

# AUSTRIA

## AUSTRIAN NATIONAL LIBRARY

DR JOHANNA RACHINGER — CHIEF EXECUTIVE

## ANNUAL REPORT TO CDNL 2001 – 2002

### PERSONALIA

Dr Hans Marte, Director General of the Austrian National Library since September 1993, retired in April 2001. In June 2001 Frau Dr. Johanna Rachinger, who until then had been the manager of the publishing house Ueberreuter, took over the position.

### LEGAL MATTERS

During the whole year 2001 there was intense work to prepare for a change in the ANL's legal status; it had been a subsidiary department of the Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Culture, and was now to become an **autonomous cultural institution subject to the law of the Austrian Federation** on the model of the museums. Since February the ANL has been supported by the consulting firm Europatreuhand Ernst & Young. With a careful analysis of all work processes as a starting point, working groups were then appointed to map out concepts on measures to improve performance and evolve strategic plans in the nine central areas of the library. In addition, as early as August we began intensive preparations to convert the old single-entry bookkeeping system to a double-entry one in accordance with the standards of a well-organised keeping of accounts, including the implementation of new accounting software.

With the Law of Museums 2002 (BGBl. I, 14/2002) and the Library Regulations of the new Austrian National Library (BGBl. II, 12/2002) an important new stage, which is a significant new direction in the history of this institution, took on the force of law on 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2002.

The ANL hopes that because of the recognition of its full legal autonomy there will be greater flexibility and mobility in the budget and in staff administration, and a decisive improvement in the utilisation of resources. The hope is that there will be more scope for personal initiative and greater autonomy and a large degree of independence of governmental, especially budgetary decision-making. The basic financial grant from the government, which the ANL will receive for the next five years, was fixed at a sum quite acceptable to the ANL. The task now is to use as wisely as possible those funds, and those which the ANL can itself earn in addition.

### INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND SERVICES TO READERS

The most important innovation in the service areas was the installation of free Internet access for all fifty PC's in the catalogue area of the Heldenplatz, which was linked to the introduction of a payable readers card. For the first time it is now possible for the ANL to identify its clients it is now possible to order books online using ALEPH-OPAC.

In the technical services area the purchase of a STAR-database was an important decision toward a unified system of handling pictorial documents. The new STAR-database, a Web-Opac with descriptions of more than a million images was made available as early as July 2001.

In addition, a five-year-plan for transformation of the catalogues has been set up in recent months. All of the conventionally operated card catalogues are to be transferred to the electronic databases. A start on the conversion has already been made. The main areas involved are the catalogues of the map collection, the music collection and the manuscript collection.

## **ACQUISITIONS**

Among the outstanding new acquisitions of the ANL collections are the following objects:

### ***DEPARTMENT OF MANUSCRIPTS, AUTOGRAPHS AND CLOSED COLLECTIONS:***

- a broad convolution of Prince Metternich's letters,
- a copy of „Rechtfertigung“ („Justification“) by Bernhard Bolzano,
- typescripts of Heimito von Doderer's story „Der Abenteurer“ („The Adventurer“),
- autographs of Christine Busta and Ingeborg Bachmann.

### ***DEPARTMENT OF MAPS AND GLOBE MUSEUM***

- Zimmermann, Gotthelf: Auswanderer-Karte und Wegweiser nach Nordamerika (Map for emigrants and directory to North America); coloured lithography. Stuttgart, Metzler 1854.
- Henze, Adolf: Grosse Contor- und Bureau-Karte des Deutschen Reiches. (Great chart of offices of the German Empire). With special attention to German trade and German industry. Neuschönefeld near Leipzig, about 1880.
- Homann's heirs: Maior atlas scholasticus ex triginta sex generalibus et specialibus mappis homannianis compositus (major scholarly atlas of thirty-six general and specialised maps composed by Homann disciples), Nuremberg 1752 (-1797).
- Sanson, Nicolas: Atlas géographique. Amsterdam (about 1716).

### ***DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC***

- Robert Schumann: original manuscript of „Einsame Blumen“ und „Verrufene Stelle“ from Forest Scenes for Piano, op.82.
- Paul Hindemith: Projected score of an octette for a clarinet, bassoon, horn, violin, two second violins, a cello und double bass from the year 1958.
- Francesco Conti (1682 --1732, employed in Vienna at the Hofkapelle from 1701, died in Vienna): Festa Teatrale Galatea Vendicata of 1719.

### ***DEPARTMENT OF PORTRAITS, PICTURES AND FIDEICOMMIS LIBRARY***

- Closed collection of Dieter Kolbeck (born 4.12. 1930 in Stuttgart, guided from 1955 the "Creative Studio für Grafik und Fotografie" in Bregenz).
- Closed collection of Joe Heydecker.

- Edgar Honetschläger (born 1963), work cycle "Still life, Performance New York 1989".
- Robert Zahornicky : documentation of the Performance Festival, Vienna 1998, with internationally famous performance artists such as Bruce MacLean, Michael Paar, Hermann Nitsch and others.

#### ***DEPARTMENT OF BROADSHEETS, POSTERS AND EXLIBRIS***

- Closed collection of Professor Alexander Exax.

#### **RESEARCH AND CULTURAL EVENTS**

A highpoint of the scholarly year was the International Papyrology Conference in July with participants from twenty-six countries. It was organised by the Department of Papyri together with the Austrian Academy of Science. The acceptance of the Department of Papyri in UNESCO's Memory of the Word Register in November confirmed the outstanding importance of this collection, the world's biggest of its kind.

This year's main exhibition in the Hall of State, „A Garden of Eden. Botanical masterpieces of the Austrian National Library“, gave a fascinating insight into the rich holdings of illustrated books and manuscripts on plants in our library. Further exhibitions of the ANL were "Emperor and King. A journey through history. Austria and Hungary from 1526 to 1918." It illustrates 400 years of common history with reference to important documents. Moreover there was the highly respected exhibition on Thomas Bernhard which for the first time gave an insight into his closed collection. The numbers of visitors, increasing every year, show that the public appreciates the efforts being made in that area by the ANL.

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