

## **AUSTRIAN NATIONAL LIBRARY: ANNUAL REPORT 2000/2001**

### **Address:**

Director General Dr. Hans Marte (from 1<sup>st</sup> June 2001: Mrs. Dr. Johanna Rachinger)

Josefsplatz 1

Postfach 308

A-1015 Vienna

Tel. (+43 1) 53410 200

Fax: (+43.1) 53410 280

Email: [onb@onb.ac.at](mailto:onb@onb.ac.at)

WWW: <http://www.onb.ac.at>

### **Handling of electronic publications and formats, legal deposit**

In September 2000 new legislation in media law was passed (BGBl. I 75/2000) whereby electronic media on solid data carriers are now included in the obligatory legal deposit. However, there is still no appropriate legislation for the far more problematical domain of online media. A pilot project is now under consideration at the ANL. Publications in audiovisual media and on film are also not included in the obligatory legal deposit.

### **Funding**

The highly successful book sponsorship scheme celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary last year; with the sum of 3.3. million ATS, 300 book sponsors supported one of the ANL's main tasks, namely the conservation of our common cultural heritage. The managing directors of Schönbrunn GmbH interpreted the sponsorship's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary as an opportunity to conserve views of the Albertina and kindly donated a most generous sum. A work was chosen by the mediaeval Tirolean bard Oswald von Wolkenstein, the celebrated ancestor of sponsor Michael von Wolkenstein, while a Jewish wedding in the Great Hall at the ANL and Pietro Metastasio's 300<sup>th</sup> centenary gave rise to further book sponsorships. TV star, police dog Commissary Rex took on a spectacular sponsorship by filming the 80. sequel in the popular crime series on library precincts. Michail S. Gorbatschow, the last secretary general in the UdSSR rates among the library's famous sponsors. Austrian Radio (ORF) dedicated its Christmas gala to the "Gutenberg Initiative 3000", christened at the opening of the Museum of the History of Printing in Austria at Steyermühl.

### **Legislation**

By 2002 the ANL is to become a research institution with full legal autonomy, based on the prototype of the federal museums. To this end, a new legal basis must be found, a "National

Library law". Initial discussions to formulate this legislation are already underway. The alteration in the ANL's current legal status as subordinate to the Federal Ministry of Education, Research and Cultural Affairs and the ensuing consequences will have a decisive effect on the ANL's future.

### **Staffing**

275,5 civil servants with tenure and members of staff on contract basis were employed at the ANL on 31.12.2000, amounting to 28.5 fewer than the previous year. These painful cuts in staff could only be partly covered by contracts financed from projects. 54,5 persons could be employed for projects and from funding for specific purposes and part legal autonomy, sixteen of which are volunteers.

### **Information technology and networks/ The digital library**

The chief event in this area has clearly been the transformation of the two image-based catalogues from 1501-1929 (Author and Subject Index Catalogues) into an ALEPH-500-database which offers all modern search facilities. The ANL can be internationally considered the first library to present its holdings of historical printed books from 1501-1929 as an online database including subject-access.

A further desideratum for the library - and its readers - is the analogous conversion of the catalogues 1930-1988/91 into a text-based database, also the digitisation of other special catalogues of holdings on the special collections.

Having digitised the catalogues of the picture and portrait archives on an image basis, the past year has been overshadowed by the construction of a picture database intended to cover the cataloguing, documentation and dispatchment of reproduction orders for picture documents in all collections at the ANL. After a detailed structural analysis of the catalogues, 1, 111.000 catalogue cards could be successfully indexed in a record time of only six months and put into the database. The decision on the choice of soft ware has also been made in favour of STAR from Cuadra Associates.

### **Acquisitions**

The following acquisitions to the ten historical special collections were made during 2000 (besides many others):

Letters by Ludwig van Beethoven were purchased for the department of manuscripts, autographs and closed collections; literary deposits of Gerhard Roth, Otto Zenker, Kurt Benesch and the publisher's archive "Edition neuer Texte" were acquired by the Austrian Literary Archives; a hand-drawn map showing all the Benedictine monasteries in Central Europe and extremely rare Russian folding globes are now part of the collection of maps and globes. There are now 3000 modern prints by Harry Weber at the portrait and picture archives. The ANL is the first official institution to acquire the life's work of a contemporary news photographer. The collection of incunabula, ancient and precious books has been able to fill some gaps in the holdings, as in the case of several writings by Thomas von Pichler. The collection of incunabula has been increased by ten call numbers. The collection of posters, broadsheets and exlibris has succeeded in organising promising collaboration with Austrian

advertising ("Heimatwerbung Austria") which runs a database for all posters displayed since 1992. The collection has been expanded by generous donations of posters and exlibris.

### **Preservation and Conservation**

In co-operation with the Technical University, Vienna, the optimisation of the deacidification process at the ANL is now in progress in order to achieve a significant reduction of drying times.

### **Services to readers**

236.000 persons (for 2000: 285.000) have made use of the library, i.e. 48.000 fewer than in 1999. The mainreading room is largely affected by this recession, while increase in other library areas has been recorded. Ordering documents by e-mail has increased by 100% (from 20.000 to 30.000). Hits to the ANL-Homepage have increased enormously : from 12 million in 1999 to 14 million hits in 2000 (excluding the ALEPH-Opacs). The number of searches in the special databases rose from 331.000 in 1999 to 393.000 in 2000, thereby implying that further digitisation is in the interests of library users and should be expanded as fast as possible.

### **Cultural events, exhibitions and publishing**

During the year 200 the ANL organised 39 exhibitions at home and abroad. The main annual exhibition "Alpha and Omega, Stories about the end and the beginning of the World" presented cimelia from all nine special collections. The exhibition catalogue has been placed on the list of the most beautiful books in Austria for the year 2000.

The exhibition "Treasure restored at the ANL" celebrated the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the book sponsorship scheme, a success story which has not only helped the library to raise impressive funding (approx. 23 million ATS) for the conservation of holdings but has also secured many friends, last but not least thanks to numerous celebrities among the sponsors. At home and abroad the sponsorship scheme has become a well-known example for others to follow. The ANL also organised 23 concerts, symposia, lectures, readings, book presentations etc.

The exhibition and museum areas at the library were visited by 111.000 persons during the year 2000. There were 461 guided tours, 350 of which were for schools, thereby showing an increase of 80 tours compared to 1999. In addition, 380 schools have visited the library as part of the campaign to introduce Austrian schoolchildren to Vienna ("Österreichs schulen lernen Wien kennen").

During the past year, the ANL has kept up its reputation as a research institution. A total of 29 research projects were carried out at the library. As from December 2000, the Austrian Literary Archives are now participating in the new EU-project LEAF (Linking and Exploring Authority Files). Total funding for seven projects was given by the Federal Ministry of Education, Academic Research and Cultural Affairs, eight projects were financed by the fund for the furtherance of academic research ("Fonds zur Förderung der wiss. Forchung") and in four cases by the jubilee trust at the ANL. One project was financed by the European Union. As in previous years, those working on the START-project "Edition of Greek papyri" have continued to make a series of major discoveries to research.

The ANL has edited seven periodicals. The library's staff has published 117 monographs and scientific articles. Seven lecture series and numerous talks have also been given.