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Prints and Drawings Department

Emil Cardinaux, *Gotthard, Schweiz,* ca. 1914

The Swiss Poster Collection is now overseen by an association. Further key areas of activity involve artists' books, the Kleinmeister collection, and the Daniel Spoerri Archive.

Association for the Swiss Poster Collections Union Catalogue

The Association for the Swiss Poster Collections Union Catalogue was founded in February 2016. It provides a new legal basis for the collaboration between Switzerland's eleven most important poster collections that has been ongoing since 1998. The association's aims are to preserve Swiss posters and improve access to public poster collections in Switzerland. The NL runs the Swiss Poster Collection as a union catalogue on its behalf.[20]

A colloquium entitled *Von Weltformat. Das Schweizer Plakat aus historischer und bildwissenschaftlicher Perspektive* took place at the University of Basel on 3 June 2016 as part of the National Centre of Competence in Research NCCR on Iconic Criticism.

Collection

Important acquisitions included the *Tauschbibliothek Daniel Spoerri* and the entire edition production of Lucerne-based *Edizoni Periferia.*[21]

Extensive efforts were made to approximately catalogue and ensure the conservation status of newly acquired archives, partial archives and later submissions immediately after they arrive in the PDD. The Federal Archives of Historic Monuments also stepped up its cooperation with donors, who made a key contribution to cataloguing and conditioning the documents they had supplied. The later submission of the archive of ICOMOS Suisse, for example, had been fully processed before it was handed over.

François Hugo Alési, *Gotthardbahn, Luzern – Mailand, Expresszüge in 6 Stunden*, 1904

Four projects focused on processing selected holdings. Two are receiving financial support from the Stiftung Graphica Helvetica. The Prints and Drawings Department's collection of historic Kleinmeister is being catalogued with the help of a research grant. Selected albums, portfolio works and panoramas are being digitised. The metadata of the digitised albums have been revised in accordance with current scientific criteria.[22]

A further focus is on processing the Daniel Spoerri Archive. During the project's concept phase, the holdings delivered between 1996 and 2007 were inspected, categorised, conditioned and provisionally described in HelveticArchives. The extensive work documentation, which has now been completely digitised, as well as the original prints and posters have been conditioned and described. As a result, a substantial part of the archive has been uniformly structured for the first time and made accessible for use.

Owing to staff absences, the "Artists and Books (1880–2015). Switzerland as a Cultural Platform" project will not be completed until 2017.

User Services

The number of active users fell from 601 to 516. The number of on-site consultations also declined (2016: 823, 2015: 925) after a number of years of growth.

20 www.nb.admin.ch/posters
21 For notable acquisitions see p. 9
22 https://www.helveticarchives.ch/detail.aspx?id=160780