

Maria Stieglecker Vinzenz Werl OSB: Beginn of Watermark Research in Austria

Vinzenz Werl is the first watermark collector we know from Austria. In 1828 he joined the Benedictines of Göttweig Abbey nearby Krems, where he took care of the well-known graphic collection as well as the library. Beside his position as priest and professor of the monastery he wrote within the years 1842-1844 a catalogue of the graphic collection in two volumes, a catalogue of the incunabula and a three-volume catalogue of the 250 medieval manuscripts of the library. In the first volume he offers 306 tracings of watermarks. The reason for this was the request of the scientific community of the time for watermark collections of dated manuscripts as reference material for undated codices.

At the Austrian Academy of Sciences two projects are concerned with the medieval manuscripts of Göttweig Abbey. Also, watermarks are analyzed with modern methods. Results of this research and a comparison with Werl's studies will be the subject of the paper.

Keywords: watermarks, medieval manuscripts, methods