

Call for Papers

More Appearance Than Substance?! Papery Imitation and Illusion

4th Annual Conference of Forum BildDruckPapier

The next annual conference of Forum BildDruckPapier will take place at the Saxon capital Dresden from 16–18 May 2021. It will be dedicated to papery imitations and illusions. The conference place itself represents one of the numerous paper products which pretend to be something they do not are: the so called “Dresdner Pappe” (Dresden cardboard). These ornaments were made of pressed cardboard covered with gold or silver foil and caused the illusion of high-quality decorations made of embossed metal. But also in the Saxon region several examples for the history of imitating paper fabrics can be found, e.g. Renaissance wood grain papers (Fladerpapier) or paper flowers from the 19th and 20th centuries.

The conference “More Appearance Than Substance?!” focuses on paper surrogates and dummies which substitute other materials by using optical illusions via printing or painting technology or by imitating structures. Although produced as an imitation, the manufactures were not necessarily of minor value, but instead independent luxury goods. The spectrum of imitating paper, cardboard, and papier-mâché products ranged from interiors and household goods to clothing. They could deceptively real-looking reproduce different materials for example:

- stone/porcellaine (stucco, paperclay, marbled paper, dolls’ heads)
- wood (snuff boxes and bowls from papier-mâché with lacquer work, wood grain paper)
- metal (coffin hardware and Christmas tree decorations from embossed cardboard)
- leather (wallpapers, peaked caps’ visors from cardboard)
- wickerwork (toys, bags from paper yarn)
- textiles (paper lace, fancy dresses, clothes from paper fabrics) and
- plants (artificial flowers for festive articles und millinery supplies).

How were such fabrics produced? Who was specialiced in that? Why were imitations necessary or preferred? How were they valued? What were they used for? In which relation stood model and copy to each other? These are the questions the conference wants to deal with. The main session (**Monday, 17 May 2021**) will present lectures concerning the paper’s multiple possibilities of imitation, the production and techniques, the manufacturers, and the consumers. The lectures (duration: 20 minutes) and the following discussion can be held in German or English. If you are interested in a lecture, please send your abstract (max. 2.500 characters incl. spaces) in German or English with a short CV to bild-druck-papier@web.de. Deadline is **15 November 2020**.

For further questions please contact:

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