

Prints and Drawings Department

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Prints and Drawings Department

A number of important archives and collections were catalogued in 2021, and new ones have been added. The fragile glass negatives of the Wehrli photo collection were digitised. Meanwhile, the new web article series *Visual treasures* showcases well-known and lesser-known works from the collection. The holdings of the Prints and Drawings Department were also included in international exhibitions, exhibitions at the Swiss National Library and to mark *European Heritage Days*.

Collection

Shortly after the 90th birthday of artist Daniel Spoerri (b.1930), all parts of the archive held in the Prints and Drawings Department were conclusively recorded and made accessible in the *HelveticArchives* online catalogue. This work relates to the impressive event documentation and photographic records and Spoerri's art collection within the largest artist archive at the NL. Spoerri's archival legacy is therefore accessible in its entirety for research purposes. During the course of Spoerri's 90th anniversary year, the Prints and Drawings Department granted extensive loans to two major exhibitions of Spoerri's work, taking place at both the Kunstforum in Vienna (24.3.–27.6.2021) and the Musée d'Art Moderne et d'Art Contemporain in Nice (16.10.2021–27.3.2022).

The donation of the complete collection of diaries, notebooks and correspondence belonging to artist Bernhard Luginbühl (1929–2011) is probably one of the most remarkable new acquisitions of recent years. Luginbühl documented his work and private life in a highly idiosyncratic style in nocturnal ramblings. The 325 books have highly individual bindings (e.g. metal or leather) and different cover designs.

Existing archives, such as those of Doris Stauffer, Carla Neis, Johannes Gachnang (correspondence with Elisabeth Kübler), Bryan Cyril Thurston and Andreas Züst were also expanded through small donations. Within the Federal Archive for Monument Preservation (FAMP), the ICOMOS inventory was supplemented with documents for the 'Swiss Historic Hotel' award.

The Prints and Drawings Department recorded some important new acquisitions. With the support of the *Graphica Helvetica* foundation, sheets by Heinrich Thomann (*Sand-alp contre le glacier du Spiz-Alp – canton Glarus*, 1780), Gabriel Lory the Younger (*Vue de la cascade de Pissevache*, 1820) and Alexandre Calame (*Die Schwarzalp mit dem Well- und Wetterhorn*, 1850) were acquired and integrated in the Gugelmann collection. In addition, the Prints and Drawings Department acquired two paintings from the Gugelmann family's estate by the Bernese painter Franz Nikolaus König (*Ansichten von Bern*, both circa 1810). Homage was paid to contemporary graphic design with the acquisition of works by Bern's Wolfgang Zät (11 graphic prints from the period 2010–2021) and a monotype by Zurich's Zilla Leutenegger (*Harter Lockdown*, 2021).

Some 70 acquisitions and donations of artist's books, editions and special editions were realised in the year under review, including a representative set of signed 'picture books' by Lucerne-born artist Rolf Winnewisser (b. 1949). Two artist's books by Zurich-based Marlyse Brunner (b. 1946) were produced on recycled paper from the GDR. The work of Russian-French artist Serge Chamchinov (*The Tunnel*, 2021), designed in the form of a leporello fold, was produced to explore Friedrich Dürrenmatt's oeuvre. As the first part of an extensive donation, the Prints and Drawings Department received over 40 elaborate book works by Ticino artist Fiorenza Bassetti (b. 1948). This acquisition will soon be extended to include her famous photo portraits. More than 1,100 editions were added to the poster collection. In particular, these include the poster campaigns of the Federal Office of Public Health in response to the coronavirus pandemic, and the artist's posters that were produced as an initiative and art project by Hans-Ulrich



Daniel Spoerri: Photographs from the assemblage *Gebauchpinselt* from the series *Pièges à mots* (*Wortfallen*), c. 1966



Bernhard Luginbühl: Two diaries (c. 1975 and 1992) and *Das Knochenlied*



Fiorenza Bassetti: artist's book, comprising 10 watercolours and envelope, c. 1980

Obrist on the pressing environmental and social issues of our time in 2019/2020 (*It's urgent*, LUMA project).

Following completion of the cataloguing of the Spoerri archive, other extensive archives have also been processed in their entirety: that of the Bernese artist Ernst Linck, who was primarily known as a mural and glass painter between 1900 and 1930, which comprises some 550 prints and drawings, as well as a photography and correspondence section; and that of Siegfried Kuhn, which in particular comprises photographs from the close and wider circle of artist Bernhard Luginbühl. Research can now also be carried out sheet by sheet on *Pilztafelwerk* by Lenzburg researcher and artist Hans Walty (1868–1948).

The extensive collection of printed graphic views of Switzerland (17th to 19th centuries) has been catalogued in its entirety and is now largely accessible on Wikimedia Commons. Here, too, the Prints and Drawings Department was able to benefit from financial support from the *Graphica Helvetica* for scientific staff. The cataloguing of the glass negatives from the Wehrli photo collection, which were digitised in 2021, and were taken for what was and still is Switzerland's largest postcard publishing company (now Photoglob AG), is now largely complete. The more than 13,000 photographs of Swiss rural and urban scenes from the period from 1905 to 1932 will be available online from 2022.

Outreach

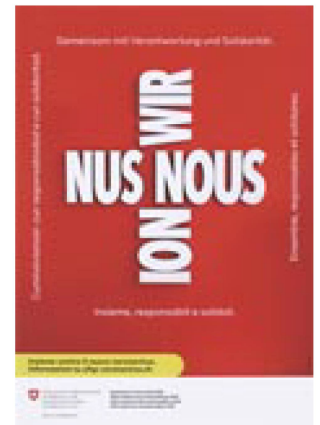
To raise the profile of its archive and collections, the Prints and Drawings Department launched the *Visual treasures* series, which can be accessed on the NL's website. The series has so far included articles by staff on works from the archives by Daniel Spoerri, Rudolf Fechter, Doris Stauffer and Ernst Linck. The theme of the 2021 *European Heritage Days* was *gewusst wie* (*making and skills*). To mark the centenary of the death of Albrecht Meydenbauer (1834–1921) who developed a method of survey photography for buildings and topography around 1860, the Prints and Drawings Department exhibited one of two known surviving Meydenbauer cameras, as well as the survey photographs taken with them and some associated rare text documents. The exhibition was complemented by the advisory services of the NL's Conservation & Restoration Department on handling historical documents. An article was published in the leading photogrammetry journal on the valuable Meydenbauer cameras.

User services

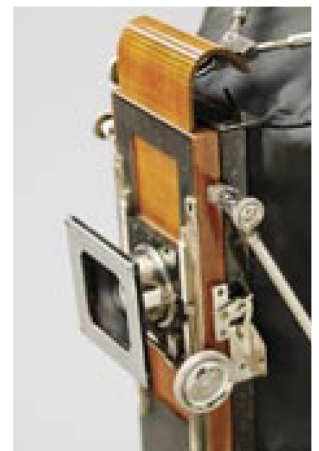
At 775, the number of information and research requests was well below the levels of previous years. The collection areas most in demand were the Federal Archive for Monument Preservation (2021: 230, 2020: 231), photography (2021: 322, 2020: 319) and prints and drawings (2021: 223, 2020: 236). The number of visitors on site was slightly higher than the previous year, but still well below pre-pandemic levels. Fortunately, loans of originals from the Prints and Drawings Department were in high demand for external exhibitions in 2021: the previous years' figures were exceeded both in terms of the number of exhibitions served and the number of documents loaned.



Serge Chamchinov: Leporello fold on the short story *The Tunnel* by Friedrich Dürrenmatt, 2021



Federal Office of Public Health: *Gemeinsam gegen das neue Corona-Virus*, poster, 2020



Survey camera built by Albrecht Meydenbauer, close-up of lens, 1898