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The Paper Used by Martin Johann Schmidt

Martin Johann Schmidt, also known as „*Kremser Schmidt*“, (* 25. September 1718 in Grafenwörth; † 28. Juni 1801 in Stein an der Donau) was one of several outstanding painters of the late Baroque era, famous far beyond his local area. As any artist of his time, he did not only paint, but prepared larger works by making sketches on paper. These sketches served him as memory aids and training exercises and were most probably shown to potential clients to make them see what they were going to get and express their requests for changes, if any.

These sketches and drawings are owned by numerous museums and collections in the area today, however the Museum in Krems holds a large number which were lately re-catalogued and preserved according to the latest standards. During her preservation work, the author was able to survey, describe and document the paper used for each and every sketch. The next step was to identify the paper mill it came from. Finally, based on all the data collected it is being suggested that Schmidt actually used any paper that he could get hold of, with the only exception being the coloured paper he used for artistic purposes. In two cases paper produced in nearby Rehberg Paper Mill was identified. This new insight adds some new perspective art history research on this important artist conducted to date.

A survey of other collections of sketches and drawings is recommended to be conducted as a follow up, with the same focus on the material.

Keywords (3-5): Martin Johann Schmidt, prints and drawings