



Hornemann Institute News 2/2026

Dear Cultural Heritage Enthusiasts,
Summer is now in full swing, but before the big wave of vacations begins, we would like to update you on the latest news regarding our current offerings.

Hornemann Institute

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E-Publishing



Academic Theses

Andreas Fitze

[Die Stuck-Emporenbrüstung der St. Vitus-Kirche in Kloster Gröningen - Erarbeitung eines Erhaltungskonzeptes \(*The Stucco Balustrade of the West Gallery at St. Vitus Church in Gröningen Abbey – Development of a Conservation Plan*\)](#)

This thesis examines the technical aspects of its creation, the history of the object, and the reception of the plaster cast of the Romanesque balustrade—decorated with figurative stucco reliefs—on the west balcony of the abbey church in Gröningen. The aim of the thesis was to develop a conservation plan for the 1902 cast. Surprisingly, the conservation investigation also documented traces of the original balcony railing dating from ca. 1170, which is considered an outstanding work of German Romanesque art.

Bachelor's Thesis, HAWK, 2025, DOI:
10.5165/hawk/558

Photo: 2025, Andreas Fitze



Greta Marianne Kahlmann

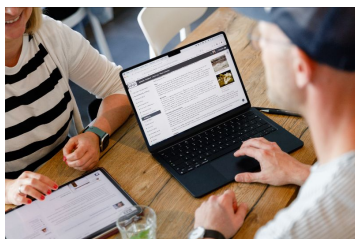
[Die Zersetzung von Lederoberflächen durch Schimmelpilze an Kutschen des Freilichtmuseums Detmold](#) (*The deterioration of leather surfaces caused by mould on carriages at the Detmold Open-Air Museum*)

This master's thesis aimed to investigate different types of leather used for the exterior cladding of carriages with regard to their susceptibility to mold infestation. For this purpose, cowhide leather with two types of tanning, as well as three different coatings, was tested in relation to 15 species of mold.

Master's Thesis, HAWK, 2026

Photo: 2026, Greta Marianne Kahlmann

Online Courses



Online Courses

Course Duration: October 5 - November 29

Registration Deadline: September 20

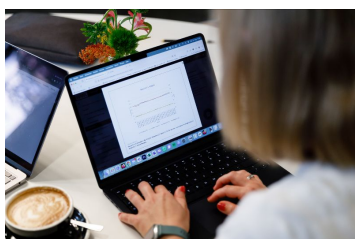
Our [online courses](#) continue to be in high demand, and the option to receive a microcredential with ECTS credits has also been very well received.

That is why we are continuing to expand our course series despite difficult economic conditions: with a new course on "[Gemalte Holzimitation auf Möbeln und Holzobjekten](#)" (*Painted Faux Wood on Furniture and Wooden Objects*) by Dipl.-Rest. Christina Duhme M.A. and two newly translated courses: "[Damages to Cultural Heritage caused by Salts](#)" and "Die Restaurierung von Globen" (*Conservation of Globes*).

Our courses are designed as self-study courses. If you encounter technical issues, our learning platform specialists Barbara Hentschel and Birgit Wittenberg are here to help. Should you still have technical questions about the course materials, some of the authors will also be available to answer your questions during the upcoming winter semester.

There will also be an online office hour with Jennifer Oster M.A. for the climate course.

Photo: HAWK (Martin Ly)



Our Complete Current Course Offerings

- [Damages to Cultural Heritage Caused by Salts](#)
Dr. Hans-Jürgen Schwarz
- [Mould and Documents](#)
Friederike Johanna Nithack M.A.
- [Church Interiors and Their Climate. Heating, Ventilation, and the Protection of Furnishings](#)
Christine Fiedler M.A., Jennifer Oster M.A. and Dipl.-Rest. Ina Birkenbeul
- [Consolidation of Wood. Possibilities and Limits of Structural Consolidation](#)
Prof. Dr. Gerdi Maierbacher-Legl, Susanne Karius M.A and Christine Fiedler M.A.

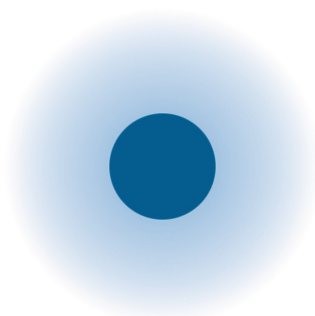
- [How Should We Act? Theory and Ethics of Conservation and its Significance in Practice: Renaissance and Baroque Period](#)
Prof. Dr. Dipl.-Rest. Ursula Schädler-Saub, with a contribution from Dipl.-Rest. Sophie Haake-Harig
- [Microbial Infestation of Artistic and Cultural Heritage Objects](#)
Dipl.-Rest. Barbara Hentschel M.A. mit Cassandra Wirth M.Sc., Nathaly Witt M.Sc. und Prof. Dr. Constanze Messal
- [Photography as a Tool for Documentation and Examination](#)
Christine Fiedler M.A., Dipl.-Rest. Barbara Hentschel M.A. and Dipl.-Des. Clemens Kappen
- [Analysis of Transparent Coatings on Furniture and Wooden Objects](#)
Prof. Dr. Dipl.-Rest. Julia Schultz M.A., Dipl.-Rest. Merle Strätling M.A., Prof. Dr. Gerdi Maierbacher-Legl
- [Conservation of Globes](#)
habil. Mag. Dr. Patricia Engel and Michael Højlund Rasmussen
- [Restoration Theories and Methods from 1945 to the Present Day](#)
Prof. Dr. Dipl.-Rest. Ursula Schädler-Saub
- [How to Safely Handle Contaminated Cultural Heritage](#)
Roksana Jachim M.A.

In Spanish:

- [Teorías y Métodos de Restauración desde 1945 hasta la actualidad](#)
Prof. Dr. Dipl.-Rest. Ursula Schädler-Saub

In German:

- **In preparation:** [Gemalte Holzimitation auf Möbeln und Holzobjekten \(*Painted Faux Wood on Furniture and Wooden Objects*\)](#)
Dipl.-Rest. Christina Duhme M.A.
- [Saccharidische Bindemittel und Kleber \(*Saccharide Binding Media and Adhesives*\)](#)
Prof. Jirina Lehmann
- [Holzkunde: Eigenschaften - Verwendung - Schäden - Untersuchungsmethoden \(*Wood Technology: Properties - Uses - Damage - Examination and Analysis*\)](#)
Dipl.-Rest. Christina Duhme M.A., Dipl.-Rest. Mirja Harms M.A. and Prof. Dr. Gerdi Maierbacher-Legl
- [Erhaltung von Wachsmoulagen \(*Conservation of Wax Moulages*\)](#)
Dipl.-Rest Johanna Kreil with Dipl.-Rest. Ute Hack, Dr. Sandra Mühlenberend, Dipl.-Rest. Luise Kober



Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Artificial intelligence (AI) offers many new possibilities. In our “[Resources](#)”, we have therefore dedicated a separate section to it. The most recent tips concern image description software.

If you have any useful recommendations for your colleagues, please let us know!

Discoveries at the Stucco Conference



Our conference “[Close to World Heritage: New Research on the Medieval Stucco Decorations of St. Michael's in Hildesheim](#)” on March 17, 2026, not only gave us the opportunity to present the results of our multi-year interdisciplinary [research project](#), but also to get up close to the northern choir screen via a walkable scaffold. In the process, the original 12th-century inscriptions—which had been believed lost—were discovered under UV light.

Photo: 2026, HAWK (Alissa Lange)

Upcoming Announcements



New Book in our Series

The documentation of these inscriptions and much more can be found in the project's final publication, which will be released in the fall of 2026 under the title „Zwischen Heiligen und Ranken“ (*Between Saints and Vines*).

Photo: Dommuseum Hildesheim, Design: CI/CD Team, HAWK



Salzwiki

In July 2025, we transferred our “SalzWiki” (a Wikipedia-style platform on salt weathering of cultural heritage) to the University of Innsbruck. The university's Department of Materials Technology is working on expanding it into a Semantic MediaWiki and establishing a repository. In the long term, the platform is intended to provide data on salt weathering of cultural heritage, historical binders, and, if applicable, other topics to be added in the future. Until SalzWiki can be revised, expanded, and made

available by the University of Innsbruck, it will remain online with us [www.salzwiki.net], though without the option to edit entries.

News from the Conservation and Restoration Study Programmes at HAWK

Events



Save The Date: Hildesheim Conservation Day on October 9, 2026

HAWK | Hohnsen 2 | 31134 Hildesheim

Selected presentations by graduates will provide you with insights into current fields of study and research in the various specializations: Framed Wooden Objects and Paintings; Furniture, Wooden Objects, and Material Combinations; Manuscripts, Books, and Prints; Stone Objects and Architectural Surfaces; as well as the natural sciences and the history of art and restoration. The Conservation-Restoration Study Programmes in the Department of Building and Preservation invite all interested parties to visit the HAWK in Hildesheim!

We wish you a wonderful summer!

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

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Responsible for the contents are: Dr. Angela Weyer
President: Prof. Dr. Jörg Lahner (Acting President)
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

