



Hornemann Institute News 1/2026

Dear cultural heritage friends,

Today we would like to inform you about the latest news regarding our offerings and the conservation and restoration study programmes in Hildesheim.

Hornemann Institute

[Conference](#)

[E-Publishing](#)

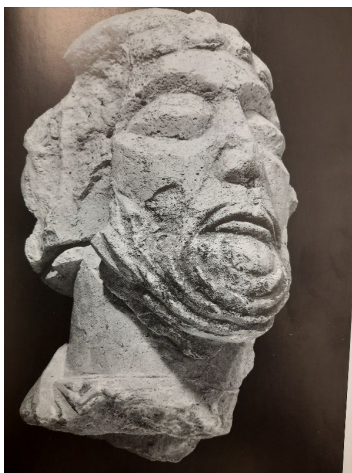
[Online-Courses now with micro-credentials](#)

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Conference



Getting Close to a World Cultural Heritage Site. New Research on the Medieval Stucco Decoration of St. Michael's Church in Hildesheim

March 17, 2026, starting at 9:00 a.m., Hildesheim, HAWK, Goschentor 1, from 3:00 p.m. in St. Michael's Church

The former monastery church of St. Michael in Hildesheim was extensively modernized with stucco decoration in the second half of the 12th century. In addition to the stucco in the church, 250 fragments from excavations between 1870 and 2006 have been preserved, which were the subject of a multi-year interdisciplinary research project.

The aim of the [conference](#) is to discuss the project results before the final publication goes to press, as there are differing opinions within both the restoration and art history communities. The main focus will be on the working techniques, polychromy, and analysis results, but terminology will also be discussed. We will also discuss our ideas about workshop processes in the Middle Ages. There will be an opportunity to get up close to the originals on a walkable scaffold.

All lectures will be in German. Simultaneous translation could not be financed. However, we facilitate

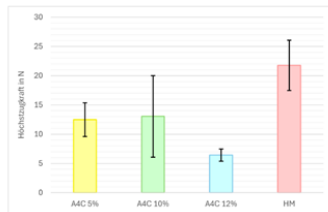
participation through the so called English Corner, which involves English-speaking neighbours. English can also be spoken during personal conversations in St.

Michael's Church.

Photo: Male head (St. Peter?), stucco, 2nd half of the 12th century, from St.

Michael's in Hildesheim; Roemer and Pelizaeus Museum, ca. 1995, Hildesheim Cathedral Museum

E-Publishing



University Papers

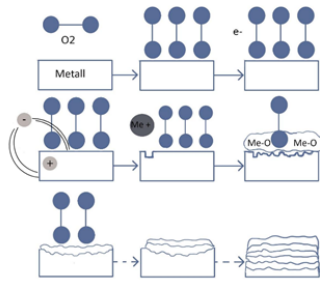
Katja Bolz:

[Einzelfadenverklebung an Leinengewebe mit der Methylcellulose Benecel™ A4C \(*Thread-by-thread tear mending on linen fabric with the methylcellulose Benecel™ A4C*\)](#)

The topic of this thesis was the choice of adhesive used for the thread-by-thread tear mending method. So far, cellulose ethers have rarely been considered for such. The aim was to investigate the extent to which Benecel™ A4C is a suitable adhesive. Hannah Flock's findings from 2020 were the basis for the uniaxial tensile test set-up used. Strips of uncoated linen fabric were mended using Benecel™ A4C in 5, 10 and 12% concentration. The mending with a mixture of 20% sturgeon glue and 13% wheat starch paste (1+1 weighed parts) served as a reference. During the testing, the maximum tensile loads and strain were recorded.

Bachelor's thesis HAWK, 2025, DOI: 10.5165/hawk/553

Photo: Katja Bolz



Jacqueline Siebenbrock:

Mikrokristalline Wachse in der Konservierung mit besonderem Augenmerk auf deren Verwendung an Metalloberflächen (*Microcrystalline Waxes in Conservation of cultural heritage with special attention to their use on metal surfaces*)

The removal of oxide layers from metals in restoration often presents both technical and ethical dilemmas. Therefore, this master's thesis investigated the potential of plasma-activated water (PAW) for removing oxide layers from brass surfaces. The aim was to evaluate the cleaning effect on artificially aged samples and historical objects. Furthermore, comprehensive investigations of PAW's pH value were carried out, and possibilities for producing plasma-activated hydrogels (PAH) were explored to enable more targeted application. PAW treatments resulted in a high gloss and brightening of the surfaces, which was interpreted as the removal of dull, overlying oxide layers.

Master's thesis, HAWK, 2025, DOI: 10.5165/hawk/551

Photo: Jacqueline Siebenbrock

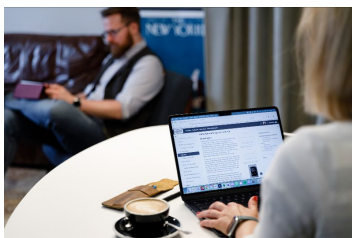


ISO Standard on the Topic of "Classification of Wall Painting Deteriorations"

The Hornemann Institute has appointed Dr. Gesa Schwantes to the newly founded ISO/TC 349, which is planning an ISO standard on the topic of "Classification of wall painting deteriorations." She has translated our European glossary for wall painting and architectural surfaces, known as EwaGlos, into Chinese.

Logo of the International Organization for Standardization, source: Wikimedia Commons

Online Courses now with Microcredentials



Online Courses

Our [online courses](#) continue to be in high demand, with half of all bookings coming from abroad. That is why we are expanding our course series:

We are offering additional translations in the summer semester.

The following courses are new:

- Damages to Cultural Heritage caused by Salts
- Die Restaurierung von Globen

Starting in the winter semester 2026/27, we will also offer a course on painted wood imitation by Christina Duhme M.A. in German and English.

Another new feature is that, as an alternative to the institute's qualified certificate, we now also offer all courses with microcredentials. A microcredential is a shorter academic course at an accredited university that

concludes with a certificate with ECTS credits.

Photo: HAWK (Martin Ly)

Advance Notice



Final Publication

The final publication on the [interdisciplinary research project on the stucco decoration of St. Michael's Church](#) in Hildesheim will be published in the summer of 2026 under the title "Zwischen Heiligen und Ranken" (Between Saints and Vines) as the 25th volume of our publication series.

Photo: Matthias Untermann

News from the Conservation and Restoration Study Programmes at HAWK

[Events](#)

[Follow-ups on Events](#)

[University Theses](#)

Events



Information Day for the Conservation and Restoration Degree Programmes, January 14, 2026, 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. online

The next information day for the Conservation and Restoration degree programmes will take place online on January 14, 2026, from 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Teachers and students will provide information about the requirements and content of the programme. If you are interested in cultural heritage, craft techniques, history, and natural sciences, then studying conservation and restoration is a good choice: it combines science with craftsmanship and technical skills. Further information is available [here](#).

The information day will be held in German.

Photo: HAWK



"PATIENT BOOK" - Protecting our Heritage Together

November 21, 2025 - April 19, 2026, Hildesheim Cathedral Library

The exhibition shows how cooperation between institutions protects historical books and advances restoration expertise in a practical way. Further information, including details of the accompanying

program, can be found [here](#).

Photo: HAWK

Follow-up to Events



Follow-up Report on the VDR Symposium “Analyses for Practical Use – Investigation Methods for Wooden Objects in Restoration Science”

The Furniture and Wooden Objects Specialist Group of the VDR held a symposium entitled “Analyses for Practice – Investigation Methods for Wooden Objects in Restoration Science” at the HAWK in Hildesheim from November 5 to 7, 2025. The German follow-up report on the symposium can be found [here](#).

Photo: VDR



15 Years of Conservation and Restoration of Archive Material, Book and Graphic at the HAWK

HAWK celebrated its anniversary “15 years of conservation and restoration of archive material, books and graphic” in Hildesheim with around 120 participants. Following reports on professional practice and management functions, a panel discussion highlighted the prospects for the profession and the current challenges. You can find a German review [here](#).

Photo: HAWK

University Theses



Abstracts of University Papers

Master Theses

Jasmine Brenner:

Die dreihändige Dame: Untersuchungen zu Umfang und Ausmaß mikrobieller Kontaminationen sowie Bewertung von durchgeführten Maßnahmen (*The three-handed Lady: Investigations into the scope and extent of microbial contamination and evaluation of treatment measures carried out*)

Jens Steffen Patt:

Grenzen und Möglichkeiten einer "Firnissreduzierung" durch Lichtpräsentation (*Limitations and Possibilities of 'Varnish Reduction' Through Light Presentation*)

Fenja Rathgeb:

Untersuchung zum Rückseitenschutz für Gemälde bei kritischen bauphysikalischen und mikrobiologischen Umgebungsbedingungen - Möglichkeiten eines Rückseitenschutz als mikrobielle Barriere (*Investigation*

of Back Protection for Paintings under Critical Building-Physical and Microbiological Conditions — Possibilities of Back Protection as a Microbial Barrier)

Janna Wansorra:

Beschreibung und Untersuchung eines schwer geschädigten Fragmentes einer Pergamenthandschrift (13. Jahrhundert) aus dem Bestand der UB Basel als Grundlage für eine konservatorische Maßnahmenempfehlung (*Description and examination of a severely damaged parchment manuscript fragment (13th century) from the collection of the university library Basel as a basis for a conservation treatment recommendation)*

Bachelor Theses

Melanie Amann:

Materialien zur temporären Kaschierung von Mosaikoberflächen aus Stein und Terracotta (*Materials for temporary facings of mosaic surfaces made of stone and terracotta)*

Milena Deutsch:

Erprobung von Konsolidierungsmöglichkeiten für farbige Einlagen an Möbeln (*Testing consolidation options for coloured inlays on furniture)*

Daniela Henneberg:

Das Kruzifix aus der Kirche St. Georg in Eitzendorf
Technologische Untersuchung sowie Entwicklung und Umsetzung eines Konservierungskonzepts (*The crucifix from St. George's Church in Eitzendorf Technological examination and development and implementation of a conservation Concept)*

Magdalena Mayer:

F.A. von Uffenbachs Farbrezepte für das Inkarnat der vier Temperamente: Eine maltechnische und kunsthistorische Auseinandersetzung (*F.A. von Uffenbach's color recipes for the incarnate of the four temperaments: A discussion of painting technique and art history)*

Nona Schneider:

Materialuntersuchung und Zustandsbeschreibung gerollter Architekturentwürfe von Karl Schäfer (1844-1908). Empfehlungen zur Konservierung und Restaurierung (*Material analysis and condition description of rolled architectural designs by Karl Schäfer (1844-1908). Recommendations for conservation and restoration)*

Laura Templin:

Tumbadeckel in Form eines realistisch gestalteten Skeletts aus dem Salzburg Museum – Restauratorische Befundsicherung und Erarbeitung eines nachhaltigen Erhaltungskonzeptes (*Tumba lid in the form of a realistically sculpted skeleton from the Salzburg*

Thank You and Best Wishes for 2026



We would like to express our sincere thanks to all project partners and multipliers for their dedicated cooperation and valuable exchange.

Be the change you wish to see in this world.
With this quote from Mahatma Gandhi, we wish you a happy new year.

Your team from the Hornemann Institute
Nina Niemeyer-Thömel, Dipl.-Ing. Gunnar Werner,
Kassandra Wirth M.Sc., Dr. Angela Weyer M.A.

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Responsible for the contents are: Dr. Angela Weyer
President: Dr. Marc Hudy
Head of Administration: Dr. Anne Faber
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Contact:

HAWK University of Applied Sciences and Arts
Hildesheim/Holzminden/Göttingen
HORNE MANN INSTITUTE
Keßlerstr. 57
31134 Hildesheim
Germany



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