

Kultur als Beute des Zweiten Weltkrieges: Ein Spezialinventar ukrainischer, russischer und deutscher Archivquellen zur Praxis der Verlagerung von deutschen Kunst- und Kulturgütern, 1944-1948

Initiative: Trilaterale Partnerschaften – Kooperationsvorhaben zwischen Wissenschaftler(inne)n aus der Ukraine, Russland und Deutschland

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In Moscow in November 1942, a state special commission was authorized to compile a list of art and cultural objects that could be proffered as equivalents to Russian art treasures that had been lost as a consequence of the German attack. A special committee of the USSR Council of Ministers, composed of art historians and museum specialists, based on the division of labor with a so-named Red Army "Prize Task Force" during the western advance, acquired art objects that would be suitable for compensating for Russian art losses. After the end of the war, the Soviet Military Administration (SMAD) "Trophy Administration" took over this task. This trilateral research project is an attempt to analyze the praxis of the looting of cultural goods and reconstruct the history of the transfer of German cultural goods to the Soviet Union using testimonies and documents from project partner country archives. "German art and cultural goods" is understood in its heterogeneity: individual exhibits and collections from private, state and public museums and art galleries; archives, libraries, archaeological and natural science monuments, as well as objects of material culture that are culturally meaningful.

Projektbeteiligte

Prof. Dr. Dagmara Jajesniak-Quast

Europa-Universität Viadrina
Frankfurt (Oder)
Zentrum für Interdisziplinäre Polenstudien
Frankfurt (Oder)

Dr. Tatiana Timofeeva

Lomonosov Moscow State University
Moskau
Russland

Prof. Dr. Wladimir Sacharow

Moskau
Russland

Dr. Dmytro Burim

National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine
M.S. Hruschewskyj-Institut für ukrainische
Archäographie und Quellenkunde
Abteilung für Studien und Publikationen der
ausländischen Quellen zur ukrainischen Geschichte
Kiev
Ukraine