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Did Danish Architects and Archival Artists in the 18th and 19th Centuries Choose Paper of Similar Qualities and Origin for Their Drawings and Water Colour Paintings as the Danish Artists and Painters?

Studies of the extensive paper collection of drawings and water colour paintings at the Antiquarian Topographical Archive, the National Museum of Denmark, have resulted in valuable information about the technological development of the 18th and 19th centuries paper production. The collection of papers kept here illustrates the paper qualities, chosen by the architects for their drawings of new castles, churches and other building. Our studies of the collection also tell us about the paper qualities chosen by the archival artists for their observation and in-situ documentation of archaeological excavations and buildings restorations. Through the macroscopic observation and registration of watermarks and traces of the technology, we can determine the qualities used by these architects and archival artists. These studies give us a good indication of the production, availability and trade of paper in this period. More information is found about the origin, availability and use of watermarked wove paper at the National Gallery of Art. Through similar comparative studies of the paper qualities used by contemporary 'Golden Age' Danish artists and painters in Denmark and on their European study tours we learn about an increasing interest, use and import of European wove paper during the first half of the 19th century.

Keywords

Architect drawings, archival artists, painters, laid and wove papers