

## **Interventions in the Display Collection after the restitution of the Mautner collection to the heirs**

The objects of the Mautner collection came from the possession of Anna Mautner, the widow of ethnographer Konrad Mautner. At the request of the then-director of the Austrian Museum of Folk Life and Folk Art, they were confiscated in 1938 and shortly thereafter acquired by the museum. In accordance with the recommendation of the Austrian Art Restitution Advisory Board, the museum restituted them to the legal successors of Anna Mautner in 2017.

The interventions concerning these objects can be found in rooms 3, 12, 19, and 22.

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### **Room 3 Presentation of a harvest wreath**

Until the spring of 2017 an object with the inventory number ÖMV/43827 was displayed here:

*Sheet with two chromolithographies*

*From the series "Traditional costumes in the Archduchy of Austria below the Enns", Section "Area to the north of the Vienna Woods"*

*Engraved by Franz Eybl after a template by Heinrich Friedrich Müller*

*Published in 1842 by Alois Leykam, Vienna*

Displayed in this place of the exhibition, the sheet aimed to show that many topics the NS folklorists dealt with had already been prescribed in the 19th century. This includes the romantic transfiguration of the harvest and related customs.

The text that described the object read:

The two graphics combined on this sheet show autumnal scenes: a young woman delivers a harvest wreath to the squire, and a young couple philanders in a wine press.

This sheet came from the possession of Anna Mautner, the widow of ethnographer Konrad Mautner. At the request of the director of the Austrian Museum of Folk Life and Folk Art, it was confiscated in 1938 and shortly thereafter acquired by the museum. In accordance with the recommendation of the Austrian Art Restitution Advisory Board, the museum restituted it to the family of Anna Mautner in 2017.

## 1) Provenance research at the Austrian Museum of Folk Life and Folk Art

In the spring of 2015, the Association for Folk Life, as the body responsible for the Austrian Museum of Folk Life and Folk Art, pledged to carry out systematic provenance research pursuant to the Art Restitution Law (BGBl I Nr. 181/1998), even though the association as a private entity is legally not required to do so. However, the restitution of looted objects in the collection to their rightful owners or legal successors is a major concern of the association and the museum. Association records prove that the Austrian Museum of Folk Life and Folk Art, as well as many other museums, took advantage of the National Socialist regime's systematic persecution and expulsion of people in order to expand its collections. In 2014 the board of the Association for Folk Life decided to use the funds from the Federal Chancellery for the development of systematic provenance research. Furthermore, the board decided to cooperate closely with the Commission for Provenance Research and the National Fund of the Republic of Austria for Victims of National Socialism, in order to achieve transparency in the handling of objects that are unrightfully in the possession of the museum. Since 2015 continuous and comprehensive research on the previous owners of the objects inventoried between 1938 and 1945 has been carried out in the museum by a historian. Several objects have already been restituted in accordance with the recommendation of the Austrian Art Restitution Advisory Board. In 2017 the Federal Chancellery and the Commission secured funding for a follow-up project to continue the research.

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### **Room 12**

#### **„Typical Carriages“**

Until the spring of 2017 an object with the inventory number ÖMV/43849 was displayed here:

*„The Freight Carriage“*

*Color Lithography*

*Sheet 5 from the series „Typical Wagons“*

*Ca. 1825, Publisher Josef Trentsensky, Vienna*

Displayed in this place of the exhibition, the sheet aimed to show that the movement of goods was already supra-regional in preindustrial times. Many people were more mobile than what fits the current image of that period. Large quantities of goods were transported by carriage, pack animals and carriers over long distances.

The text that described this object read:

Before the construction of railroads, an elaborate overland transport of carriages led to heavy traffic on the crossings and passes in the Alps.

This sheet came from the possession of Anna Mautner, the widow of ethnographer Konrad Mautner. At the request of the director of the Austrian Museum of Folk Life and Folk Art, it was confiscated in

1938 and shortly thereafter acquired by the museum. In accordance with the recommendation of the Austrian Art Restitution Advisory Board, the museum restituted it to the family of Anna Mautner in 2017.

## 2) The Mautner Collection and the Austrian Museum of Folk Life and Folk Art

The industrial magnate family Mautner was closely connected to the Austrian Museum of Folk Life and Folk Art since its foundation in 1894. They repeatedly supported the institution with generous donations of both objects and money. The ethnographer Konrad Mautner (1880-1924) and his wife Anna (1879-1961) did not only contribute important objects to the museum, but also compiled a prestigious private collection that included various traditional costumes and costume graphics. The Mautner collection was preserved partly in Vienna and partly in Grundlsee, Styria. At the instigation of her good acquaintance, director of the museum at the time and later member of the NDSAP, Arthur Haberlandt, the Austrian Magistrate Department 2, pursuant to the so-called „Prohibition of Exports Act“, prohibited Anna Mautner from sending her collection abroad in 1938, where she and her four children were forced to flee. The Austrian Museum of Folk Life and Folk Art acquired a total of 364 objects from the items of the Mautner collection that were seized in Vienna. The purchase price was less than the estimated worth of the objects, and there is no evidence that it was actually paid in full. In November 1946 Director Heinrich Jungwirth, successor of Arthur Haberlandt, who had been suspended, listed only a small part of the Mautner collection in the course of the property privations registration – to make matters worse, stating false information on the worth of those objects. The Mautner collection still remained in the museum. In 2016 the Austrian Art Restitution Advisory Board recommended the restitution of the collection to the family of Anna Mautner. This restitution took place in the following year.

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### **Room 19**

#### **Infantrymen outsmart a vineyard watchman**

Until the spring of 2017 an object with the inventory number ÖMV/44138 (61360) was displayed here:

*„Vineyard Watchman and Infantrymen“*

*Oil on iron sheet*

*ca. 1815*

Displayed in this place of the exhibition, the sheet aimed to show that historical events which were later perceived as decisive and memorable were authentically experienced and lived through by real people, and that they had large and small impacts on everyday life.

The text that described this object read:

The Napoleonic Wars confronted the population with a great number of soldiers from their own and foreign armies moving through the country. The romantic painters of folk life captured these encounters.

The sheet came from the possession of Anna Mautner, the widow of ethnographer Konrad Mautner. At the request of the director of the Austrian Museum of Folk Life and Folk Art, it was confiscated in 1938 and shortly thereafter acquired by the museum. In accordance with the recommendation of the Austrian Art Restitution Advisory Board, the museum restituted it to the family of Anna Mautner in 2017.

### 3) Konrad (1880-1924) and Anna Mautner (1879-1961)

Konrad Mautner was born in Vienna on February 23, 1880 as the second child of Isidor and Jenny Mautner. During the second half of the 19th century Isidor Mautner had established the biggest textile company in the Hapsburg monarchy. The Mautner family played an active role in the elegant Viennese society. At the Sunday gatherings in Jenny Mautner's Salon numerous renowned artists came together. During the winter the Mautner family lived in Vienna. They owned an estate at the Grundlsee in the Ausseerland, where they spent the summer months. Like his brother Stephan Konrad was appointed deputy of his father and worked in the family business. In 1909 he married his cousin Anna Constanze Neumann (born 1879), the daughter of a well-off silk merchant, in a traditional Jewish wedding. In April of 1919 both converted to Protestantism. In 1921 Konrad stepped down from his functions in the company in order to pursue his ethnographic studies. Three years later he passed away. As a consequence of the global economic crisis, the textile company of the Mautner family was liquidated. Anna Mautner thereupon founded her own company in Grundlsee and produced hand-printed fabrics for traditional costumes. These were well received by locals as well as guests of the Salzburg Festival and have shaped traditional Salzburg and Styrian costumes to this day. After the "Anschluss" (the annexation of Austria by the Third Reich) in March 1938, Anna Mautner was considered Jewish in accordance with the Nuremberg Laws and was confronted with the wide-ranging and systematic persecution by the National Socialist regime. Her business and home in Grundlsee were forcibly seized, along with a big part of her ethnographic collection. Despite her precarious financial situation the then sixty-year-old woman and her four children were able to flee abroad successfully in March of 1939. They survived the NS regime in exile in the United States of America, Canada and Great Britain, while other family members were murdered in NS extermination camps. In 1946 Anna Mautner returned to the Grundlsee from the United States of America. After a tedious restitution process which lasted until the end of 1949, she was able to reacquire her house at the Grundlsee, parts of its furnishing and her company "Mautner Hand-Printings". The latter was re-established and operated until 1954. A part of the Styrian Mautner collection was also restituted to her; however, the rest still remains in today's Kammerhofmuseum in Bad Aussee.

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## **Room 22**

### **Hunting Party and „A Chamois Hunter with Crampons“**

Until the spring of 2017 two objects with the inventory numbers ÖMV/43848 and ÖMV/44177 were displayed here:

*No title*

*Oil on wood*

*Painted by Johann Eisenschmied*

*Depiction of hunters at a spring*

*Proprietary notice "Hölzl" on the back*

*1st half of the 19th century, probably Styria*

The text that described this object read:

The Biedermeier era, the times of Archduke Johann, created the ideal of the hunter as a free child of nature: Yet hunting remained a privilege of the aristocracy. Whereas the army of the manorial professional hunters was recruited from among the people.

*"A Chamois hunter with crampons from Styria"*

*Etching, colored*

*Engraved by Vincenz Georg Kiningger after a drawing by Matthäus Loder*

*Panel 75 from the series "Traditional costumes of the imperial-royal states (...)", published in German and French*

*1803-1821, Publisher Tranquillo Mollo, Vienna*

The text that described this object read:

In Romanticism, the gray and green dressed hunter as a representative of the Alpine people gained new popularity.

Displayed in this place of the exhibition, the sheets aimed to show that even though hunting was a manorial privilege, professional hunters, who came from the lower classes and served the aristocracy, developed a class consciousness, which was frequently transfigured in romanticism.

The sheets came from the possession of Anna Mautner, the widow of ethnographer Konrad Mautner. At the request of Arthur Haberlandt, the director of the Austrian Museum of Folk Life and Folk Art at the time, they were confiscated in 1938 and 1939 and shortly thereafter acquired by the museum. In accordance with the recommendation of the Austrian Art Restitution Advisory Board, the museum restituted them to the family of Anna Mautner in 2017.

#### 4) The ethnographic research of Konrad (1880-1924) and Anna Mautner (1879-1961)

Among other things, Konrad and his wife Anna Mautner were connected by their interest in the then still young ethnography. Over the course of many years, they visited peasants in the Altauseerland in order to record their songs and proverbs with a gramophone. The results of their extensive research contributed to the "Steyrische Rasplwerk" published by Konrad Mautner in 1910 but received until today. In 1918, the publication of "Alte Lieder und Weisen aus dem Steyermärkischen

Salzkammergute" ("Old Songs and Tunes from the Styrian Salzkammergut") followed. Together with his colleague and friend, ethnographer Viktor Geramb, Konrad Mautner prepared a two-volume work on traditional Styrian costumes (the "Steirisches Trachtenbuch"), which had a great impact on the research into traditional costumes and on the renewal movement. It was finished by Geramb with the "active and idealistic support of Anna Mautner" after Konrad's death. On the occasion of Konrad's funeral, Anna Mautner asked the mourners to donate the money intended for wreaths to the Austrian Museum of Folklore Life and Folklore Art instead because of the deceased's long-standing commitment to this museum. Konrad Mautner had published regularly in the journal of the Association for Folk Life and became a member of the board in 1920. Besides their research the Mautners had established an extensive ethnographic collection, which above all included songs, graphics, various rural-alpine objects as well as a significant collection of traditional costumes with a regional focus on Styria and the Altausseerland. This collection was seized by the National Socialists in 1938/39.

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Further information on provenance research at the Austrian Museum of Folk Life and Folk Art:

[www.volkskundemuseum.at/provenienzforschung](http://www.volkskundemuseum.at/provenienzforschung)

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