Whose Piano Is This, Anyway?

Vienna University Library and the Looted Heritage of the University’s Jewish Luminaries: a Double Case Study

Monika Schreiber
Vienna University Library, The Jewish Studies Library
Vienna, Austria
National Socialist Provenance research at Vienna University Library

Books from the University Library

• Since 2004
• 400,000 item-per-item inspections
• 20 book collections restituted

The University’s Research and Teaching Collections

• Since 2014
• Expansion of book project
• 2 projects completed
• 1 project initiated
Guido Adler
(1855 – 1941)
[1920s]
© https://www.gustav-mahler.eu/

Berthold Hatschek
(1854 – 1941)
[Around 1927]
© University of Vienna Archives
Two Luminaries: Biographical Sidelights

Guido Adler
• 1855: Born in Eibenschütz (Moravia)
• 1885 – 1898: Prof. of musical history, Prague
• 1898 – 1927: Prof. of musicology, Vienna
• 1941: Natural death in Vienna

Berthold Hatschek
• 1854: Born in Kirwein (Moravia)
• 1885 – 1896: Prof. of zoology, Prague
• 1896 – 1925: Prof. of Zoology, Vienna
• 1941: Natural death in Vienna
Guido Adler 1855 – 1941
Natural Death in Vienna

Betty Berger - 1933
Died in Vienna

Melanie Karoline Adler 1888 – 1942
Perished in Maly Trostinec

Hubert Joachim Adler 1894 – 1964
1938 emigration to U.S.A. (Phillipsburg, NJ)

Proactive claims for Guido Adler’s property

Tom Adler 1938 – 2010
(San Diego, CA)
The Guido Adler Instruments
(Department of Musicology / Instrument Collection)

Grand piano
(Adler-Flügel)
© Dept. of Musicology

Harpsichord
© Kunsthistorisches Museum Wien

Clavichord
© Marianne Siegl
Loan letter by Ludwig Bösendorfer, Jan. 1899
© Dept. of Musicology Archives

Loan entry in the departmental chronicle,
Guido Adler, Jan. 26, 1899
© Dept. of Musicology Archives
Zoological collection:
Section through larvae of *lancelet* (*amphioxus*),
prepared by Hatschek (1881)
Zoological collection: Boxes containing Berthold Hatschek ‘s estate
Estate Berthold Hatschek:
Hand sketch from manuscript
Estate Berthold Hatschek:
Siddur *Tefillat Yisra‘el*  
[book of daily prayers]  
(published Vienna, 1883)
Estate Berthold Hatschek:
Last will of Baruch Hatschek (1853)
Einsatzstab Reichsleiter Rosenberg – ERR (Belgrade):
Report on confiscated Estate Berthold and Marie Hatschek (Rosenthal)
Zoological collection: Boxes containing Berthold Hatschek’s estate
Benefits of National-Socialist Provenance Research

- Evidence for loot
- Finding Heirs
- Restitution

- (Re)writing of:
  - Intellectual history
  - History of Academia
  - Biographies

- Restoration of:
  - Memory
  - Historical Knowledge
  - Historical Fairness

- Further Research:
  - Inspiration
  - Funding

AJL 52nd Annual Meeting, NYC, June 19, 2017