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The largest public manuscript collections besides the Austrian National Library are kept in the university libraries of Graz, Innsbruck, Klagenfurt, Salzburg and the Oberösterreichische Landesbibliothek in Linz. Other important manuscript collections belong to still active monasteries all over Austria.

Due to the lack of modern manuscript catalogues for most of the Austrian collections, the total number of mediaeval manuscripts in Latin script in Austrian libraries can only be estimated to approximately 20,000. For a list of manuscript catalogues, both printed and handwritten see here: <http://manuscripta.at/m1/kataloge.php>

A survey of **modern manuscripts**, estates and autographs is even more difficult. For a first overview see the Register of Artistic, Literary, Academic and Cultural-Political Estates in Austria [http://aleph21-prod-acc.obvsg.at/F?CON\\_LNG=ger&func=find-b-0&local\\_base=nly](http://aleph21-prod-acc.obvsg.at/F?CON_LNG=ger&func=find-b-0&local_base=nly) and the online catalogue of the Austrian Library Network <http://search.obvsg.at/primolibweb/action/search.do?mode=Basic&vid=ACC&tab=acc05&>

The largest collections of **oriental manuscripts** are found in the Austrian National Library, the Haus-, Hof- und Staatsarchiv and the house of the Mechitarists in Vienna. For more information see Geoffrey Roper, World Survey of Islamic Manuscripts, Vol. 1. London 1992.

**Greek manuscripts** are mainly kept in the Austrian national library and the house of the Mechitarists in Vienna. For a list of holdings of Greek manuscripts and their catalogues see Jean-Marie Olivier, Répertoire des Bibliothèques et des catalogues de manuscrits Grecs de Marcel Richard (Turnhout 1995).

**Hebrew manuscripts** in Austria were catalogued by Arthur Zacharias Schwarz in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century:

- Die hebräischen Handschriften der Nationalbibliothek in Wien (Museion: Abhandlungen 2, Wien, Prag Leipzig 1925).
- Die hebräischen Handschriften in Österreich (außerhalb der Nationalbibliothek in Wien), Teil I (Leipzig 1931)
- A.Z. Schwarz, D. S. Loewinger, E. Roth, Die hebräischen Handschriften in Österreich (außerhalb der Nationalbibliothek in Wien), Teil II (New York 1973).

Hebrew Fragments outside the Austrian National Library are continuously catalogued in the data base <http://hebraica.at/>. In the Austrian National Library they are directly integrated into the general online catalogue.

**Content:** Research and cataloguing – Digitisation – Education – Research – Cooperations – Exhibition – List of major manuscript holdings (public and monastic institutions, archives and museums)

## **Research and cataloguing**

Research on manuscripts, both medieval and modern, is carried out at various university departments and research institutions in Austria. Among them are the departments for Byzantine and Modern Greek studies, German studies, oriental studies and classical philology at the University of Vienna as well as the Institut für Österreichische Geschichtsforschung, the Boltzmann Institute for Neo-Latin studies and various groups at Austrian Academy of Science. The use of methods from natural sciences for manuscript studies is explored in cooperation with the Institute for Natural Sciences and Technology in the Arts at the Academy of Fine Arts in Vienna. A list of current and past research projects at the Austrian National Library is available here: [http://www.onb.ac.at/sammlungen/hschrift/handschriften\\_projekte.htm](http://www.onb.ac.at/sammlungen/hschrift/handschriften_projekte.htm)

The Abteilung für Schrift und Buchwesen of the Institut für Mittelalterforschung at the Austrian Academy of science is dedicated to cataloguing of mediaeval Latin manuscripts in Austria and has published several manuscript catalogues (<http://www.oeaw.ac.at/imafo/die-abteilungen/schrift-buchwesen/>). It maintains a database with basic information on manuscripts from many Austrian institutions. The data is taken from old printed and handwritten catalogues (see <http://manuscripta.at/m1/bibliotheken.php>). At the moment an

inventory of the manuscripts in Stift Göttweig up to 1400 and a full catalogue of Cod. 301-400 in Stift Klosterneuburg are being produced. For a list of projects see the website mentioned above.

Another centre manuscript cataloguing is the Universitäts- und Landesbibliothek Tirol in Innsbruck. Further information may be found in the guide to the special collections and to cataloguing projects in Tirol: [https://www.uibk.ac.at/ulb/ueber\\_uns/sondersammlungen/projekte.html](https://www.uibk.ac.at/ulb/ueber_uns/sondersammlungen/projekte.html).

Research and cataloguing of illuminated manuscripts and incunabula is centred at the Pächt Archiv of the University of Vienna (Institut für Kunstgeschichte) and the Abteilung für Schrift- und Buchwesen. A list of ongoing projects at the Pächt Archiv that include illuminated manuscripts from the Austrian National Library, the University Library in Graz and the State Library of Upper Austria can be found here <https://kunstgeschichte.univie.ac.at/forschungsprojekte/buchmalerei/>

## **Digitisation**

So far no national digitisation plan has been developed. Among the public libraries the university libraries in Graz and Klagenfurt, die Diözesanbibliothek in St. Pölten as well as the State Library of Upper Austria continuously digitize their manuscript holdings, while the Austrian Library provides on-demand digitization at a fee. The manuscripts thus digitized then become available online. No common platform exists and the images are mainly hosted by the respective public libraries (see the links to digital libraries in the following section). The Diözesanbibliothek and the Haus-, Hof- und Staatsarchive share their images on the platform [www.manuscriptorium.com](http://www.manuscriptorium.com). A number of digitized manuscripts from monastic collections, mainly from Stift Klosterneuburg, can be found on the website <http://manuscripta.at/m1/digitalisate.php> that also provides a list of digitized mediaeval manuscripts in Latin script in Austria.

All Hebrew manuscripts and many Hebrew fragments in the Austrian National Library were digitized by the National Library of Israel and can be accessed via both libraries online catalogues.

## **Education**

The Institut für Österreichische Geschichtsforschung at the University of Vienna offers a master degree programme in Historical research, auxiliary sciences and archival studies. This 5 semester (150 ECTS) program provides courses in auxiliary sciences like mediaeval and modern palaeography, codicology and diplomatics as well as courses on various field of archival science. For more details see: <http://www.geschichtsforschung.ac.at/en/node/577>

Introduction into manuscript studies is also an elective course within the training course Library and Information Studies. For more details see: <http://www.bibliotheksausbildung.at/>

Additionally single courses on manuscript studies and palaeography are offered by various departments of the University of Vienna such as the institutes for German studies and Byzantine Studies.

## **Cooperations**

Several Austrian libraries are part of the CERL network, among them main public libraries such as the Austrian National Library and the university libraries of Graz, Salzburg and Innsbruck but also the monastic library of Stift Klosterneuburg (<https://www.cerl.org/>). The Austrian National Library is furthermore also a partner of the Fragmentarium project that is to provide a data base for manuscript fragments (<http://fragmentarium.ms/>) and the COST network dedicated to early modern correspondence (<http://emlo.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/>).

## **Exhibitions**

In 2015 several Austrian libraries took part in the exhibition series "Meisterwerke der Buchmalerei des 15. Jahrhunderts in Mitteleuropa". In Vienna, Graz, Klosterneuburg and Salzburg late mediaeval books were presented to show the development of illumination in the transition period from manuscript to print. See also <http://www.quaternio.ch/buchmalerei-mittleuropa/>

In 2016 nativity scenes in mediaeval manuscripts will be shown in the exhibition “Unter Bethlehem's Stern. 24 Prachthandschriften aus dem Mittelalter“ (6.12.2016-15.01.2017). Additionally this year's main exhibition „Der ewige Kaiser. Franz Joseph I. 1830-1916“ (10.03.2016-17.11.2016) will feature manuscripts and autographs to illustrate the life of one of Austria's most famous monarchs.

## **List of major manuscript holdings**

This list is divided in three sections: public libraries, monastic libraries and archives and museums.

### **1. Public Libraries**

The manuscript collection of many public libraries in Austria is a result of the suppression of monasteries in the late 18th century. These manuscripts mainly came from monasteries in the nearer region, some of which are today not on Austrian territory.

#### **Österreichische Nationalbibliothek, Wien (ÖNB)**

<http://www.onb.ac.at/ev/collections/had.htm>

Digital Reading room - [http://www.onb.ac.at/ev/digital\\_readingroom.htm](http://www.onb.ac.at/ev/digital_readingroom.htm)

The Austrian National Library also profited from the dissolution of the monasteries, but has its origins already in the late middle ages as the book collection of the Habsburg family. The collection of manuscripts from the late classical period, the middle ages and more recent centuries includes major works from almost all script cultures, ranging from the 4th century to the present day.

#### **Major Collections:**

- Mediaeval and Modern Manuscripts in Latin script: Codices (old holdings) and Codices series nova (new acquisitions since about 1870)
- Oriental Collection: about 3000 Arab, Persian and Osman manuscripts
- Greek Manuscripts: about 1000 manuscripts
- Hebrew Manuscripts: about 250 manuscripts
- smaller holdings of Slavic, Ethiopian, Armenian, Georgian, Coptic, Syrian, Chinese, Indian and manuscripts from other cultures and regions
- Codices Miniati (mainly art albums)

#### **Cimelia**

- the Vienna Dioscurides <http://data.onb.ac.at/rec/AL00231630>
- the Vienna Genesis <http://data.onb.ac.at/rec/AL00116787>
- the Tabula Peutingeriana <http://data.onb.ac.at/rec/AL00161171>
- the richly illustrated Aztec Leporello Album Codex Mexicanus 1 <http://data.onb.ac.at/rec/AL00220201>
- manuscripts belonging to Wenceslas, King of Bohemia, and numerous 'Books of Hours', e.g. Goldene Bulle: <http://data.onb.ac.at/rec/AL00177992>
- the manuscript collection of the Benedictine monastery of Mondsee and the cathedral chapter in Salzburg

#### **Universitätsbibliothek Graz — Sondersammlung Handschriften**

<https://ub.uni-graz.at/de/kontakt/oeffnungszeiten-standorte/sondersammlungen/sammlungen/handschriften/>

Digital Library — <https://ub.uni-graz.at/de/kontakt/oeffnungszeiten-standorte/sondersammlungen/digitalisierte-bestaende/>

Having been run by the Societas Iesu from the 16th century onwards, the University of Graz was transformed into a Lyzeum after the suppression of the order in the 18th century. It was re-instituted as a state university in 1827. Among its manuscript holdings are major parts of the manuscript collections of suppressed Styrian monasteries like Seckau, St. Lambrecht, Seitz and Neuberg as well as incunabula and papyri. Within the Oriental Collection Georgian manuscripts from the 7th-11th century stand out. A modern online catalogue is available.

## **Universitäts- und Landesbibliothek Tirol (Innsbruck) — Sondersammlungen**

[https://www.uibk.ac.at/ulb/ueber\\_uns/sondersammlungen/](https://www.uibk.ac.at/ulb/ueber_uns/sondersammlungen/)

What is today the Library of the Federal State Tyrol and of the University of Innsbruck was originally founded in 1745 as a public library dedicated to research as well as collecting books from and about the region. With the dissolution of the monasteries in the 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> century the manuscript collection was greatly expanded with books from local houses like Schnals, Neustift and Stams. A modern catalogue is available.

## **Universitätsbibliothek Klagenfurt — Sondersammlungen Handschriften**

<http://ub.uni-klu.ac.at/cms/sondersammlungen/handschriften/>

Founded in 1775 with holding from the Jesuit houses in Millstadt and Klagenfurt, the K.K. Lyzealbibliothek (later Studienbibliothek) in Klagenfurt was responsible to safeguard useful books from suppressed monasteries in Carinthia. In 1806 it expanded its holdings with the donation of a large privately owned collection of manuscripts, incunabula and prints (Goess-library). In 1971 it became the library of what is now the University in Klagenfurt.

## **Oberösterreichische Landesbibliothek (Linz) — Sammlung Historische Bestände**

<http://www.landesbibliothek.at/sammlung/historische-bestaende/>

Digital Library - <http://digi.landesbibliothek.at/viewer/>

The state library and former Studienbibliothek in Linz was founded as bibliotheca publica 1774 to host books from suppressed Jesuit houses and monasteries in what is now Upper Austria. The largest manuscript holdings come from the monasteries of Garsten and Baumgartenberg. The manuscript catalogue is based on a slightly updated printed catalogue from the 1930s.

## **Universitätsbibliothek Salzburg — Sondersammlungen**

<http://www.ubs.sbg.ac.at/sosa/webseite/hsskat.htm>

The University Library of Salzburg has been an integral part of the local institution of higher learning since its foundation in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Like many other libraries it profited from the suppression of the monasteries, but had to concede some of its most important manuscripts to the libraries in Vienna, Paris and Munich during the turbulent years of the early 19th century.

## **Diözesanbibliothek St. Pölten**

<http://dasp.kirche.at/bibliothek>

After the dissolution of the Canons Regular in St. Pölten in 1784 their books collection became the library of the newly founded local dioceses. The manuscripts collection of the Diözesanbibliothek therefore mainly consists of manuscripts from the above mentioned house and from other monasteries and parishes in the region

## **2. Major manuscript collections in Austrian monasteries**

Quite a few of the larger religious houses in Austria survived the dissolution of the monasteries during the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. Large numbers of manuscripts are therefore still in their place of origin or in the hands of its first owner. For most of them no modern catalogue is available and in quite a few cases handwritten catalogues from the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century have to be consulted.

However, many monasteries were forced to sell part of their manuscript collection during the economically difficult years of the 1930s onwards. These sales are usually marked in the handwritten catalogues or the library's own copy of old printed catalogues. Information on manuscripts sold in the 20<sup>th</sup> century can sometimes also be found in the book series "Mittelalterliche Bibliothekskataloge Österreichs" (1915-1971) that additionally gives short introductions into the mediaeval libraries of many suppressed and active monasteries in Austria.

The following list may serve as a first guide to major monastic manuscript holdings in Austria. It provides a rough estimate of the number of manuscripts in the library as well as notes on larger manuscript collections that found their way into the libraries in the modern period.

For a more complete list of active and suppressed monasteries with notes on their libraries and archives see <http://kulturgueter.kath-orden.at/klosterportal/liste-der-kloester> as well as <http://www.klosterbibliotheken.at/bundeslaender1.htm>

### **Stift Admont (Benedictines)**

<http://www.stiftadmont.at/en/archive/the-holdings-of-the-library/>

Founded in 1074

About 1400 manuscripts

Stift Admont sold a large number of manuscripts in the 20th century, but remains one of the largest and most important collections of mediæval manuscripts in Austria.

### **Stift Altenburg (Benedictines)**

<http://www.stift-altenburg.at/startseite/>

Founded in 1144

About 380 manuscripts

### **Stift St. Florian (Canons Regular)**

<http://www.stift-florian.at/stift-st-florian/stiftsbibliothek.html#C>

Founded in 1071

About 800 manuscripts

### **Stift Göttweig (Benedictines)**

<https://www.stiftgoettweig.at/site/kunstkultur/sammlungen/bibliothek>

Founded in 1083

About 1150 manuscripts

### **Stift Heiligenkreuz (Cistercians)**

<http://www.stift-heiligenkreuz-sammlungen.at/>

<http://www.stift-heiligenkreuz.org/bibliothek/bibliothek0/>

Founded in 1133

About 580 manuscripts

In addition to its own collection, Stift Heiligenkreuz keeps many manuscripts from its priory Neukloster (Wiener Neustadt). No modern printed catalogue is available, but modern manuscript descriptions can be found online for its oldest manuscripts.

### **Stift Herzogenburg (Canons Regular)**

<http://www.stift-herzogenburg.at/index.php?content=200>

Founded in 1112

About 220 manuscripts

### **Stift Klosterneuburg (Canons Regular)**

<http://www.stift-klosterneuburg.at/kultur/geschichte-kunst/stiftsbibliothek/>

Founded in 1114

About 1250 manuscripts

A modern catalogue is available for Cod. 1-300.

### **Stift Kremsmünster (Benedictines)**

<http://stift-kremsmuenster.net/>

Founded in 777

About 400 mediæval manuscripts

A modern catalogue for the library's oldest and most important manuscripts is available.

### **Stift Lambach (Benedictines)**

[http://www.stift-lambach.at/kultur/html\\_seiten/archiv.html](http://www.stift-lambach.at/kultur/html_seiten/archiv.html)

Founded in 1056

About 800 manuscripts

Stift Lambach sold many of its mediaeval manuscripts on parchment as well as early manuscript fragments in the 20th century. They are today kept in various institutions such as the Austrian National Library, Stift Göttweig, Bodleian Library (Oxford) and the Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library (Yale). These manuscripts are marked as missing in the handwritten catalogue.

### **Stift Lilienfeld (Cistercians)**

<http://www.stift-lilienfeld.at/>

Founded in 1202

About 230 manuscripts

During a brief period of suppression in the late 18th century Lilienfeld lost a large number of its manuscripts and printed books. To re-establish its manuscript collection it acquired manuscripts from the suppressed Benedictine monastery Klein-Mariazell.

### **Stift Melk (Benedictines)**

<http://www.stiftmelk.at>

Founded in 1089

About 1800 manuscripts

A modern inventory is available.

### **Abtei Michaelbeuern (Benedictines)**

<http://abtei-michaelbeuern.at/kultur/bibliothek-und-archiv.html>

Founded in 1072

About 200 mediaeval manuscripts and fragments

A modern manuscript catalogue is available.

### **Stift Nonnberg (Benedictines)**

<http://www.benediktinerinnen.de/index.php/adressen/2-uncategorised/26-nonnberg>

Founded in 715

About 150 manuscripts

### **Stift St. Paul im Lavanttal (Benedictines)**

<http://www.stift-stpaul.at/de/120/Bibliothek>

Originally founded in 1091; re-established in 1809

About 4000 manuscripts

Most of the original library of St. Paul im Lavanttal was lost when the monastery was suppressed in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The monastery was re-established with monks from St. Blasien im Schwarzwald (Benedictines) in 1809. They brought manuscripts from the library of Spital am Pyhrn with them as well as their own manuscript collection. However, the library of St. Blasien had been destroyed by fire in 1768 and the books they transferred to Austria, among them very early manuscript fragments, were gathered by Abbot Martin Gerber in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century.

### **Erzabtei Stift St. Peter in Salzburg (Benedictines)**

<http://www.erzabtei.at/de/wissenschaft/index.asp?dat=Bibliothek>

Founded in 696

About 1280 manuscripts

### **Stift Rein (Cistercians)**

<http://www.stift-rein.at/>

Founded in 1129

About 390 mediaeval manuscripts

Only a slightly updated version of a 19th century catalogue is available.

### **Stift Schlägl (Premonstratensians)**

<http://www.stift-schlaegl.at/>

Founded in 1204

About 260 manuscripts

### **Schottenstift Wien (Benedictines)**

<http://www.schotten.wien/stift/stiftsarchiv/>

Founded in 1155

About 700 manuscripts

The monastery was founded during the Hiberno-Scottish mission in the 12<sup>th</sup> century and occupied exclusively by Irish monks up to the 15<sup>th</sup> century. In 1418 they were replaced by a local Benedictine community. All manuscripts kept in the Schottenstift today were collected in this later period.

### **Stift Seitenstetten (Benedictines)**

<http://www.stift-seitenstetten.at/>

Founded in 1112

About 270 mediaeval manuscripts

A modern catalogue is available for part of the collection.

### **Stift Vornau (Canons Regular)**

<http://www.stift-vornau.at/de/stift/bibliothek/>

Founded in 1163

About 415 mediaeval manuscripts

### **Dominikanerkonvent Wien (Dominicans)**

<http://wien.dominikaner.org/>

Founded in 1226

About 300 manuscripts

The library also contains the collections manuscripts and early prints from the Dominican houses in Friesach and Graz.

### **Mechitaristen in Wien**

<http://mechitaristen.org/>

Founded in 1805

Armenian, Oriental and Greek manuscripts

### **Stift Wilhering (Cistercians)**

<http://stiftwilhering.at/>

Founded in 1146

About 180 manuscripts

### **Stift Zwettl (Cistercians)**

<http://www.stift-zwettl.at/kunst-kultur/bibliothek/>

Founded in 1138

485 manuscripts

A modern catalogue is available.

## **3. Holdings of manuscripts and fragments in Archives and Museum**

Although many state archives and art collections transferred major parts of their holdings of manuscripts to public libraries, some books remained in situ within their collections. Furthermore, manuscript fragments were detached from archival holdings as well as prints in most archives and museum libraries. These fragments that often came from local monastic institutions mainly remained in situ as well. Larger holdings of manuscripts and fragments are for instance found in the following institutions:

- Linz, Oberösterreichisches Landesarchiv  
<http://www.landesarchiv-ooe.at/> Fragments in the collection „Buchdeckelfunde“
- Salzburg Museum  
<http://www.salzburgmuseum.at/index.php?id=1191>
- Salzburger Landesarchiv  
<http://www.salzburg.gv.at/archive> Mainly fragments.
- Salzburg, Archiv der Erzdiözese Salzburg (Erzbischöfliches Konsistorialarchiv)  
<http://www.kirchen.net/archiv/>
- Graz, Steiermärkisches Landesarchiv  
<http://www.landesarchiv.steiermark.at/>
- Wien, Haus-, Hof- und Staatsarchiv  
<http://www.oesta.gv.at/site/4980/default.aspx> Has a large holding of oriental manuscripts
- Wien, Kunsthistorisches Museum Wien  
<http://www.khm.at/en/visit/collections/the-library/>