

'Art Protection' in World War I and the Historiographies of Art and Culture in the First Half of the 20th Century

Stakeholders – Networks – Concepts

Wars spare neither civilians nor cultural values – on the contrary, both are often deliberately targeted and exposed to aggression.

The destruction and looting of cultural assets, which are an integral part of national heritage and identity, is an established part of hostile war tactics, used, among other things, to justify territorial expansion. Russia's current aggression against Ukraine provides an extreme example of this. Such conduct is a clear violation of the provisions of the *Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict* of 1954, an augmented version of the *Hague Convention respecting the Laws and Customs of War on Land* ratified in 1907. The effectiveness of this first international treaty aimed at protecting cultural property in the event of war was sorely tested a few years later, during the First World War.

The conference aims to examine, in a comparative manner, the strategies and practices of dealing with cultural heritage in the different theatres of the First World War. We want to discuss the preliminary stages and longer-term effects of the concepts developed at the time, as well as the eventual appropriation of cultural assets for the purpose of shaping identities and/or geopolitical goals in the following decades.

Venue

Collegium Polonicum
ul. Kościuszki 1
PL 69-100 Słubice

Conference organised by

Robert Born, Beate Störtkuhl (Bundesinstitut für Kultur und Geschichte des östlichen Europa, Oldenburg), Ewa Manikowska (Instytut Sztuki Polskiej Akademii Nauk, Warsaw), Paul Zalewski (Professur für Denkmalkunde, Europa Universität Viadrina, Frankfurt/Oder)

Funded by

The German-Polish Science Foundation/Deutsch-Polnische Wissenschaftsstiftung, Frankfurt/Oder (Project 2020-11)

To support the organization, please register your participation before 10.05.2024 by e-mail at:
kunstschutz@europa-uni.de
or +49 (0) 441 96195-0

No conference fee will be charged.



Federal Institute
for Culture and History
of Eastern Europe

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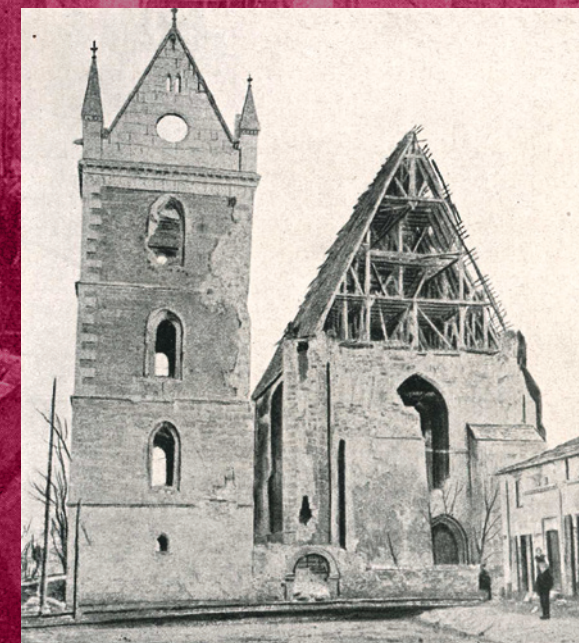
EUROPA-UNIVERSITÄT
VIADRINA
FRANKFURT (ODER)



INSTITUTE OF ART
POLISH ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

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Wislica. Pfarrkirche nach der Beschädigung

Conference

13.–15. May 2024

**Europa Universität Viadrina (Frankfurt/Oder) –
Collegium Polonicum, Słubice**

Conference Programme

Monday, 13.05.2024

4:30 pm Welcome/Registration

5:00 pm **Introductory remarks**

Robert Born, Ewa Manikowska, Beate Störtkuuhl

Keynote: Ante bellum.

Preliminary remarks on heritage and disorder

Paul Zalewski (Frankfurt/Oder)

Moderator: Arnold Bartetzky (Leipzig)

7:00 pm Reception (Buffet)

Tuesday, 14.05.2024

9:00 am **Comparisons I**

Chair: Sigrid Brandt (Salzburg)

Protecting French cultural heritage in a European war. A case study
Solène Amice (Paris)

Protection of cultural heritage in the Ottoman Empire and the First World War
Ceren Abi Mc Greevy-Stafford (Washington)

Monument protection in conflict. Stakeholders, strategies and structures of the German-Ottoman war-time monument protection between 1912 and 1923
Sebastian Willert (Leipzig)

10:45 am Coffee Break

11:15 am **Comparisons II**

Chair: Sigrid Brandt (Salzburg)

Structures of “Kunstschutz” in the German General Governorate of Warsaw and in the Austro-Hungarian Military Governorate of Lublin – a comparison
Beate Störtkuuhl (Oldenburg)

Art historians in wartime operations in Northern Italy: The German and Austrian Art Protection Groups in occupied Friuli 1917–1918
Martina Visentin (Udine) / Michael Wedekind (Bremen)

German and Austrian “Kunstschutz” initiatives and archaeological activities in occupied Ukraine
Robert Born (Oldenburg)

1:15 pm Lunch Break

2:30 pm **The Austro-Hungarian Empire I**

Chair: Paul Mahringer (Vienna)

The breakthrough in the Carpathians: The impact of the First World War on the territory of present-day Slovakia
Tomáš Kowalski (Bratislava)

Protecting lives by protecting bells. The treatment of the cultural heritage during the First World War in Istria, Carniola and Carinthia
Barbara Kristina Murovec (Florence)

Did the Hungarians adapt “Kunstschutz” during the First World War in the Dual Monarchy?
Eszter Balázs (Budapest)

4:15 pm Coffee Break

4:45 pm **The Austro-Hungarian Empire II**

Protection of the archaeological heritage in Western Galicia during the First World War. Practice and theory of conservation
Marzena Woźny (Cracow)

Networks of heritage preservation: The case of Lviv during the First World War
Olha Zarechnyuk (Lviv)

6:30 pm **Panel discussion**

The protection of cultural property during armed conflict between national patrimony and transnational cultural heritage: Reflections on the historical and contemporary impact of concepts developed during the First World War
Stefaniia Demchuk (Kyiv), Stephanie Herold (Berlin), Ewa Manikowska (Warsaw)

Moderator: Christian Fuhrmeister (Munich)

8:00 pm Conference Dinner (for active participants only)

Wednesday, 15.05.2024

9:00 am **Propaganda**

Chair: Fani Gargova (Frankfurt/Main)

Visualising conquest: German occupation, colonial fantasies, and the Kurland Ausstellung in 1917–1918
Klāvs Zariņš (Riga)

The afterlives of a 1918 propaganda exhibition: The Livland-Estland-Ausstellung
Kristina Jõekalda (Tallinn)

10:15 am **War and its aftermath**

Chair: Beate Störtkuuhl (Oldenburg)

Preservation or modernization? The reconstruction of war-damaged settlements in Upper Hungary during the Great War
Gáspár Salamon (Budapest; Berlin)

The creation of national artistic heritage by saving artworks: The activity of Alexandru Tzigara-Samurçaș (1872–1952) during and after the First World War in Romania
Cosmin Minea (Bucharest; Brno)

11:30 am Coffee Break

12:00 am Inscribing “Kunstschutz” in the history of library heritage preservation
Ewa Manikowska (Warsaw)

Trophies – evidence – educational material: The handling of photographs from times of war
Hilja Droste (Bonn) / Gernot Mayer (Vienna)

1:15 pm Short Break

1:30 pm Concluding Discussion

2:00 pm End of the Conference



left: Fred Hendriok: Poster for the arts & crafts exhibition Wilna-Minsk in Vilnius, 1918, issued by the Printing House of the Xth Army (<https://www.loc.gov/item/2004665964/>)

cover: War-damaged church of Wiślica (Paul Clemen (ed.): Kunstschutz im Kriege. Vol. 2: Die Kriegsschauplätze in Italien, im Osten und Südosten, Leipzig 1919, p. 131)