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Prints and Drawings Department

A number of archival cataloguing projects were successfully completed in 2020. Demand for information and research in the holdings as well as reproduction orders remains high. There was a change in the management of the Prints and Drawings Department.

Change of Management

The end of 2020 saw a change of management in the Prints and Drawings Department. After 25 years at the helm of the Department with responsibility for acquisitions and outreach, Susanne Bieri will be assuming a new role in 2021 as a scientific associate in the Director's office dealing with publications and outreach. Doris Amacher retired after heading the Prints and Drawings Department Digital with responsibility for cataloguing, use and preservation of prints and drawings and for the Federal Archive of Historic Monuments (FAHM) since 2007. The new head of the Prints and Drawings Department is architecture and art historian and scientific librarian Isabelle Kirgus.

Collection

The archive of *Ernst Linck* (1874–1935), an important Bernese painter close to Ferdinand Hodler, Cuno Amiet, Carl Albert Loosli and others, was completed thanks to a donation of further archival materials. An extremely valuable block of 38 diaries by the Bernese sculptor *Bernhard Luginbühl* (1929–2011) entered the Prints and Drawings Department, along with his poster production. A further gift meant that the holdings of posters by the graphic artist *Eugen Bachmann* (b. 1942) from Lucerne are now complete and can be researched via the Swiss Poster Collections Union Catalogue.

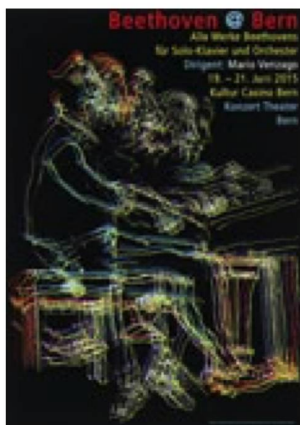
A number of milestones were achieved in ongoing archival processing work. Supported by the *Stiftung Graphica Helvetica*, work on cataloguing the several thousand sheets that make up the *Swiss Graphic Views* is now almost at an end, with processing of the “Z” cantons (Zurich and Zug) complete. Cataloguing and digitisation of the archives of *Gabriel Lory “fils”* (1784–1856) and *Henriette-Louise de Meuron* (1789–1867) is now finished. A “vitrine” on the life and work of Gabriel Lory was published on the website *kleinmeister.ch*. Further sub-fonds from the extensive archive of the artist *Daniel Spoerri* (b. 1931) were published; they include the artist's books and the event documentation. The audio documents have been digitised by the Swiss National Sound Archives and are available on their website, while the film documents have also been digitised. Cataloguing of the much-requested archive of *Doris Stauffer* (1934–2017), the artist and founder of the F+F school of experimental design in Zurich, was finalised with the help of external funding. The Institute for Contemporary Art Research at the Zurich University of the Arts (ZHdK) was heavily involved in this project.

User Services

Information and research requests have been rising steadily since 2016; over 1000 were processed in 2020, a sign that ongoing cataloguing and digitisation is increasing the visibility of the holdings. The collection areas most in demand were the Federal Archives of Historic Monuments (2020: 231; 2019: 344), photography (2020: 319; 2019: 388) and prints and drawings (2020: 236; 2019: 234). By contrast, the number of visitors on site declined, as the Prints and Drawings Department reading room was closed for 21 weeks owing to the pandemic. The Prints and Drawings Department handled a large number of enquiries regarding exhibitions, as curators were unable to select potential loans on site themselves. Preparations for two exhibitions marking the 90th birthday of Daniel Spoerri in Vienna and Nice during 2021 created more work for the Department than all past loans to external institutions.



Hans Jakob Häsl: *Ansicht von Winterthur*, around 1820, coloured outline etching



Eugen Bachmann: *Beethoven @ Bern*, Konzert Theater Bern, 2015, poster



Daniel Spoerri presents: *Karl Gerstner über Farbe*, 1978, poster