 (section)

The second major cataloguing project launched in 2015 aims to make the artists' archive of Daniel Spoerri ready for use.

The holdings of the PDD and the Federal Archives of Historic Monuments have been catalogued with collection level descriptions since 2014; by the end of 2015 these had also been extended to the special collections. This means that the entire breadth of the PDD is described in the NL, at least in summary form. Regrettably, the condition of the special collections means they cannot be made available for use for the time being.

User Services

Progress in cataloguing is having an impact on user services. The number of active users rose from 548 to 601, the number of units lent out from 991 to 1248. Information and research requests rose only marginally, to 953 compared with 937 in the previous year. These figures reflect use on site. The strong presence on Wikimedia Commons allows for broad online usage.[33]

29 See p. 8.
30 For notable acquisitions see p. 10.
31 https://www.helveticarchives.ch/detail.aspx?id=160780
https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Category:CH-NB-Collection_Gugelmann
32 https://www.helveticarchives.ch/parametersuche.aspx?DeskriptorId=200579
https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Category:CH-NB-Max_van_Berchem
33 On the use of the NL's Wikipedia content, see p. 15.