 Wars spare neither civilians nor cultural values – on the contrary, both are often deliberately targeted and exposed to aggression. The destruction and looting of cultural assets, which are an integral part of national heritage and identity, is an established part of hostile war tactics, used, among other things, to justify territorial expansion. Russia’s current aggression against Ukraine provides an extreme example of this. Such conduct is a clear violation of the provisions of the Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict of 1954, an augmented version of the Hague Convention respecting the Laws and Customs of War on Land ratified in 1907. The effectiveness of this first international treaty aimed at protecting cultural property in the event of war was sorely tested a few years later, during the First World War.

The conference aims to examine, in a comparative manner, the strategies and practices of dealing with cultural heritage in the different theatres of the First World War. We want to discuss the preliminary stages and longer-term effects of the concepts developed at the time, as well as the eventual appropriation of cultural assets for the purpose of shaping identities and/or geopolitical goals in the following decades.
Monday, 13.05.2024

4:30 pm Welcome/Registration

5:00 pm Introductory remarks
  Robert Born, Ewa Manikowska, Beate Störtkuhl
  Keynote: Ante bellum.
  Preliminary remarks on heritage and disorder
  Paul Zalewski (Frankfurt/Oder)
  Moderator: Arnold Bartetzky (Leipzig)

7:00 pm Reception (Buffet)

Tuesday, 14.05.2024

9:00 am Comparisons I
  Chair: Sigrid Brandt (Salzburg)
  Protecting French cultural heritage in a European war. A case study
  Solène Amice (Paris)
  Protection of cultural heritage in the Ottoman Empire and the First World War
  Ceren Abi Mc Grevey-Stafford (Washington)
  Monument protection in conflict. Stakeholders, strategies and structures of the German-Ottoman wartime monument protection between 1912 and 1923
  Sebastian Willert (Leipzig)

10:45 am Coffee Break

11:15 am Comparisons II
  Chair: Sigrid Brandt (Salzburg)
  Structures of “Kunstschutz” in the German General Governorate of Warsaw and in the Austro-Hungarian Military Governorate of Lublin – a comparison
  Beate Störtkuhl (Oldenburg)
  Art historians in wartime operations in Northern Italy: The German and Austrian Art Protection Groups in occupied Friuli 1917–1918
  Martina Visentin (Udine) / Michael Wedekind (Bremen)
  German and Austrian “Kunstschutz” initiatives and archaeological activities in occupied Ukraine
  Robert Born (Oldenburg)

1:15 pm Lunch Break

2:30 pm The Austro-Hungarian Empire I
  Chair: Paul Mahringer (Vienna)
  The breakthrough in the Carpathians: The impact of the First World War on the territory of present-day Slovakia
  Tomáš Kowalski (Bratislava)
  Protecting lives by protecting bells. The treatment of the cultural heritage during the First World War in Istria, Carniola and Carinthia
  Barbara Kristina Murovec (Florence)
  Did the Hungarians adapt “Kunstschutz” during the First World War in the Dual Monarchy?
  Eszter Balázs (Budapest)

4:15 pm Coffee Break

4:45 pm The Austro-Hungarian Empire II
  Protection of the archaeological heritage in Western Galicia during the First World War. Practice and theory of conservation
  Marzena Woźny (Cracow)
  Networks of heritage preservation: The case of Lviv during the First World War
  Olha Zarechnyuk (Lviv)

6:30 pm Panel discussion
  The protection of cultural property during armed conflict between national patrimony and transnational cultural heritage: Reflections on the historical and contemporary impact of concepts developed during the First World War
  Stefania Demchuk (Kyiv), Stephanie Herold (Berlin), Ewa Manikowska (Warsaw)
  Moderator: Christian Fuhrmeister (Munich)

8:00 pm Conference Dinner (for active participants only)

Wednesday, 15.05.2024

9:00 am Propaganda
  Chair: Fani Gargova (Frankfurt/Main)
  Visualising conquest: German occupation, colonial fantasies, and the Kurland Ausstellung in 1917–1918
  Klavs Zariniš (Riga)
  The afterlives of a 1918 propaganda exhibition: The Livland-Estland-Ausstellung
  Kristina Jõekalda (Tallinn)

10:15 am War and its aftermath
  Chair: Beate Störtkuhl (Oldenburg)
  Preservation or modernization? The reconstruction of war-damaged settlements in Upper Hungary during the Great War
  Gáspár Salamon (Budapest; Berlin)
  The creation of national artistic heritage by saving artworks: The activity of Alexandru Tzigara-Samurcas (1872–1952) during and after the First World War in Romania
  Cosmin Minea (Bucharest; Brno)

11:30 am Coffee Break

12:00 am Inscribing “Kunstschutz” in the history of library heritage preservation
  Ewa Manikowska (Warsaw)
  Trophies – evidence – educational material: The handling of photographs from times of war
  Hilja Droste (Bonn) / Gernot Mayer (Vienna)

1:15 pm Short Break

1:30 pm Concluding Discussion

2:00 pm End of the Conference

left: Fred Hendriok: Poster for the arts & crafts exhibition Wilna-Minsk in Vilnius, 1918, issued by the Printing House of the Xth Army (https://www.loc.gov/item/2014665964/)