



The Holocaust Claims Processing Office: Methodology and Practice in Art Restitution Claims

Rebecca Friedman, Senior Art Claims Specialist

Formation of the HCPO

- 1996: US Senator Alfonse M. D'Amato, then Chairman of the Senate Banking Committee, began an inquiry into the status of assets held by Swiss banks since their deposit in the years preceding World War II and the Holocaust.
- 1997: Neil D. Levin, then Superintendent of the NYS Banking Department led Governor Pataki's efforts to obtain an accounting from Swiss Banks on dormant accounts and as Superintendent of the NYS Insurance Department he launched an investigation into European insurance companies and their failure to compensate Holocaust victims and their families.
- 1997: Governor Pataki establishes the Holocaust Claims Processing Office.



Swiss and American officials meet with leaders of the World Jewish Restitution Organization, Friday, Feb. 14, 1997, in New York



https://www.dfs.ny.gov/consumers/holocaust_claims

Holocaust Claims



About the HCPO

Since 1997 the Holocaust Claims Processing Office (HCPO) has advocated on behalf of Holocaust victims and their heirs, seeking the just and orderly return of assets to their original owners. In fulfilling this mission, as of December 31, 2017, the HCPO has facilitated the restitution of over \$176 million in bank accounts, insurance policies, and other material losses and the resolution of cases involving more than 141 works of art.

The HCPO works as a bridge between claimants and the various international compensation organizations and/or the current holder(s) of the asset be it a bank account, insurance policy or artwork. Claimants pay no fee for the HCPO's services, nor does the HCPO take a percentage of the value of the assets recovered. Our goal is to advocate for claimants by helping to alleviate any cost and bureaucratic hardships they might encounter in trying to pursue claims on their own.

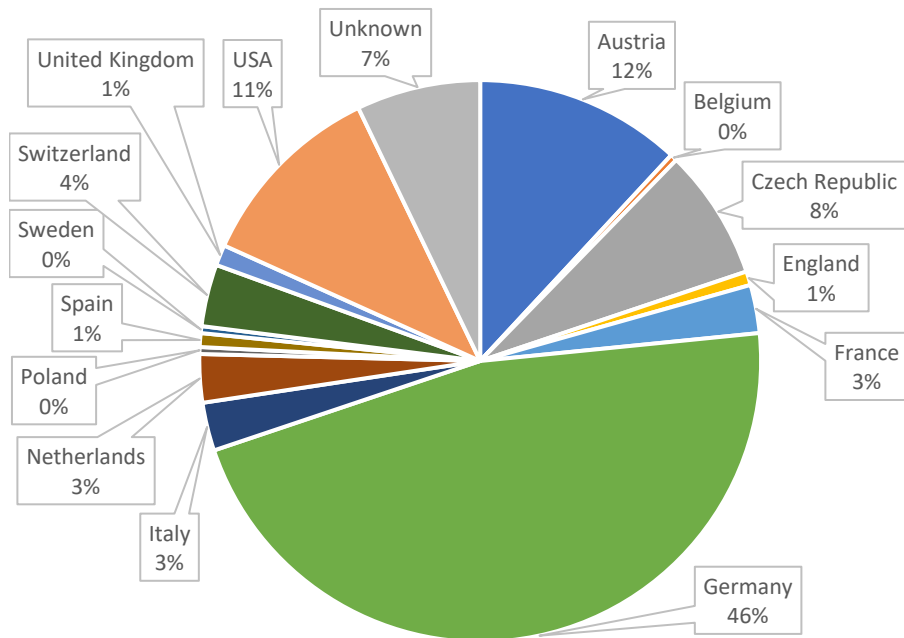
We provide institutional assistance to individuals seeking to recover:

1. Assets deposited in banks.
2. Monies that insurance companies failed to pay policy beneficiaries.
3. Artwork that was lost, stolen, or sold under duress between 1933 and 1945.



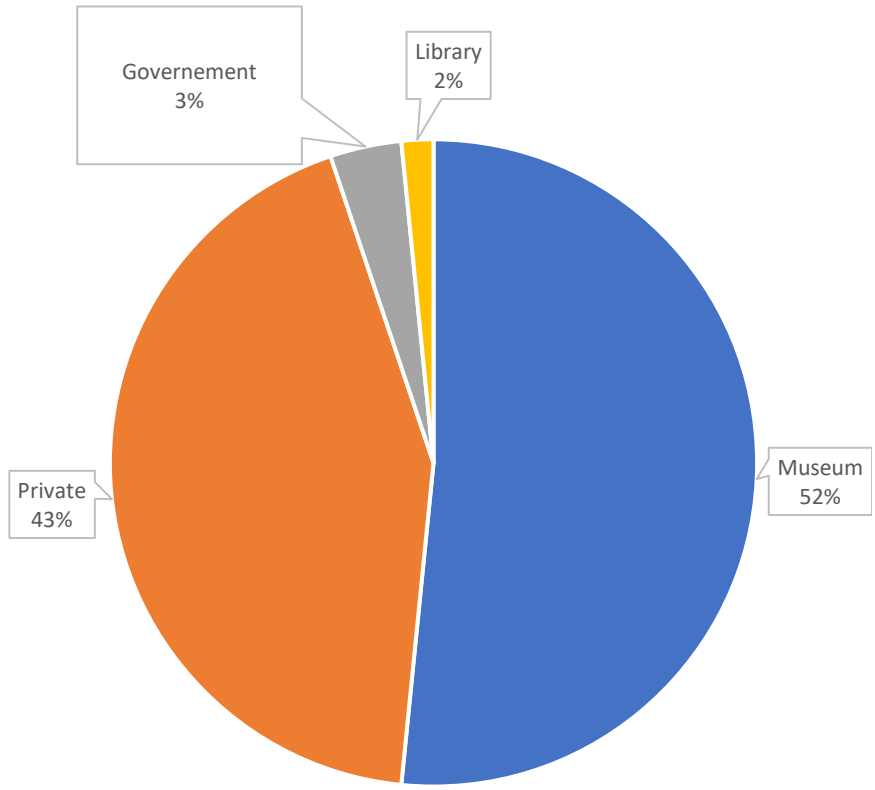
Overview of HCPO Art Claims



Countries Where Art was Located and Recovered

- 202 collections
22 states and DC
14 Countries
- Approximately 8,000 objects
- Over 250 works restituted or subject of settlement





Owner Type



HCPO's Art Claims Process



Claim is initiated
This can be done by phone, letter, email, fax or in person.



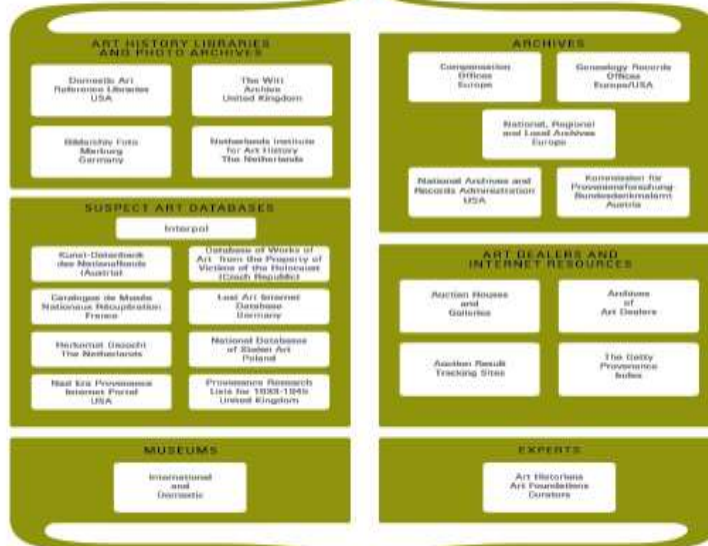
Claim Number
All necessary details are gathered, forms are completed and information is entered into the HCPO database and assigned a claim number.



Sharing
Art works that are logged into the HCPO central database are shared with partner agencies.



HCPO Specialist
Claims are assigned to an HCPO specialist and researched in preparation for submission to a variety of claims processes.



1. GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH

Establishing the Claimant's Connection to the Original Owner

- Search for Vital Records
- Estate Documents
- Immigration Documents
- Certificates of Inheritance
 - City and State Archives
 - Probate Offices
 - Religious Community Offices



All results for Ernst Schweitzer

Search Filters

Ernst
 Schweitzer
 b:1889
 d:1938

Collections: **All Collections**

All Categories

- Birth, Marriage & Death
- Immigration & Emigration
- Family Tree

Normal Search

Results: 34 of 38

Records Categories

Matching Person (born-Sort by date)

See more like this



Ernst August Wilhelm
Schweitzer
-Germany

Name: Ernst August Wilhelm Schweitzer
 Name: Julius Friedrich Cassner
 Birth: 23 Nov 1889 Cahn, Baden-Württemberg, Germany
 Death: 22 Mar 1938 Cahn, Baden-Württemberg, Germany
 Residence: Wetzlar, Ostprignitz, Baden-Württemberg, Germany

Matching Records

Germany, Lutheran Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials, 1808-1875
[View all records](#)

Name: Julius August **Ernst Schweitzer**

Name: 28 Nov 1889

Address: 15 Jan 1897 Berlin, Reinholdweg, Prenzlau

Prussia, Germany, Births, 1846-1930
[View all records](#)

Name: **Ernst** Herrich Christian Carl **Schweitzer**

Marriage: 14 Nov 1882 Aßlar, Hesse, Deutschland

Germany, Prussia, Lutheran Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials, 1700-1930
[View all records](#)

Name: **Ernst August Wilhelm Schweitzer**

Birth: 4 Feb 1889

Death: 17 Apr 1938 Hagenberg, Sachsen, Deutschland



Jewish Records Indexing - Poland

Jewish Records Indexing - Poland, Inc. is a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation and indexing of Jewish records from Poland. We are currently seeking qualified individuals to assist in the U.S.A.

Based in: 19 Apr 2017 11:11:41 AM

Searching for Surname (phonetic) like: **SCHWEITZER AND**
 Givenname (PA) similar: **ERNEST**
 in Prussia

1 matching records found (1 including previous searches) - 0 error records

Wroclaw PSA Births, Marriages, Deaths 1869-1890

For information on 1891 to 1900 Wroclaw records, please contact Wroclaw@jri-poland.org

Last Updated: Jul 2015

New Feature Available for
Hybridizing
[View Instructions Here](#)

Wroclaw
 Records in Files: 142, 142 (Records Actual)
 Updated on: 17 Jul 2015

To support indexing 'Your Town(s)!' records, please donate to [JRI-Poland](#) [here](#)
 Already supporting indexing project? Please consider supporting our General Fund

1891-1890 in Catholic Church Records

File #	Surname	Given Name	Year	Type	Date of Birth	Place of Birth	Age	Sex	Date of Birth	Place of Birth	Date of Birth	Place of Birth	Other Surnames	Father	Father Age	Father Year	Father Place	Father Name	Comments	Municipality
1891-1890	Schweitzer	Ernst August Wilhelm	1889	B	11 Feb 1889	Cahn, Baden-Württemberg, Germany	1	M	11 Feb 1889	Cahn, Baden-Württemberg, Germany	1	M	Schweitzer	Julius Friedrich Cassner	1	1889	Cahn, Baden-Württemberg, Germany	Julius Friedrich Cassner		File #142



2. ARCHIVAL RESEARCH

Reconstructing the Original Owner's Asset Holdings



Prewar Documents

- Family Photographs
- Prewar Tax Records
- Bank Records
- Property Insurance Policies

Nazi-era Files

- Asset Declarations
- Immigration Records
- Punitive Tax Records

Postwar Records

- Compensation Applications and Decisions



fold3 [HOME](#) [SEARCH](#) [BROWSE](#) [MEMORIALS](#) [HELP](#) **ANNA RUBINOWICZ**

Filter: OFFICIAL: Holocaust Collection, Schweizer, PUBLICATION NAME: Ansbach Hall Collection, ... People, Records, Places, Dates...

Showing 1-20 of 34 results

Property Declarations: 14835 - Page 12
Ansbach Hall Collection: Munich Administrative Records -
Series: Restitution Claim Records
Date Range: 1945 - 1950
NARA Catalog ID: 3725265
[Mark] **Schweitzer**

Interrogations: Reichskammer Der Bilde...
Ansbach Hall Collection: Munich Administrative Records -
Series: Restitution Research Record
Date Range: 1945 - 1950
NARA Catalog ID: 3725274
Name: **Schweitzer** - GCCT#11
became chair man **SCHWEITZ**

Interrogations: Reichskammer Der Bilde...
Ansbach Hall Collection: Munich Administrative Records -
Series: Restitution Research Record
Date Range: 1945 - 1950
NARA Catalog ID: 3725274
Name: **Schweitzer**

Monuments: Nürnberg - Page 88
Ansbach Hall Collection: Munich Administrative Records -
Series: Records Relating To The State Museums, And Archives
Date Range: 1945 - 1949
NARA Catalog ID: 3725273
[Mark] **Schweitzer**

Monuments: Nürnberg - Page 26
Series: Records Relating To The State Museums, And Archives

WGA DATENBANK [HOME](#) [BESTANDSINFORMATION](#) [RECHERCHE](#) [BESTELLUNGSINFORMATION](#) [KONTAKT/DRUCKEN](#)

Suche Ergebnis: 30 Einträge (1-14) | Seite 1/2 | 1-14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20

Tabellarische Darstellung

Titel	WGA (Anzahl)	WGA (Anzahl)	WGA (Anzahl)	WGA (Anzahl)	WGA (Anzahl)
Ein Schweizer	1945-1950, 1945-1950, 1945-1950	Ein Schweizer	Ein Schweizer	Ein Schweizer	4 164 12 12319
gustaf	1945-1950, 1945-1950, 1945-1950	Ein Schweizer	Ein Schweizer	Ein Schweizer	4 164 12 12319
Schweitzer	1945-1950, 1945-1950, 1945-1950	Ein Schweizer	Ein Schweizer	Ein Schweizer	3 164 12 12319
Ein Schweizer	1945-1950, 1945-1950, 1945-1950	Ein Schweizer	Ein Schweizer	Ein Schweizer	3 164 12 12319
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Ein Schweizer	1945-1950, 1945-1950, 1945-1950	Ein Schweizer	Ein Schweizer	Ein Schweizer	3 164 12 12319
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Ein Schweizer	1945-1950, 1945-1950, 1945-1950	Ein Schweizer	Ein Schweizer	Ein Schweizer	3 164 12 12319
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Ein Schweizer	1945-1950, 1945-1950, 1945-1950	Ein Schweizer	Ein Schweizer	Ein Schweizer	3 164 12 12319
Ein Schweizer	1945-1950, 1945-1950, 1945-1950	Ein Schweizer	Ein Schweizer	Ein Schweizer	3 164 12 12319
Ein Schweizer	1945-1950, 1945-1950, 1945-1950	Ein Schweizer	Ein Schweizer	Ein Schweizer	3 164 12 12319
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Ein Schweizer	1945-1950, 1945-1950, 1945-1950	Ein Schweizer	Ein Schweizer	Ein Schweizer	3 164 12 12319
Ein Schweizer	1945-1950, 1945-1950, 1945-1950	Ein Schweizer	Ein Schweizer	Ein Schweizer	3 164 12 12319
Ein Schweizer	1945-1950, 1945-1950, 1945-1950	Ein Schweizer	Ein Schweizer	Ein Schweizer	3 164 12 12319
Ein Schweizer	1945-1950, 1945-1950, 1945-1950	Ein Schweizer	Ein Schweizer	Ein Schweizer	3 164 12 12319
Ein Schweizer	1945-1950, 1945-1950, 1945-1950	Ein Schweizer	Ein Schweizer	Ein Schweizer	3 164 12 12319



3. LOCATING THE MISSING ASSETS



Portrait of a Lady (Portrait of Therese Karl), Fritz von Uhde

- Sold under duress in 1937 by the Hannover collector Gustav Rüdenberg the Städel Museum, Frankfurt
- Restituted to the Rüdenberg heirs in 2023

List works with stolen art databases

- ALR
- Lootedart.de

Publications of potentially looted art

- MNR
- NK Collection
- Nationalfonds Kunst-datenbank
- Czech Database
- Treasures Untraced
- Sacco di Budapest





BUREAU HERKOMST GEZOCHT

Bureau Herkomst Gezocht (BHG) werd in 1998 opgericht in opdracht van de Nederlandse Overheid om herkomstonderzoek te doen naar de staatscollectie (NK-collectie). Momenteel wordt er gewerkt aan de ontsluiting van de collectie Vermiste Werken. BHG streeft ernaar om een zo compleet mogelijk beeld te geven van wat er zoal geroofd en verhandeld is tijdens de Tweede Wereldoorlog. Daarnaast behandelt BHG allerlei informatieverzoeken die betrekking hebben op roofkunst.



Wat hier we zoeken in:

Zoeken >

Website * Collectie



Suche

Suche [Suchen](#)

Wartungsstatus

Lost Art-Datenbank

- Grundlagen
- Einfache Suche
- Erweiterte Suche
- Halbtag/Suche
- Halbtag/Fund
- Objekte melden
- Modul "Privatansprechende"
- Verifizierungen

Restitutionsanweisung

- Download
- Werkzeug

Start > Lost Art-Datenbank

Einfache Suche

[Suchen](#)

300 Suchergebnisse

Sortieren nach: Titel oder Autor/Künstler

[1](#) [2](#) [3](#) [4](#) [5](#) [6](#) [7](#) [8](#) [9](#) [10](#) [11](#) [12](#) [13](#) [14](#) [15](#) [16](#) [17](#) [18](#) [19](#) [20](#) [21](#) [22](#) [23](#) [24](#) [25](#) [26](#) [27](#) [28](#) [29](#) [30](#) [31](#) [32](#) [33](#) [34](#) [35](#) [36](#) [37](#) [38](#) [39](#) [40](#) [41](#) [42](#) [43](#) [44](#) [45](#) [46](#) [47](#) [48](#) [49](#) [50](#) [51](#) [52](#) [53](#) [54](#) [55](#) [56](#) [57](#) [58](#) [59](#) [60](#) [61](#) [62](#) [63](#) [64](#) [65](#) [66](#) [67](#) [68](#) [69](#) [70](#) [71](#) [72](#) [73](#) [74](#) [75](#) [76](#) [77](#) [78](#) [79](#) [80](#) [81](#) [82](#) [83](#) [84](#) [85](#) [86](#) [87](#) [88](#) [89](#) [90](#) [91](#) [92](#) [93](#) [94](#) [95](#) [96](#) [97](#) [98](#) [99](#) [100](#)

- Platz (Bewahrung Christi)

Objektart: Malerei

Künstler / Hersteller: **Corinth**, Lovis

Höhe: 126,50 cm Breite: 160,00 cm

Beschreibung: Signatur: LOVIS **Corinth** Kitz 1889;

Maße: 126,5 x 1, ...

Bereich: Suchmeldungen

Lost Art-ID: 012445



- Der Juchberg am Welchessee

Objektart: Malerei

Künstler / Hersteller: **Corinth**, Lovis

Material / Technik: Ölfarbe ; Leinwand

Höhe: 70,00 cm Breite: 90,00 cm

Beschreibung: [...]; (Reibend); Signatur: Lovis **Corinth** 1924; Maße: 70 x 90 cm

Provenienz: 1927 von Charlotte Berend **Corinth** in Berlin erworben.

Bereich: Suchmeldungen

Lost Art-ID: 00888



Explore

atelier van Jan Bruegel (II) of Pseudo-Boeschaert

Wanneer is een geschilderde voorstelling van een zwaan (Jan, jaar: 1610-1620)
 Peck, Galerie d'Art Saatchi & Saatchi, n.v./s.a. n.v. []

← 000imga



Development 2016/17: Winter 2007/2008

Also images

Development 2016/17: Winter 2007/2008

FRESCO
 FINE ART REFERENCE LIBRARY

NEW Search | Recently Searched | Search History

SEARCH BY KEYWORD

KEYWORD:

244 Results Found. Authority references (0/4 / 1/4)
 View page: 1 2 3 4 5 Next

View Related Records | View All On Page

KEYWORDS (1/50 of 244)

Most relevant titles entries 1 - 11

- Van Dyck, Hendrick, Bruegel II, Jacobus Nicolaus van**

Author	Call Number	Pub./Copy	Status Information	Action
Rock Office - Request in Archive	0000.000.000.000		0000.000.000.000	<input type="button" value="Request"/>
- Les Bruegel et leur entourage dans les collections des musées francophones**

Author	Call Number	Pub./Copy	Status Information	Action
Rock Book Stack	0000.000.000.000		0000.000.000.000	<input type="button" value="Request"/>
- Feder Bruegel der Jüngere, Jan Bruegel der Ältere - Elitesite Historie van 1400 - Tweeën en Eén**

Author	Call Number	Pub./Copy	Status Information	Action
Rock Book Stack	0000.000.000.000		0000.000.000.000 - RM. 07.000.000	<input type="button" value="Request"/>
- Van Bruegel der Ältere (1561-1638) - die Gemälde mit weiblichen Charakteren**

Author	Call Number	Pub./Copy	Status Information	Action
				<input type="button" value="Request"/>

Provenance Research

- catalogue raisonné
- monographs
- exhibition catalogues
- dealer, gallery and museum archives
- auction and sales catalogues
- image archives
- artists records



4. RESTITUTION: SUBMISSION AND RESOLUTION OF CLAIMS



Allaert van Everdingen (1621-1675), *Coastal scene with an old lighthouse*

- Sold under duress by Dr. Michael Berolzheimer in March 1939
- Restituted by the British Museum to the Berolzheimer heirs in 2014

Panels

- Restitutions Committee
- CIVS for MNR objects
- UK Spoliation Advisory Panel
- Limbach Commission

Settlement Through Negotiation

- Open communication and amicable discussion
- Describe circumstance of loss and international principles
- Share all documents

Disadvantages of Litigation

- Conflict of laws
- Attorney's fees
- Unpredictable outcomes
- Emotionally draining
- Lengthy process



February 2023 Restitution of art works from the Brno collection of Johann Bloch



Johann and Lisbeth Bloch in Brno, Czechoslovakia, c. 1903



The HCPO: Working together with the art trade

The screenshot shows the website 'KUNSTWERK KUNST' with a search bar at the top. The main content area displays a search result for 'The Way to the Mill' by J.M.W. Turner. The artwork is shown in a circular frame. To the right of the image, there is a detailed description of the painting, including its title, artist, and a brief history. Below the image, there are several sections: 'Objektbeschreibung' (Object description), 'Provenienz' (Provenance), and 'Literatur' (Literature). The website has a clean, professional layout with a white background and blue accents.

The screenshot shows the website 'KUNSTWERK STAHL' with a search bar at the top. The main content area displays a search result for 'Portrait of a Young Man' by Hans Holbein the Younger. The artwork is shown in a circular frame. To the right of the image, there is a detailed description of the painting, including its title, artist, and a brief history. Below the image, there are several sections: 'Objektbeschreibung' (Object description), 'Provenienz' (Provenance), and 'Literatur' (Literature). The website has a clean, professional layout with a white background and blue accents.

Provide assistance

- identifying heirs
- locating heirs
- establishing contact with heirs
- liaising with heirs
- guiding settlements



The HCPO: Working together with the museum community



Restitution von NS-Raubgut

Die Spur zu dem Kunst- sammler Heinrich Schwarz

von Lisa-Christin Schönbach-Hilbrand / 24. Februar 2022
Die Nazis beraubten Heinrich Schwarz und seine Besessenen (Opfer) von der Sammlung des



Restitution von NS-Raubgut

Der Name auf der Mappe



› Collections › Provenance research

Silverware formerly owned by members of the Jewish community

In 1939 and 1940, the Munich Municipal History Museum (which was to become the Munich Stadtmuseum in 1952) acquired 235 items of silverware from Munich's Municipal Pawn Office (Stadtmuseum Lohmeyer). The entire collection comprised items owned by Jewish families living in Munich who had been forced to hand them over to the Municipal Pawn Office's purchasing department by the State following the enactment of the 'Third Decree on the Basis of the Ordinance regarding the Registration of Jewish Assets' on February 23, 1939 (Reich Law Gazette 1939 I, page 202).

A total of 57 items of silverware were returned to their rightful owners after 1945 as part of the restitution process that followed the fall of the Nazi regime. Families whose property had been confiscated were required to submit an application for restitution by a fixed deadline. In all, 148 such items still reside in the Munich Stadtmuseum today. The vast majority were made by Munich-based silversmiths between the 18th and 20th centuries.

