

Prints and drawings department

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Prints and Drawings Department

The PDD received the design archive of the Swiss designer Karl Gerstner as a donation. Cooperation among all the partners on the Swiss poster catalogue is now managed by an agreement among the parties. The exhibition *Rudolf De Crignis – Surface* implemented a new type of exhibition.

Collections

One of the numerous new acquisitions in 2006 stands out: in the autumn of 2006, the PDD received the archive of the internationally renowned designer Karl Gerstner as a donation. Furthermore, all parts of the collection – from picture postcards to photo collections and posters – were extended through purchases and donations. The variety of the collections represents a tremendous cataloguing challenge for the PDD. The SNL has run, as the project head, the Swiss poster catalogue since 1999 together with other Swiss institutions with comprehensive poster collections. The informal cooperation to date was formalized in an agreement at the end of 2006. The SNL poster collection is recorded from the 1870ies through to publication year 2003 and can be queried online.

The Federal Archives of Historical Monuments (FAHM), previously assigned directly to the Federal Office of Culture, have become part of the PDD as of January 1, 2007. This creates a national centre of excellence for photographs documenting Swiss localities and landscapes. The FAHM inventories and the PDD photo collection supplement one another ideally. They can now be managed jointly. FAHM has used the scopeArchive software for a number of years to catalogue and manage its collection. The decision was made during the reporting year to also use the program at the PDD and SLA.

User services

92 people visited the PDD directly for research. Some 266 requests for information were provided over the telephone, in writing and electronically. Queries were answered quickly or required a few days of research depending on the complexity of the query. Of special interest on the user side was the Daniel Spoerri archive, the poster collection – the number of requests for reproductions is growing in proportion to the catalogue – as well as portrait photographs. The increasing demand for portraits is the direct result of the exhibition and publication *Vom General zum Glamour Girl* which publicly demonstrated the richness of the collection for the first time in 2005. The photo portrait collection has in the interim become highly acclaimed well beyond professional audiences: The new residence of the Swiss Ambassador to the US, opened in June, includes a smoking room furnished by the PDD with 15 portrait photographs of Swiss personalities that are important to the US.

In 2006, the attention of the professional world was drawn by yet another part of the collection: the editions. The PDD of the SNL is the only Swiss institution that systematically collects editions, portfolios and books of Swiss artists. It published the edition *Surface* by Rudolf De Crignis in 2006 and presented it with an exhibition, that was not only acclaimed due to the artistic content, but also for its presentation. The sheets were laid out without protective glass and under natural lighting conditions. The opening times were reduced significantly in favour of this highly unusual exhibition style for conservation reasons. *Surface* was to be Rudolf De Crignis final exhibition. He passed away unexpectedly shortly after the exhibition closed. He died on December 23, 2006 in New York. The PDD of the SNL lost a close partner whom it had accompanied in his artistic work from the very beginning.