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HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE CONSERVATION OF METALS AND OBJECTS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED ARTS VIENNA

Summary:

An overview of the vocational training and academic courses of study offered in the conservation and restoration of objects of decorative art and metal in the German-speaking countries points to a lack of continuity and identity. This is due to the fact that this field is a relatively young one and many universities have only offered degree courses since the 1990s. The long tradition in the field of restoration of objects of decorative art at the University of Applied Arts Vienna is an exception. Early conservation and preservation research and restoration work already started in the late 19th century. This is a distinctive feature, as other institutions with a similarly long history had put their focus on the restoration of paintings and painting technique research. After World War Two, Otto Nedbal, a conservator experienced in metal crafts, was appointed to the university. He founded a master class for metal restoration in 1964, which during the following forty years evolved into today's Institute for Conservation and Restoration.