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Prints and Drawings Department



An artistically designed menu card from Albert Welti's *Druckgrafisches Gesamtwerk*



A print from Albert Welti's *Druckgrafisches Gesamtwerk*



The print "Ex Libris Franz Rose-Doehlau" from Albert Welti's *Druckgrafisches Gesamtwerk*

Information and research requests to the Prints and Drawings Department exceeded the 1000 threshold in 2019, with the building situation making access simpler for users. The collections were enhanced by the acquisition of the partial archive of *Bernhard Luginbühl*.

Building situation

For structural safety reasons, the Prints and Drawings Department was transferred from the former book tower to the ground floor of the National Library in 2019. This move required great effort and affected operating procedures in the Prints and Drawings Department in a number of ways. It made access easier for users. Some collections had to be moved into the underground stacks, which makes them somewhat more difficult to use but is also good for the documents' long-term preservation owing to the ideal climate conditions.

Collection

The Prints and Drawings Department welcomed a number of significant new acquisitions in 2019, including the archive of *Doris Stauffer*, the partial archive of *Bernhard Luginbühl* consisting of a collection of some 300 artist's books in the form of diaries, the artist's archive of *Stéphan Landry* and the entire graphic works of *Albert Welti*.

Comprehensive processing of the archive of *Daniel Spoerri* moved into the realisation phase. Priorities were set, cataloguing is progressing according to plan, conservation measures have been implemented, and possible further deliveries have been discussed.

Work on the collection of graphic views of Switzerland continued, with support from the *Graphica Helvetica* foundation. By the end of 2019, two-thirds of the approximately 26 650 graphic views had been inspected and sorted, and the valuable sheets – 7633 in total – had been catalogued. In addition, some 1500 prints were digitised, imported into the *HelveticArchives* database and uploaded to *Wikimedia Commons*. The revised catalogue of individual sheets from the Gugelmann Collection was also completed. The extremely valuable 1600 graphic works from the *Rudolf and Annemarie Gugelmann Collection* have now been catalogued to a uniform standard and are up to date, along with the albums, portfolios and oil paintings, and all are accessible online. The collection has been in the NL since 1980.

User services

With 1012 information and research requests to the Prints and Drawings Department, the key 1000 threshold was exceeded for the first time (2018: 952). The breakdown across the various subject and collection areas changed only slightly: the most heavily used subjects are *views of places*, *art* and *historic monuments* as well as, among the collection areas, *photography*, *Federal Archives of Historic Monuments* and *graphic works*. A report on 150 years of the postcard in the TV programme *Kulturplatz* discussed the holdings of picture postcards as well as ways of using and adding to them.