



Berlin, December 8, 2020

**Welfenschatz: Statement Following U.S. Supreme Court  
Hearing on Lawsuit Seeking Restitution of the  
Guelph Treasure**

*Yesterday, the U.S. Supreme Court heard oral arguments about the 2015 lawsuit seeking restitution of the Welfenschatz (Guelph Treasure). The hearing concerned the legal question of whether U.S. courts have jurisdiction over the case. The Supreme Court's decision is expected to be issued next year.*

SPK president Hermann Parzinger said: "We are pleased to have had this historic opportunity to present the U.S. Supreme Court with the reasons why we believe that U.S. courts have no jurisdiction over this case. In addition to the jurisdictional arguments, we emphasized SPK's deep commitment to provenance research and to the fair and just resolution of legitimate claims to Nazi-confiscated art, consistent with the Washington Conference Principles that have guided our approach to restitution matters for more than two decades. In these twenty years we restituted nearly two thousand works from our collections to the heirs of victims of Nazi persecution."

The lawsuit seeking the Guelph Treasure's restitution was filed in 2015 with the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia in Washington, D.C. (Philipp and Stiebel vs. Federal Republic of Germany and Stiftung Preußischer Kulturbesitz). SPK is represented in this matter in the United States by the law firm of Wiggin and Dana.

**Oral Argument Audio and Transcript:**

[https://www.supremecourt.gov/oral\\_arguments/audio/2020/19-351](https://www.supremecourt.gov/oral_arguments/audio/2020/19-351)

**Further information about the Guelph Treasure** and a detailed historical review of the sale in 1935 are available at:

<http://www.preussischer-kulturbesitz.de/en/newsroom/dossiers-and-news/all-dossiers/dossier-the-guelph-treasure.html>

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