

Prints and drawings department

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Prints and Drawings Department

All the individual collections of the Prints and Drawings Department (PDD) have been described and accessible online since the end of 2012. Individual holdings, including the Gugelmann collection of “Schweizer Kleinmeister” and the Karl Gerstner archive, have been catalogued in detail.

Collection

Of the new acquisitions during 2012, two artist’s archives stand out in particular. The Andreas Züst archive, an extensive photographic documentation of the arts and culture scene in Zurich and German-speaking Switzerland from the 1970s to the 1990s, complements the already rich portrait collection of the PDD, which also received an exemplary collection of prints in the form of the archive of woodcut artist Emil Zbinden.

Collaboration between poster collections as part of the *Swiss Poster Catalogue* (CCSA¹⁹) is becoming even closer. A revision of the regulations and processes was launched in 2012. For the first time, there was an exchange of expertise in the form of a colloquium which, it is planned, will in future be held annually. The existing practice of document submission by the Allgemeine Plakatgesellschaft (APG) was put on a contractual footing: two copies of each poster displayed by APG in Switzerland go to the CCSA partners. At the end of 2012, the CCSA contained 64 232 records (2011: 61 456).

Including the Federal Archives of Historic Monuments, the PDD consists of 205 individual collections. This number has been revealed as a result of intense cataloguing activities over previous years. At the end of 2012, there were collection level descriptions of all the collections in *HelveticArchives*. To mark the 30th anniversary of the donation of the Gugelmann Collection to the PDD, the collection was catalogued in detail during 2012. All search tools as well as some five thousand graphic works and originals can now be researched online, and preview images of most works are available. The catalogue of the Karl Gerstner archive was also opened up to online access, with illustrations of individual documents.

User Services

During the year under review, the PDD dealt with 731 enquiries (2011: 594). The number of enquiries has almost doubled since 2007. In addition to more streamlined processes and good cataloguing, it is planned to use outreach to improve usage of the holdings. The outreach concept developed in 2012 is designed to anchor the PDD in the minds of specialists and encourage them to use the collections for their research projects. The PDD is also itself involved in individual research projects, such as the CTI-financed “4D Sites – Image-based Combination of Spatial Data and Graphical Material” project approved back in 2011. Headed by the ETH Zurich, it aims to develop a software that combines landscape photography with the virtual landscape space. The real landscape space is first “read in” using a high-resolution scanner. The resulting virtual grid landscape should then be automatically matched with photographs of the same space. As a practical partner, the PDD will be digitising extensive holdings of landscape photographs.

Following a break lasting a number of years, there are also plans to organise presentations of the collection again in future. During the year under review, the PDD organised substantial loans to the Musée Rath in Geneva for the exhibition *The Enchanting Landscape in the Days of Jean-Jacques Rousseau*. With around a hundred prints and drawings from the Gugelmann Collection, it was the first time that an extensive selection of works from one of the most important collections of “Schweizer Kleinmeister” had been shown in public.



Markus Dinkel and Christian Meichelt, *Vallais. Marguerite Remy [...] de Martigny [...]* in *Recueil de Portraits et Costumes Suisses*, publ. 1817–1820 by J.P. Lamy, R. and A. Gugelmann Collection



Gabriel Lory fils, untitled [*Hirte mit verschränkten Armen*], watercoloured pencil drawing, undated, R. and A. Gugelmann Collection



Jean Emmanuel Locher (attributed), *Tessin. Barbe Pellegrini [...]* de Vallegio [...], in *Recueil de Portraits et Costumes Suisses*, publ. 1817–1820 by J.P. Lamy, R. and A. Gugelmann Collection