

History of the Oppel-Hammerschmidt Shakespeare Image Archive

- 1946 - The collection of Shakespeare illustrations begins and the Shakespeare Image Archive is founded by renowned Shakespeare and Goethe researcher Prof. Horst Oppel.
- 1956 - Horst Oppel accepts an invitation to move to Marburg. Archive now located in the English Workshop at the University of Marburg.
- 1963 - Oppel becomes a member of the Mainz Academy. From now on (with interruptions) the archive is promoted by the academy.
- 1967 - The first dissertation based on the study and evaluation of image material from the archive is completed: Heidemarie Spangenberg, *Illustrations for Shakespeare's 'Macbeth'*. In the years that follow, further dissertations are published for *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *King Lear*, *Pericles*, and more.
- 1976 - Horst Oppel applies to the DFG to carry out a research project (working title: "The Shakespeare Illustration"). The project will be a comprehensive "History of Shakespeare Illustration".
- 1979 - Oppel suffers a severe stroke from which he never really recovers.
- 1980/81 - Horst Oppel's students request that Prof. Hammerschmidt-Hummel take over as the leading member of the orphaned project and compile an edition of the existing archive materials. DFG project managers include: Prof. Rudolf Böhm (University of Kiel), Prof. Horst W. Drescher (University of Mainz) and Prof. Paul Goetsch (University of Freiburg).
- 1982 - Horst Oppel dies.
- 1982 - From 1979 to 1982, Hammerschmidt-Hummel takes leave of her *venia legendi* in Faculty 14 of the University of Mainz to become the Cultural Affairs Attaché at the Consulate General for the Federal Republic of Germany in Toronto, Canada. In October 1982 she takes the job of leading scientific team member of the Shakespeare Image Archive. The archive is once again located at the University of Mainz. Prof. Werner Habicht (University of Würzburg)

succeeds Prof. Oppel at the Mainz Academy of Sciences and Literature. The expansion and development of the Shakespeare Image Archive begins.

1982 to 1996 - While appraising the existing inventory, a number of gaps are discovered, requiring a systematic survey to be carried out along with a campaign to contact hundreds of museums in Western Europe and North America. Through extensive research and on-location efforts, Hammerschmidt-Hummel is able to increase the archive's inventory from approx. 1,600 to 7,000 images. With a changing team of employees (mostly graduates), the large amount of new image material is procured for the archive, photographed in the photo lab, archived, edited and catalogued. The leading scientific team member makes a selection of 3,000 illustrations for the planned three-volume work, has all of the captions entered into the database interface (customised for the Shakespeare Image Archive) and the 3,000 images scanned in at the photo lab at the university. Simultaneously, she begins compiling a glossary of artists (with approx. 550 entries), a categorised bibliography (with more than 5,000 entries), and four indexes for artists, engravers, Shakespeare figures and actors. She composes an introduction for the work: "History, function and interpretation of artistic representations of Shakespeare's dramas" with around 200 images (see Part I, pp. 1-201) as well as "Notes from the Publisher" (see pp. xvii-xxiv). A time-consuming and costly process follows in order to acquire the image rights.

1989 - Project directors transfer the publishing rights to Hammerschmidt-Hummel for the planned publication.

1996 - The archive changes locations again. It is now in the Mainz Academy.

1996 - 2002 - All work is continued in the academy and eventually completed there. Hammerschmidt-Hummel contacts domestic and international publishers and does her best to secure non-repayable grants towards publishing the books.

2002 - Her efforts result in a publishing contract between the Harrassowitz Verlag in Wiesbaden, the Academy of Sciences and Literature, and the author after the President of the Mainz Academy and Director of the Academy Development Association, Prof. Clemens Zintzen (University of Cologne), secures the financial means to print the three-volume work containing over 3,000 images. In-depth preparations for the layout and printing are made for the volumes.

2003 - The work is published: *Shakespearian Illustrations from 1594 to 2000: The Work of Artists on Shakespeare's Plays - Catalogue, History, Function and Interpretation*, including a dictionary of artists, classified bibliography and indexes. Compiled, written and published by Hildegard Hammerschmidt-Hummel on behalf of the Mainz Academy of Sciences and Literature. A work in three volumes. (Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz Verlag - Mainz: Academy of Sciences and Literature, 2003), approx. 3,100 images.

2005 - Endowment contract from September 9, 2005 / September 16, 2005 / September 15, 2005 between the University of Mainz (represented by the Library Director Dr. Andreas Anderhub), the Mainz Academy (represented by General Secretary Dr. Wulf Thommel) and Prof. H. Hammerschmidt-Hummel (authorised by the widow of Prof. Horst Oppels). Ownership of the unpublished portion of the Shakespeare Image Archive (approx. 3,500 illustrations) is bestowed upon the University of Mainz library. According to Point 4 of the agreement, the library is obliged to "digitalise the image archive and make it available to the public". Taking account of the "authority and letter of intention" of Ms. Ingeborg Ooppel, the rightful successor of Prof. Horst Oppels, from March 16, 1988, the name of the archive is to be the "Ooppel-Hammerschmidt Shakespeare Image Archive".

2005 - 2008 The creation of an electronic version of the archive with 8,800 scans is overseen by Heike Geisel, graduate librarian at the central library of the University of Mainz. She is also responsible for further developing the collection and connecting it with a range of interdisciplinary sites (in particular, with a database from the Institute of Art History). She receives invaluable support here from Dr. Annette Holzapfel-Pschorn from the central IT department at the University of Mainz. Holzapfel-Pschorn sets up an extensively connected Internet version using the latest application technologies. The site is made freely available to users at the central library of the University of Mainz as a new arts and cultural studies research tool.

2008 - November 17th - The new digital Ooppel-Hammerschmidt Shakespeare Image Archive is presented to the public along with the Internet version of the previously unpublished collection.

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Hildegard Hammerschmidt-Hummel