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**PICTURA PAEDAGOGICA ONLINE**

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<http://www.bbf.dipf.de/VirtuellesBildarchiv/>

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### **Abstract**

Pictura Paedagogica Online started in January 2000 as collaboration between the Bibliothek fuer Bildungsgeschichtliche Forschung des Deutschen Instituts fuer Internationale Paedagogische Forschung (Library for educational history research, BBF) in Berlin and the Institut fuer Angewandte Erziehungswissenschaft und Allgemeine Didaktik (Institute for applied education science and general didactic) of the University Hildesheim and it is funded by the DFG (German Research Council, [www.dfg.de](http://www.dfg.de)) The picture archive offers free access to images with educational background. So far more than 15,000 book illustrations from the Middle Ages up to 1850 and historical postcards dating from 1870 to 1933 are incorporated.

**Keywords:** online picture archive, book illustrations, postcards, educational history, collaboration.

In January 2000 the DFG funded project „Pictura Paedagogica Online“ started, then still under the working title „Virtuelles Bildarchiv zur Bildungsgeschichte“ - it was renamed on the occasion of the official opening of its homepage in May 2001.

The idea behind the project was to encourage the research of pictorial sources in the field of educational history (Schmitt, H., Link, J.-W. & Tosch, F. (Eds., 1997)) by offering an easy access to an ever growing number of images via the internet. The need for such an archive was felt as many researchers formed private collections of pictures and photos with educational background. Sometimes parts of these collections were published as recently by Engelbrecht (1995), but the majority of the pictures sadly remained outside public notice. So the idea of a virtual archive was born: digital copies of the images form a new collection, while the originals stay in the possession of the individual owner and are indexed in a central database.



Fig. 1. Portrait of Pestalozzi.

So far there are two partners involved in the project: the Bibliothek fuer Bildungsgeschichtliche Forschung des Deutschen Instituts fuer Internationale Paedagogische Forschung in Berlin (BBF, [www.bbf.dipf.de](http://www.bbf.dipf.de)) and the Institut fuer Angewandte Erziehungswissenschaft und Allgemeine Didaktik der Universitaet Hildesheim (<http://www.uni-hildesheim.de/FB/FB1/INST/erzwiss/index.htm>).

Most of the collection of Pictura Paedagogica Online consists of book illustrations published from the middle ages up to 1850.



Fig. 2. Children at play.

The Hildesheim institute had a collection of educational images that was started back in the 1980s. Then students of the institute browsed through books of three major German libraries – namely the Herzog-August Bibliothek in Wolfenbuettel, the Staats- und Universitaetsbibliothek Goettingen and the former Universitaetsbibliothek Helmstedt – in the search of illustrations. Images which were of interest for educational history were photographed – most of them in black and white – and incorporated in the institute’s collection.

For the project Pictura the BBF in Berlin searched its own stock of old prints and formed a completely new collection. For the first time these pictures are assembled in an archive and are accessible for the public. In contrast to the collection in Hildesheim, where the images were chosen for their educational contents, in Berlin the choice was made by the book and the complete number of its illustrations was taken.

Last but not least it was possible to get hold of a private collection of historical postcards, offering a very interesting and a “very public” view of the times between 1870 and 1933.

By the end of 2002 the first phase of the project was completed, and Pictura held about 15,000 images. In January 2003 the new phase started. The original plan to involve three

more partners had to be cut short for financial reasons, nevertheless we are able to digitise more pictures of the already involved collections: Pictura Paedagogica Online will grow for another 50,000 pictures and postcards over the next years, so that by the end of this phase there will be more than 60,000 pictures in the database.

The subjects and techniques of the images in Pictura Paedagogica Online are very divers. Even though it was meant as an archive for educational history you do not only find there images of children at school or at play (Fig. 2), portraits of pedagogues (Fig. 1) or designs for school buildings. You also find scientific illustrations of animals or plants (Fig. 3), maps (Fig. 5) or construction plans for machines. Furthermore there are illustrations coming from bibles, catechisms and novels.

Most of the illustrations are engravings, often of a very high quality and finely coloured.



Fig. 3. The Japan Tiger-Lily.

## Technical information: Digitisation and Database

All images are filmed and digitized. This double procedure was applied for conservational reasons. With regard to the very fast moving computer industry special archival films as analogue recording medias have a longer durability and usability compared to the digital recording on a CD. With digital images you do not only have to take care of the durability of the media they are saved on, but also make sure that you always provide a machine that is able to read it. And if images have to be digitised for new we can use the film instead putting the originals again at risk.

There is just one shortcoming of this proceeding: there are very good results with small scale images – of which most of our collections consists, it does not work too good with large scale items like maps. These have to be digitised directly.

The filming and digitisation was done outhouse by Herrmann & Kraemer in Garmisch-Partenkirchen ([www.hk-gap.de](http://www.hk-gap.de)). To take care of the quality a special film with very high resolving power and excellent archival stability was used.

All images except the black and white photo prints of the Hildesheim collection were digitised in colour, even if the original image was an uncoloured print. This was done to get a realistic image of the original work of art. For the same reason the complete book page was filmed and later clipped. Both – the clip and the complete book page – are presented in Pictura and can be consulted by the researcher.

The digitisation was done in 300 ppi and the scans saved as Tiffs with imbedded information like its literature source, so the identification of every image is secure, even without the data saved in the database.

To give some impression of the quality of the digitisation you can see an enlarged detail in Fig. 4. The original size of the picture is 105 x 68 mm.



Fig. 4. Abraham on Moria.

As database Capriccio was chosen, a system based on Allegro C, which is used for the BBF library catalogue. This choice was made because most of the images are book illustrations and so the direct connection with the book source is very important. With this system we can copy the data record of the book directly into the picture database and link it with the picture. This saves a lot of time and offers the possibility for the researcher to search not only for pictures but also for literature at the same time.



[www.bbf.dipf.de/VirtuellesBildarchiv/](http://www.bbf.dipf.de/VirtuellesBildarchiv/) the site is open to any user. Here you can get further information on the project as well as on the partners.



Fig. 6. Homepage of Pictura Paedagogica Online.

The research of the pictures is quite easy. There are a couple of search masks on offer. You can search directly for images with a standard mask or start a more refined research via a detailed expert mask. Furthermore there is the opportunity to look for the illustrated books or journals, for persons or check a time chart. If you want to browse the index you can do so in the expert mask.

## Illustrations :

Fig. 1. Pestalozzi. In: *Bildungsblätter oder Zeitung fuer die Jugend*, vol. 1 (1806). Frontispice.

Fig. 2. Die blinde Frau. In: *Chodowiecki, Kupfersammlung zu J.B. Basedows Elementarwerke fuer die Jugend und ihre Freunde*, 1774, p. VI.

Fig. 3. Die Japanische Tiger-Lilie. In: *Bertuch, Bilderbuch fuer Kinder*, 1813, vol. 8, p. 75.

Fig. 4. Abraham auf Moria, after Lievens. In: Campe, Saemmtliche Kinder- und Jugendschriften, (1830), vol. 15, p. 40/41.

Fig. 5. Europa. In: Adelung, Unterweisung in den vornehmsten Kuensten und Wissenschaften zum Nutzen der niedern Schulen, Leipzig, 1774, p. 192/193.

Fig. 6. Homepage of Pictura Paedagogica Online. [www.bbf.dipf.de/VirtuellesBildarchiv/](http://www.bbf.dipf.de/VirtuellesBildarchiv/)

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