# Nomination form

**International Memory of the World Register**

## 1.0 Checklist

Nominees may find the following checklist useful before sending the nomination form to the International Memory of the World Secretariat. The information provided in italics on the form is there for guidance only and should be deleted once the sections have been completed.

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<td>Declaration of Authority signed and dated (section 2)</td>
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<td>If this is a joint nomination, section 2 appropriately modified, and all Declarations of Authority obtained</td>
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<td>Documentary heritage identified (sections 3.1 – 3.3)</td>
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<td>History/provenance completed (section 3.4)</td>
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<td>Names, qualifications and contact details of up to three independent people or organizations recorded (section 3.6)</td>
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<td>Summary of Preservation and Access Management Plan completed. If there is no formal Plan attach details about current and/or planned access, storage and custody arrangements (section 9)</td>
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<td>Any other information provided – if applicable (section 10)</td>
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<td>Suitable reproduction quality photographs identified to illustrate the documentary heritage. (300dpi, jpg format, full-colour preferred).</td>
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<td>Copyright permissions forms signed and attached. Agreement to propose item(s) for inclusion on the World Digital Library if inscribed</td>
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Nomination form
International Memory of the World Register

Documentary heritage of the former Abbey of Saint Gall in the Abbey Archives and the Abbey Library of Saint Gall
ID Code [2016-90]

1.0 Summary (max 200 words)

Documentary heritage of the former Abbey of Saint Gall in the Abbey Archives and the Abbey Library of Saint Gall

The Abbey Archives and the Abbey Library of Saint Gall are two unique monuments to Western tradition with an almost unbroken history of 1300 years, beginning with the foundation of the Abbey of Saint Gall in the year 719 and continuing to the present, even though the abbey was dissolved in 1805. In 1983 the Abbey of Saint Gall was designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The documentary heritage of the former Abbey of Saint Gall preserved in these two institutions constitutes a unique treasure which is incomparable among European monastic archives and libraries. Together, the charters, manuscripts, volumes of records, incunabula and printed works predating 1805 are an outstanding witness to human culture down through the ages. The documentary heritage housed in these two historical institutions is therefore being nominated for inclusion in the International Memory of the World Register.

2.1 Name of nominator (person or organization)
Abbey Archives of Saint Gall (Stiftsarchiv St. Gallen, Archives abbatiales de Saint-Gall)
Abbey Library of Saint Gall (Stiftsbibliothek St. Gallen, Bibliothèque abbatiale de Saint-Gall)

2.2 Relationship to the nominated documentary heritage
Possessors and curators of the documentary heritage

2.3 Contact person(s) (to provide information on nomination)
Dr. Peter Erhart, Director of the Abbey Archives
Dr. Cornel Dora, Director of the Abbey Library

2.4 Contact details

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Peter Erhart (Coordinator)</td>
<td>Stiftsarchiv St.Gallen, Regierungsgebäude, 9001 St.Gallen</td>
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<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Cornel Dora</td>
<td>Stiftsbibliothek St.Gallen, Klosterhof 6d, Postfach, 9004 St.Gallen</td>
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<tr>
<th>Telephone</th>
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<tr>
<td>0041 58 229 38 23</td>
<td>0041 58 229 38 15</td>
<td><a href="mailto:peter.erhart@sg.ch">peter.erhart@sg.ch</a></td>
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<td><a href="mailto:cornel.dora@kk-stibi.sg.ch">cornel.dora@kk-stibi.sg.ch</a></td>
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3.0 Identity and description of the documentary heritage

3.1 Name and identification details of the items being nominated

The name of the collections being nominated is:

Documentary heritage of the former Abbey of Saint Gall in the Abbey Archives and the Abbey Library of Saint Gall.

3.1.1 Introduction

The former Imperial and Princely Abbey of Saint Gall, which was dissolved in 1805, is among the oldest institutions in the south-west of German-speaking Europe with a history that has continued uninterrupted until modern times. Indeed, it is one of the oldest centres of literacy in Europe and the Old World. By a stroke of good fortune, not only have the legends surrounding the founding of Saint Gall and its early history been handed down to us: the venerable Abbey Archives and Abbey Library, too, and their uniquely rich collections containing records from the very beginning in the early 8th century to the Middle Ages, through to the early modern age until the abbey was dissolved in 1805, have remained extraordinarily well preserved. These two historical institutions have been part of the culturally and politically powerful abbey down through the ages and they document its development.

3.1.2 Abbey Archives

The Abbey Archives principally contain legal and administrative records documenting the material foundations necessary for the cultural flourishing of the abbey. The Abbey Archives are unique in that they provide us with a comprehensive, well-ordered and unbroken record of the Abbey of Saint Gall, reaching back even before the abbey was founded around the year 720. There is evidence that archives were kept as early as the 770s. This means the Abbey Archives contain by far the largest monastic fonds of early medieval original documents in the Western World.

From the 17th century onwards, the archivists at Saint Gall were particularly conscientious and farsighted. In 1645, a small number of copies of the cartulary Codex Traditionum with the early medieval deeds of gift of Saint Gall were produced on the abbey's own printing press. By around 1674, most of the other deeds and charters in the archives had been printed, too, to facilitate their use and for assertion of the legal titles. To this day, the Abbey Archives are largely arranged as they were during the Baroque period.

The great majority of records in the Abbey Archives of Saint Gall are unique handwritten documents. Today, the total inventory of the Abbey Archives can be divided into seven sections.

3.1.2.1 Early Medieval Documents (700–1000)

The fonds of early medieval documents contains 852 deeds written on single sheets of parchment, of which 751 are private deeds dating from 716 to 981, while 101 are imperial charters dating from 772 to 994. With 27 charters, the Abbey Archives also preserved one of the extremely rare archives of a layman, the centenarius Folcwin from Rhaetia and the only surviving charter of the first Rhaetian count Hunfrid engaged by Charlemagne. This is by far the largest collection of original documents and contemporary transcriptions dating from the first millennium to have been preserved in any monastic archive in the Old World. The Abbey of Saint Gall was the only monastic institution founded during the Merovingian period whose monks were able to save and preserve a significant part of the archives, which had originally contained thousands of documents. Nearly all the other monasteries suffered a total loss of their original documents, although some collections of documents have been preserved in the form of cartularies.
The disequilibrium amongst the various European fonds is most evident in the multi-volume facsimile of the original early medieval charters Chartae Latinae Antiquiores, of which the Saint Gall fonds and that of the diocesan archives of Lucca form the backbone. The historical importance of the documents from Saint Gall is also evidenced in the many cartularies compiled for the south-western region of German-speaking Europe, i.e. Baden-Württemberg and Alsace, parts of Bavaria, Austria and Switzerland. Comparatively rare chronicles and historiographic documentations, principally preserved among the manuscripts of the Abbey Library, can be directly compared with the documents and comprehensive name books of the Abbey Archives with their detailed local and chronological information. As a result, it is possible to gain an insight into the prevalence and importance of these records.

The Register of Monastic Vows (Professbuch) (StiASG, C3 B56), written around 800, is a record of all the members of the order at the Abbey of Saint Gall. It is an important reference work for anyone researching the hierarchy of the monastic community. This is the only legal document of its kind from the Carolingian era to have been so well preserved. It records, in the typical script of the time, the names of about 750 monks who lived there between the founding of the Abbey of Saint Gall around 720 and the 11th century.

The Professbuch is a good example of the complementarity and interrelation of the collections of the Archives and the Library. After consulting this first record of the monks, it is possible to trace their subsequent careers from the jobs mentioned in the documents of the Abbey Archives or in the Casus sancti Galli written by the monks Ratpert and Ekkehard IV (Cod. Sang. 611, 612, 614, 615). Finally, their dates of death can be found in the necrology (Cod. Sang. 397, 914, 915). At the beginning of May 926 there is an entry recording the death of the recluse Wiborada, who had been killed by Hungarian invaders near the Abbey of Saint Gall. As a result of this entry, the Professbuch eventually acquired a new status. After the canonization of Wiborada in 1047, laypeople began to revere the saint and the book became a contact relic. Around 1075, only a few decades after her martyrdom, a monk named Herimannus wrote a second vita of the saint, probably in his own hand (Codex 560 of the Abbey Library).

Even more information about names can be found in the abbey’s two Confraternity Books (Libri Vitae) dating from the periods around 815 and 855/860. During the 17th century, they were bound together to form one codex (StiASG, C3 B55). These richly decorated books contain about 14,940 names. Through the headings it is possible to identify the members of confraternities throughout Europe,
members of the nobility or benefactors. In all, nine Confraternity Books dating from the Early Middle Ages have been preserved. The two volumes kept at Saint Gall are not only the oldest of their kind, but also contain the most beautifully decorated pages.

Important happenings in the Carolingian Empire as well as events occurring in the surrounding region or within the monastery are recorded briefly in the chronologically arranged Annales. "Zürcher Abt. No. 1", a collection of manuscripts kept in the Abbey Archives, is the earliest preserved copy of the Annales Alamannici, which were compiled towards the end of the 8th century and cover the years 709-926. The oldest extant version of the Annales Sangallenses maiores, which also draws on this source for the earlier period (until 918), dates from the 10th century. It is kept in the Abbey Library (Cod. 915, pp. 196–236).

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Early medieval charter with the first mention of Bregenz, 802, StiASG, Urk. I 153.

### 3.1.2.2 Archive of Deeds and Charters (1000–1822)

The charter material after the year 1000 covers a chronological arch which spans the period from 1004 A.D. to 1822 A.D., when the last abbot made a donation in commemoration of the former abbots and monks (StiASG, Urk. L3 Ee28). From this period the archives contain around 20,000 charters on parchment and paper, in most cases with one or several seals. They are divided into the actual archives of charters and the archives of the Statthalterei of Wil. Classis primae deals with the Status ecclesiasticus et Monasticus Monasterii et Abbatum S. Galli (imperial and royal privileges, papal documents, indulgences) and the Officialatus Monasterii S. Galli (administration of ecclesiastical affairs, schools in the different villages and parishes); Classis secunda deals with the Status politicus (imperial privileges, contracts with allies, Vogteien); Classis tertia deals with the Status Cameralis (gifts or sales of land; imperial and royal gifts; Statthalterei Rorschach); Classis quarta deals with new acquisitions of churches or domains (Monastery of St Johann in the Thur valley; domains of Ebringen and Norsingen, etc.); Classis quinta deals with the loans of the abbey.

European imperial and ecclesiastical history is reflected in these documents. Among the most outstanding specimens are a papal edict issued by Pope Eugene III dating from 1151 (StiASG, Urk. PP4 C1) and a Golden Bull issued by Emperor Frederick II in Ravenna (StiASG, Urk. PP4 D3), both addressed to the Abbey of St. Johann in Thurtal, which belonged to the Abbey of Saint Gall from 1555 onwards. Also preserved is one of the few still-existing equestrian seals of Welf IV on a mid 12th-century charter for the newly founded Kartause Ittingen (StiASG, Urk. TTT2(II) Nr. 5). Several illuminated letters of indulgence from Avignon are extremely interesting for scholars of art history. For example, one letter of indulgence dating from 1333 with the second-oldest known depiction of Otmar, the founder of the Abbey of Saint Gall, bears seals made of material with Kufic motifs from then-Islamic Southern Spain (StiASG, Urk. C1 A3).
3.1.2.3 Archive of Records (13th-18th centuries)

The present classification of the fonds of the Abbey Archives was carried out by the archivist Karl Wegelin after the dissolution of the abbey, during the period from 1835 to 1839. However, with its 155 sections, this classification reflects the political situation prior to 1798. Sections 1 to 41 contain political and diplomatic records as well as records of the secular and ecclesiastical activities of the Abbey of Saint Gall as land-owner. The double role of the Abbey of Saint Gall as an imperial principality and at the same time an ally of the Swiss Confederation (since 1451) is reflected in these records, as is its leading role within the Swiss Benedictine Congregation and its influence over a number of convents in the region of Saint Gall.

Special mention should be made of the large number of letters, dating mainly from the 16th to 18th centuries. These letters, numbering around 11,000, are mostly handwritten. They document the relations of the Princely Abbey of Saint Gall with secular and clerical authorities as well the cultural centres of Europe. However, the collection also contains intimate letters, such as the letter written by the widow Anna Maria Gugger von Staudach to her son Celestine, who was abbot at Saint Gall from 1740 to 1767. During his abbacy he was responsible for the building of the new Baroque church and library.

Sections 42 to 155 contain records of individual localities belonging to the Abbey of Saint Gall. These records are particularly important with regard to the rural history of the present Canton of Saint Gall, as well as the regions of Zurich and Thurgau.

3.1.2.4 Archive of Books (13th-19th centuries)

The archive of books at Saint Gall comprises some 2,700 volumes, most of which are handwritten. Their present numbering and classification was carried out by the archivist Karl Wegelin after the dissolution of the abbey. The archive of books partly complements the archive of records in that it also documents the secular and ecclesiastical administration of the Abbey of Saint Gall, together with its privileges and possessions. From the 17th century onwards, the archivists at Saint Gall kept registers encompassing several volumes. Special mention should be made of the five-volume keyword register (plus supplement) compiled by the archivist Father Deicola Custor (1727–1802) (StiASG, Rep C 2–4).
During his tenure, Custor also compiled many collections of documents (StiASG, Bd. 299–331, 365, 999f., 1444, 1741f., 1930, LA 14, LA 19).

During the abbacy of Wilhelm von Montfort (around 1300) administrative acts at the abbey began to be recorded in cartularies (StiASG, Bd. 1–117). Special mention should be made of the cartularies compiled during the abbacy of Ulrich Rösch (1463–1491), who succeeded in reforming the crisis-torn monastery and establishing it as a rural ecclesiastical principality. Rösch, a baker’s son who began his monastic career as a kitchen apprentice, is nowadays often regarded as the “second founder” of the Abbey of Saint Gall. With his reforms, which are also recorded in his cartularies, he paved the way for the flowering of the Princely Abbey of Saint Gall during the Baroque era of the 17th and 18th centuries. One of Abbot Ulrich Rösch’s cartularies (StiASG, Bd. 110) contains a very rare set of medieval kitchen rules, including the menus for each week and even possible variations.

Volumes 118 to 357 contain historical material such as chronicles, historical treatises, armorials and biographies. These provide the background and important additions to the historiographic works of the early modern era kept in the Abbey Library. Particularly interesting are the almost complete diaries of the abbots of Saint Gall since the end of the 16th century (StiASG, Bd. 260–285, 1932–1933) and the travel journals written by monks from Saint Gall during the 17th and 18th centuries (StiASG, Bd. 286–287, 1934–1935).

Volumes 358 to 1024 document the ecclesiastical and secular administration of the abbey. This series includes 174 volumes which, following the dissolution of the abbey, were first given to the Catholic Administration of the Canton of St. Gallen. In 1948, they were returned to the Abbey Archives as a deposit (StiASG, Depositum Katholische Administration, Bd. 57–215). These volumes document the income and expenditure of the princely abbey. From the abbey's accounts (from StiASG, Bd. 878) and the invoices of the building authorities (from StiASG, Bd. 900) it is possible – together with the abbots’ diaries also kept in the Abbey Archives – to trace the history of building within the Abbey District of Saint Gall. The Abbey District with its church, library and palace has been a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1983.

The ecclesiastical and secular administration of the abbey in its various territories (Alte Landschaft, Toggenburg, the Rhine Valley, Thurgau and Southern Germany) is documented in volumes 1025 to 1920. These records reflect that the conditions and methods of the abbey’s administration policy varied from one region to the next. The numbers 1921 (at present up to 2052) mainly concern volumes which were lost at the time of the dissolution of the abbey in 1805, but which were later recovered and replaced in the Abbey Archives.

The feudal archive (StiASG, Bd. LA 1–LA 505) is an important part of the Abbey Archives. It encompasses over 500 volumes which record the acts of the nobility and the farmers in the fiefdom of the abbey – partly in chronological order and partly in systematic collections dating from the 18th century. These records begin around 1415 and continue up to the end of the Ancien Régime. The feudal archive is a valuable source of information, not only concerning the extent and administration of the fiefdom of Saint Gall, but also for research into place and field names as well as genealogical studies.

3.1.2.5 Archive of Maps and Plans

There are about 100 hand-drawn maps of the territory of the Princely Abbey of Saint Gall in the Abbey Archives, nearly all dating from the 18th century. The majority of them were drawn up in the context of clearing boundary disputes with the abbey’s neighbours (Landgraviate of Thurgau, Bishopric of Constance, Canton of Appenzell Ausserrhoden). In other words, the maps served to assert political rights. The best-known of these documents is the so-called Grenzatlas der stiftsaktgallischen Alten Landschaft (StiASG, Bd. 1204) dating from around 1730, which consists of 61 pages of maps. Its author was probably Father Gabriel Hecht (1664–1745), a gifted artist who also created the first extant ground plan of the Abbey District of Saint Gall dating from 1719 (StiASG, Karten und Pläne, Nr. XXII). Based on his precise measurements of the Abbey District, Hecht drew up 14 plans for the redesign, renovation and extension of the buildings in the Abbey District between 1720 and 1726. Hecht’s planning activities marked the beginning of a new era at the Abbey of Saint Gall. However, the construction work did not take place until the second half of the century. The Abbey Archives contain 40 project plans dating from 1720 to 1754 submitted by famous Baroque masters such as Johann Caspar Bagnato, Joseph Anton Feuchtmayer, Johann Michael Beer von Blaichten, Johann Jakob Rischer and Peter Thumb.
3.1.2.6 Former Zürcher Abteilung X

During the occupation and plundering of the Abbey of Saint Gall by troops from Zurich and Bern during the War of Toggenburg (1712) many of the contents of the archives were seized and taken away. A number of these were returned to the Abbey Archives of Saint Gall in 1931 and they are now classified under the reference code Zürcher Abteilung X. This series consists of 138 volumes and 474 separate documents. The records and books mainly concern the 17th and early 18th centuries, while the deeds and charters date from the period between 780 and 1711. The former Zürcher Abteilung X also contains one of the two important manuscripts of the Annales Alemannici, concerning the years 709 to 926 (cf. 3.1.2.1).

3.1.2.7 Papers of the last Prince-Abbot of Saint Gall, Pankraz Vorster

Until June 1981, the papers left by the last Prince-Abbot of Saint Gall, Pankraz Vorster (1753–1829), were kept as a separate fonds in the Abbey Archives of Einsiedeln and the Priory of St. Gerold in the Great Walser Valley (Vorarlberg), which belongs to the Abbey of Einsiedeln. In 1868, Father Ulrich Christen, the Conventual of Einsiedeln (1814–1871), entered practically all these records in a handwritten register. In all, there are 3733 papers dating from 1613 to 1829, the majority of which were written after 1800. In particular, there are many papers concerning the years 1801 to 1805, which were decisive for the abbey’s future. The years 1814 to 1819 are similarly well-documented due to the Congress of Vienna, which Abbot Pankraz attended personally. The papers he left are of great significance for the whole of Europe owing to the period in which they were written and the importance of the Abbey of Saint Gall at that time. Very few of the contents of this collection are private letters written by Vorster, although there are some letters written by members of his family. The emphasis is rather more on the political correspondence of the last Prince-Abbot of Saint Gall, that is to say: both correspondence which was received and copies of letters sent out. Another item in the collection is Vorster’s three-volume diary covering the years 1796 to 1829. It is the last in the almost unbroken
series of abbots’ diaries, which reaches back to the end of the 16th century (cf. 3.1.2.4). In 1981, the Abbey of Einsiedeln gave the papers of Pankraz Vorster to the Catholic Administration of the Canton of St.Gallen, which transferred them in the same year as a deposit to the Abbey Archives of Saint Gall.

3.1.3 Abbey Library
The Abbey Library of Saint Gall is one of the oldest libraries in the world. It is the only large monastery library founded in the European Middle Ages to still exist both institutionally and with a large part of its collections intact. Its collection of manuscripts is among the most important of its kind amongst those of the world’s larger libraries, such as those in Rome, Paris, Munich and London. The library as a whole is extraordinary for its completeness and coherence, which are enhanced by the references to the funds of the Abbey Archives.

We know that Gallus, who settled as a hermit in the Steinach Valley around 612, was the owner of books. It can therefore be assumed that a library avant la lettre existed in Saint Gall as far back as the 7th century, although no books remain from that time. The Abbey Library first became an institution when a regulated monastery was set up by Abbot Otmar around 719. The earliest monastery manuscripts surviving to this day originate from the time of Otmar’s successor, Abbot Johannes (759/60-782), who was also Bishop of Constance. Eight of the preserved manuscripts are associated with Winitar, a deacon of the abbey, who is also recorded in the Abbey Archives as being a scribe. From this period until the 11th century, the abbey housed one of the leading scriptoriums in Europe, which reached its zenith in the 9th/10th century under the abbots Gozbert, Grimald, Hartmut and Salomon.

In the 9th century the library took on a clearer structure. There are records of the first librarians from 860 onwards, including Notker Balbulus, one of the most important poets of the Early Middle Ages. Between 860 and 865 the first library catalogue was compiled (Cod. Sang. 728). It contained 294 entries with 426 book titles. The catalogue lists a unique collection of Libri scotti scriti, 30 titles written in Insular script that were in the abbey’s possession at the time. The library inventory continued to grow up to the end of the 11th century, primarily thanks to production in the abbey’s own scriptorium.

Although the library was not set up until the 7th/8th century, it houses important works from Late Antiquity, presumably acquired in the 8th/9th century to add to its growing collection. The Abbey of Saint Gall is also famous for its palimpsests, of which Cod. Sang 908, known as the “King of Palimpsests”, is a particularly fine example.

On the Saint Gall monastery plan dating from 830 (Cod. Sang 1092) there is evidence that an extension was planned on the north side of the choir to house a scriptorium and a library. However, the plan was never actually realized and several decades later the books were housed in the Hartmut Tower, which was built before 872 and demolished in 1666. They remained there for almost seven centuries, until 1553, and so withstood all the armed conflicts and three fires that afflicted the monastery and town in the years 937, 1314 and 1418. In 926, in the face of an invasion by the Hungarians, the monks managed to remove and so protect the library collection thanks to the advice of Wiborada. This incident was reported by Ekkehard IV (c. 980 – c. 1060) in the Casus Sancti Galli (Cod. Sang. 615) and also recorded in the Professbuch (book of vows) to be found in the Abbey Archives (StASG, C3, B56). Wiborada, the first woman to be canonised by the Pope, is the Church’s patron of libraries and bibliophiles.

Towards the end of the 11th century the scriptorium became less productive. There was a clear decline in the number of self-produced books added to the inventory, although additions were still received from both in- and outside the abbey. In 1416 and 1417, during his stay at the Council of Constance, the Italian early humanist Poggio Bracciolini (1380-1459) took the opportunity to visit the abbey and copy or remove several books from the library that later became works fundamental to humanism, including De architectura by Vitruv, Argonautica by Valerius Flaccus and Institutio oratoria by Quintilian (the latter may be identical to Ms. C 74a, Zurich Central Library, permanent deposit in the Abbey Library of Saint Gall since 2006, cf. 3.1.3.1 below).

The Abbey Library was revived under Abbot Ulrich Rösch (1463-1491), who established the status of the monastery to such an extent that, although the monks were occasionally driven out, it was able to survive the Reformation. Following the turbulence of this period, between 1551 and 1553 Abbot Diethelm Blarer built a new library building on the site of the present one. Between 1758 and 1767 the present impressive Baroque library hall was built, one of the most magnificent examples of its kind in the world.

The prince-abbots of the 16th to 18th centuries generously promoted the library. Notable among them were Abbot Otmar Kunz (1564-1577), who commissioned two of the monks to purchase several
hundred printed works in Paris from 1565 to 1570, and Abbot Beda Angehrn (1767-1796), under whom librarian Johann Nepomuk Hauntinger acquired 4,200 imprints from 1780 to 1792. The most significant acquisition of the Modern Age was the estate of Swiss historian Aegidius Tschudi (1505-1572), which included the Saint Gall Nibelungen Manuscript B (Cod. Sang. 857, world documentary heritage since 2009) and the handbook of the Reichenau scholar and abbot Walahfrid Strabo (Cod. Sang. 878).

In 1633 Prince-Abbot Pius Reher (1630-1654) set up an abbey printing press, on which well over 1,000 printed works were produced until the dissolution of the abbey. These texts cover a wide range of subjects and document the spiritual and political activities of the abbey. Many can be found in the Abbey Library and the Abbey Archives.

In the Early Middle Ages scholastic monks, in particular Ekkehart IV, were already studying the manuscripts. Both the Abbey Library and the Abbey Archives became the object of modern scholarly research from the 15th century onwards. Besides Poggio Bracciolini, some of the earliest scholars to devote their attention to the documentary heritage of the abbey included Joachim von Watt (1484-1551), Aegidius Tschudi (1505-1572), Heinrich Canisius (1557-1610) and Melchior Goldast (1578-1635), and later the major Benedictine scholars Jean Mabillon (1632-1707), Bernhard Pez (1683-1735), Augustin Calmet (1672-1775) and Martin Gerbert (1720-1793). In the 19th century the academic world widely recognized the importance of the library and archives to researchers of the Carolingian and Ottonian periods.

From 1712 to 1718 the existence of the abbey with its library and archives was threatened when troops from zurich and Bern occupied and plundered the abbey and removed books and documents. A number of manuscripts now in the possession of the Zurich Central Library and a number of other prints and items such as the famous Saint Gall Globe date from this time; in 2006 forty of the manuscripts in Zurich were returned to the Abbey Library on permanent loan (these form part of this application). Back in 1931 the so-called Zürcher Abteilung X, comprising further spoils of the 1712 war which had been removed to Zurich, was also returned to the Abbey Archives.

In 1798/99 the political office of the prince-abbot fell victim to revolutionary developments. The monks were driven out, and the abbey was dissolved in 1805 under the edict of the Saint Gall cantonal council. It is nearby miraculous that the abbey's last librarian, Johann Nepomuk Hauntinger, and its last abbot, Pankraz Vorster, who fled to Vorarlberg, were able to save the most valuable treasures from destruction, having them removed to Allgäu and the Tyrol. In 1805 the manuscripts and printed documents were returned to Saint Gall more or less complete. Between 1811 and 1813 the Abbey Library was entrusted to the Catholic Administration as the legal successor to the former abbey. It has been run as an independent institution by the Administration ever since that date.

For the purposes of this application for the documentary heritage of the Abbey of Saint Gall to be listed in the Memory of the World Register, we have defined the documents in the library dating from the time the abbey was active and any others closely related to that period or the institution of the abbey. Should further documents relating to the abbey according to the same criterions, which were lost at a time in the past, come to light in the future and become the property of the Abbey Library, these will be recorded with a corresponding entry in the collection.

3.1.3.1 Manuscripts

The Saint Gall Abbey Library is one of the most important manuscript libraries in the world. Its centrepiece is the manuscript collection currently comprising 2,139 items, of which about 400 were written before AD 1000. Compared with that of other major national libraries (Rome, Munich, Paris, London), the size of the fonds is quite modest, but it is of remarkable quality and of a unique age. The Abbey Library houses major sources and documents from Western culture. The collection is remarkable due to its continuity over 1,300 years and its largely autochthonous character. The manuscripts are directly associated with the cultural and spiritual history of the former Benedictine monastery, and there are numerous references to the fonds in the Abbey Archives.

Most of the codices dating from the 9th to 12th centuries were written in the Abbey of Saint Gall itself, and are still read, studied and written about here today. There has therefore been unique continuity in the history of the library and its manuscripts.

Records from Late Antiquity

The Abbey Library also owns manuscripts and fragments dating from before the founding of the abbey in the 7th-8th century, i.e. from the late 4th and early 5th century. The oldest of these include 11 fragments of Vergilius Sangallensis (Cod. Sang. 1394, pp. 7-49), 16 fragments of the pre-Vulgate Vetus-Latina version of the Gospels (Cod. Sang. 1394, pp. 51-88, several further fragments of the same manuscript can be found in the Abbey Archives) and 110 fragments of the oldest remaining
Vulgate manuscript version of the Gospels (Cod. Sang. 1395, pp. 7-327). Some of the palimpsests, of which the Abbey Library possesses one of the world’s largest collections, also date from Late Antiquity (e.g. Cod. Sang. 908). Besides these very early items, later manuscripts from the 8th to 11th centuries provide us with other ancient texts of excellent quality, some of which serve as reference manuscripts in their modern version. Two of these are Seneca’s *Apocolokyntosis* (Cod. Sang. 569, pp. 243-251) and Quintilian’s *Institutio oratoria*. The Quintilian manuscript may be connected with Poggio Bracciolini’s visit to Saint Gall in 1416 (Zurich Central Library, Ms. C 74a, permanent deposit at the Saint Gall Abbey Library since 2006).


Irish manuscripts

The Abbey Library has the most important collection of Irish manuscripts on the European continent. It contains four complete manuscripts and eleven fragments, including the *Irish Gospel Book of St. Gall* (Cod. Sang. 51), *Codex Delta*, an excellent transmission of the Gospels in Greek (Cod. Sang. 48) and the *Priscian manuscript of Saint Gall* (Cod. Sang. 904), one of the most important Old Irish linguistic legacies. Among the fragments there is also one of the earliest surviving texts written in Irish, dating from around 650 (Cod. Sang. 1399a, No 1). Of particular significance in this context is the list of books in Insular script (*Libri scottice scripti*) contained in the library catalogue of 860/865 (Cod. Sang. 728).


Monastic Sources

Monasteries became established and rapidly gained influence in Western Europe from the 6th century onwards. Saint Gall is a typical and dynamic example of this development, and still houses important sources regarding the monastic life, in particular three manuscripts of great significance containing the *Benedictine Rule*. Cod. Sang. 914 is the authentic version of the text, Cod. Sang. 915 contains the version from which extracts were regularly read at chapter and at table in the monastery; and Cod. Sang. 916 is the earliest surviving example of a German translation of parts of the Benedictine Rule. There are further monastic sources, including Columbanus’s *Regula monachorum* (Cod. Sang. 915), which was presumably followed to a certain extent during the first decades of the abbey’s existence under Abbot Otmar.

The Plan of Saint Gall

The famous Plan of Saint Gall (St. Galler Klosterplan, Cod. Sang. 1092), drafted around 825, is a unique work telling us much about the Carolingian period. It is the world’s oldest surviving large-scale architectural drawing, and as such is hugely important for understanding the development of Carolingian construction, monasteries and the period in general. Ever since it was "rediscovered" around 1600, it has given rise to much discussion and interpretation among researchers. In the coming decades the monastery is to be reconstructed on the basis of this plan in Messkirch, using the methods of the time. The original plan was drafted on the island of Reichenau with the help of the scholar and librarian Reginbert.


Texts from the abbey scriptorium

The remainder of the Abbey Library’s early medieval collection mainly comprises manuscripts written in the abbey’s own scriptorium. Particular attention was paid to the handwriting (Hartmut Minuskel after the mid-9th century) and to producing good quality texts. Indeed, in the second half of the 9th century the monks aspired to create a copy of the Bible that was as perfect as possible, the Hartmut Bible (see below). The Saint Gall manuscripts contain many important early medieval European works, and so are highly valued today. Some of these manuscripts provide the earliest, best, or in some cases the only extant example of the text.


Saint Gall book illumination in the Early Middle Ages

In emulation of the work of the monks in the Reichenau monastery, the writing produced at Saint Gall from about 830 onwards was of excellent aesthetic quality, both in terms of the handwriting and of the initials and illuminations. Particularly remarkable examples following the first psalters around 830 are the Folchart Psalter (Cod. Sang. 23, between 864 and 883), the Golden Psalter (Cod. Sang. 22, c. 860/900) and the Evangelium Longum (Cod. Sang. 53, c. 894). The initials produced in Saint Gall at the time are among the finest of their kind.
Illuminating manuscripts began around 830 with individual works, and up to the 11th century a number of particularly fine examples were produced, for example the Golden Psalter (Cod. Sang. 22), an Aratos manuscript dating from the end of the 9th century (Cod. Sang. 250), the Hartker Antiphonar from around 1000 (Cod. Sang. 390 and 391) and several eleventh-century Sacramentaries that demonstrate the influence of the Reichenau painting school (Cod. Sang. 338, 340, 341).


Book covers
The Abbey of Saint Gall’s collection of book covers is of particular significance with regard to the history of Carolingian book-binding. It contains more than 100 Carolingian covers in more or less original condition, probably making it the largest collection of its kind in the world. The collection of late medieval covers also tells us much about the history of the library and its activities.


Bible
In the 9th century, the study of the Bible became a key activity at the Abbey of Saint Gall. Besides the Late Antiquity textual evidence of the Vulgate and the Vetus Latina version of the Gospels mentioned above, the library owns the Codex Delta (Cod. Sang. 48), one of the best examples of the original Greek text of the four Gospels. One of the oldest known Alcuin Bibles (Cod. Sang. 75) was acquired by the library during the Carolingian Renaissance. These manuscripts demonstrate an interest in analysing biblical texts, culminating, in the second half of the 9th century, in the most ambitious philological Bible project ever undertaken at the abbey: the Hartmut Bible (Grosse Hartmutbibel: Cod. Sang. 77, 78, 81, 82, 83; Kleine Hartmutbibel: Cod. Sang. 7, 19, 46, 68, further volumes in Stuttgart and London).

The Latin-High Middle German version of Tatian’s Diatessarons should be mentioned here for the sake of completeness (see below).


Liturgy
Some of the Bible manuscripts were intended for use in the liturgy and were produced and carefully illuminated accordingly. Besides the two magnificent psalters mentioned above and the Evangelium Longum, from the period between around 800 and 920 there are also the Gundis Evangelistar (Cod. Sang. 54) and the Remedius Sakramentar, which originated in Chur (Cod. Sang. 348). The latter is the most important and the finest version of the so-called Sacramentarium Gelasianum.
The Evangelium Longum, Ivory tablets of Tuotilo, Cod. Sang. 53, front and back cover.

The monks at Saint Gall also made a genuine contribution to the liturgical repertoire, in particular the great poet Notker Balbulus (c.840-912), who with his sequences formed his own artistic genre. His works are still interpreted by liturgical choirs throughout the world. Tuotilo (c.850-c.915), Notker Medicus (c.905-975) and others also enriched the world of church music and text. Examples for a scholarly approach to liturgy in the abbey are a psalter and an evangeliary with commentary (Cod. Sang. 27 and 50) and the Sacramentarium Triplex (Zurich, Central Library, Ms. C 43, since 2006 a permanent deposit at the Saint Gall Abbey Library). The latter is a scholarly masterpiece created by the monks of Saint Gall. Other important and magnificent liturgical manuscripts date primarily from the 10th and 11th centuries and from the 15th to the 18th centuries.


Music
The collection of about a dozen early medieval music manuscripts is one of the finest in the world. It involves the first major corpus of related musical manuscripts still in existence today. Of particular importance are the St. Galler Cantatorium (Cod. Sang. 359), which was compiled between 922 and 925 and is therefore probably the oldest complete extant musical manuscript in the world, and two small-format manuscripts that are just a few years younger, one a Tropary (Cod. Sang. 484), the other with tropes, sequences and versus (Cod. Sang. 381). Both also contain creations by the great artist monks of Saint Gall, Notker Balbulus and Tuotilo.
The Saint Gall Cantatorium, the oldest complete musical manuscript preserved until today, Cod. Sang. 359, p. 24-25.

A further key work in the choral repertoire is the oldest manuscript of the chants of the monastic Divine Office, the Hartker Antiphonar (Cod. Sang. 390 and 391), which dates from around 1000. There are also some writings on music theory that are of broader interest; these include the musical treatise by Notker Labeo, the oldest extant treatise on music in German (Cod. Sang. 242).

Until the dissolution of the abbey, plainchant was part of the monks’ daily life. The collection therefore contains musical manuscripts (e.g. Cod. Sang. 546, 1762-1765, 1767, 1795, 2135) dating from all the centuries until the abbey’s final days. Unique in its way and therefore specifically mentioned here is the Cantus coagulatus by Manfred Barbarini Lupus dating back to 1562, four-part choral settings in two manuscripts that are also known for their rich illustrations (Cod. Sang. 542 and 543).


Charlemagne and his realm
Charlemagne was the predominant leader in Western Europe in the Early Middle Ages. The Abbey Library owns a whole series of important manuscripts with a direct or indirect link to this figure. Of particular significance is the Paderborn Karlsepos (Karolus magnus et Leo papa, Zurich, Central Library, Ms. C78, since 2006 a permanent deposit at the Saint Gall Abbey Library), the only existing text on the encounter between Pope Leo II and Charlemagne in Paderborn in 799, an important event leading to Charlemagne’s coronation as emperor at Christmas in the year 800. The ivory tablets used to bind the Evangelium Longum (Cod. Sang. 53) and the Evangelium S. Johannis (Cod. Sang. 60) are also associated with Charlemagne. In addition, the Abbey Library owns numerous other original works from the Carolingian period, including a Capitulary (Cod. Sang. 731) in its original cover and a number of examples – some of which are outstanding – of the works of Alcuin of York, who was an influential advisor to the king and emperor. Among these is a very early Alcuin Bible (Cod. Sang. 75).

Unfortunately, the Gesta Karoli Magni imperatoris by the Saint Gall monk Notker Balbulus are not kept at the Abbey Library. However, there is a manuscript of Einhard’s biography dating from around 1200 and containing several major works on historiography (Cod. Sang. 547). There are also texts relating to Charlemagne in the Abbey Archives, including two of Charlemagne’s imperial charters.

The Abbey Library also houses important works associated with later emperors and kings: the political writings of Grimald, Abbot of Saint Gall (c.800-872), who was chaplain at the court of Louis the Pious, chancellor to the emperor (833-838/40 and 854-870) and arch-chaplain to the East Frankish king...
Ludwig II “the German” (848-870) should not be forgotten, not to mention the visits of the emperors and kings to the abbey recorded in the Casus sancti Galli (Cod. Sang. 615).

Law
In the field of law there are several very early manuscripts relating to people’s or tribal law (Leges), such as the Edictum Rothari (Cod. Sang. 730), the Lex Alamannorum (Cod. Sang. 731, 732, 729) and the Lex Romana Curiensis (Cod. Sang. 722). The collection also contains important sources on the development of ecclesiastical law, including one of the earliest versions of the Decretum Gratiani (Cod. Sang. 873) and an example of its abridged version Quoniam egestas (Cod. Sang. 711), both dating from the 12th century.

German language and literature
The Saint Gall Abbey Library probably has the largest and most important corpus of Old High German literature in terms of coherence, linguistic continuity and variety.
In the second half of the 8th century, the library began to acquire a rich variety of works in German, unique in both their quality and quantity. First came glosses (also scratched glosses) in addition to the Latin texts, and shortly afterwards whole codices appeared: first the Abrogans (Cod. Sang. 911) dating from c. 790, which is known as “the oldest German book”, and at about the same time the Vocabularius Sancti Galli (Cod. Sang. 913). The Old High German (OHG) interlinear version of the Benedictine Rule (Cod. Sang. 916) was drawn up in about 820, and the OHG version of Tatian’s Diatessaron (Cod. Sang. 56) followed around the middle of the same century; the latter provided the basis for the grammar of OHG.

The oldest Our Father in german language, Cod. Sang. 911, p. 320.
Around the year 1000 Notker Labeo, the most important OHG translator was working at the Abbey of Saint Gall. His translations include the Old High German Psalter (Cod. Sang. 21), *De consolatione philosophiae* by Boethius (Cod. Sang. 825), Aristotle’s *Categories* and *Hermeneutics* (Cod. Sang. 818) and *De nuptiis Philologiae et Mercurii* by Martianus Capella (Cod. Sang. 872). His *Musical Treatise* is an OHG original (Cod. Sang. 242, see above).

With other Middle and Early New High German manuscripts, including the *Nibelungen Manuscript B* (Cod. Sang. 857, see below), the library preserves a uniquely continuous record of the development of the German language up to the dissolution of the abbey.


**Hagiography**

Saint Gall and Columban of Bobbio on the Lake of Constance, Cod. Sang. 602, p. 32-33.

The Abbey Library owns an extraordinary collection of hagiographic manuscripts dating from the Early Middle Ages. Around twenty of them figure as the most important accounts of saints’ lives from the ancient Roman, Frankish and Alemannic cultures, in particular in the text editions of the *Monumenta Germaniae Historica*. Among them are the only extant biography of Gregory the Great by Anonymous of Whitby (Cod. Sang. 567) and the oldest transcript of the life of the Irish abbot and teacher of Gallus, Columbanus the Younger († 615), written by Jonas von Bobbio (Cod. Sang. 553). Of course, the library also houses high quality examples of the vitae of Gallus, Otmar and Wiborada (Cod. Sang. 2106, 553, 560, 562, 586, 602 etc.).


**Historiography**

The historiography includes the oldest transcript of the *World History* by Bishop Frechulf of Lisieux (Cod. Sang. 622) and the *Historiarum adversum paganos libri VII* by Orosius (Cod. Sang. 621). The latter is important owing to the lively glosses added by the learned Saint Gall monk Ekkehart IV in the 11th century. Particularly important for the history of Switzerland are the writings of the Swiss scholar Aegidius Tschudi (1505-1572) (Cod. Sang. 608, 609, 638, 639, 640, 654, 659, 662-669). Cod. Sang. 547, a hefty tome of various historical standard works, was compiled at the abbey around 1200. It contains Latin versions of major works of world, ecclesiastical and national history, for example, the *History of Orosius*, the *Ecclesiastical History* of Eusebius of Caesarea, all the *Biblical Histories* (*Historia Scholastica*) written by the Parisian early scholastic Petrus Comestor († about 1179), the *History of the First Crusade* by Robert of Reims, the *History of the Lombards* by Paulus Diaconus, the *Ecclesiastical*
History of the English People by the Venerable Bede and Einhard’s Life of Charlemagne.

Abbey history
The historiography of the Abbey of Saint Gall, in particular that of the early Middle Ages, is of exceptional literary quality. It begins in the 9th century with Ratpert’s Casus sancti Galli (Cod. Sang. 614), reaching a high point in the 11th century with Ekkehart IV’s continuation of the same (Cod. Sang. 615). The Casus were first continued by an anonymous writer (Cod. Sang. 615), then by Conrad de Fabaria (Cod. Sang. 610 and 612) and Christian Kuchimaister (Zurich Central Library, Ms. A 152, since 2006 a permanent deposit at the Saint Gall Abbey Library). In the late 15th century a Brief History (Kurze Chronik) was written under Abbot Ulrich Roesch; this is preserved in the Abbey Archives (StiASG, Vol. 221). After the end of the Middle Ages, learned monks continued the tradition until the abbey was dissolved in the early 19th century: Jodokus Metzler, Magnus Brülisauer, Hermann Schenk, Mauritius Müller, Basil Balthasar, Gerold Brandenberg and, finally, Ildefons von Arx with his Geschichten des Kantons St. Gallen 1810-1813 (corrections and additions 1830). Such continuity of the historiography of an institution or of a state over a whole millennium as exists in the library and archives is unique.

Nibelungen manuscript

Another unique piece in the collection is the Saint Gall Nibelungen Manuscript B (Cod. Sang. 857), which, along with the two other major Nibelungen manuscripts, already obtained world documentary heritage status back in 2009. However, this does not do full justice to the worth of the manuscript, as besides the Nibelungenlied it contains two major works by Wolfram von Eschenbach which are of very high quality, namely Parzival and Willehalm. The manuscript also played an important role in the development of the first Middle High German grammars in the 19th century.
As the abbey developed politically and culturally in the 15th century and following the Reformation in the 16th century, more and more manuscripts were added to the library, with attention also being paid to book art. Liturgical manuscripts were now decorated by professional artists outside the monastery; among these is a large choir book by Nikolaus Bertschi from Augsburg dating from the 16th century (Cod. Sang. 1767). More such large-scale music manuscripts (Cod. Sang. 1762-1764, 1759, 1760, 1795) were created up to the time of the dissolution of the abbey. No less than 74 commemorative books created for the anniversaries of some prominent monks are a testimony to the strong festive culture of the Baroque period. A jewel of the Baroque of a very special kind is the illustrated travelogue by Georg Franz Müller of Alsace. In it, he recorded his experiences in Indonesia while serving as a soldier for the Dutch East India Company from 1669 to 1682 with beautiful lyrics and excellent true-to-life drawings (Cod. Sang. 1311).


3.1.3.2 Block books, woodcuts, typographic single sheet printings, graphics

Block books
The library collection documents over the long term not only manuscripts but also the introduction of printing and its predecessors in the 15th century. There are five block books, one of which, a unique example of the Planetenkinder, is part of a manuscript that since 2006 has again been kept in the Abbey Library as a permanent deposit from the Zurich Central Library (Zurich Central Library, Ms. C 101). The Abbey Library possesses four further block books, two of which, the Oracula Sibyllina (Block book 2) and Passion of Christ and Prayer Book (Block book 3) are unique.

Kemli collection of woodcuts
In the course of his itinerant life, the Saint Gall monk Gallus Kemli (1417-1481) amassed an important collection of woodcuts. This was the oldest collection of early woodcuts belonging to one person still extant at the beginning of the last century. Unfortunately, in 1930 41 pieces from the Kemli collection were sold by the Abbey Library authority, the Catholic Administrative Council, and were distributed among renowned museums throughout the world (28 pieces) and private collectors (10), while three are now lost. In 2015/2016 the Abbey Library succeeded in recovering five of the privately owned woodcuts; two were purchased and one gifted, and two are on permanent loan. These five examples from the Kemli collection also form part of the proposed portfolio, two of them with the necessary consent from the external owners.
Typographic single sheet prints
In the fonds dating from the early days of printing there are eight typographic single sheet prints: three letters of indulgence (a, c and d), one advertisement for a book trader (b), one moral reprimand (e), two songs (f, g) and one sheet depicting the Virgin Mary and with prayers submitted to her (h).

Graphics up to 1805 from or associated with the Abbey of Saint Gall
The historical collection of graphics at the Abbey Library includes a few drawings, some of them coloured, and a number of printed graphics in a variety of techniques, in particular chalcography. The historical pieces up to 1805 are collected in 11 folders and also form part of the application.

3.1.3.3 Printed books from the 15th century to 1805

Printed books
Printed books from the 15th century up to 1805 formed the largest part of the Abbey Library collection at the time of the dissolution of the abbey. This is exemplary for a monastery library of the Early Modern Age and there is a close association with the collection of manuscripts. It also embodies the continuity of the library’s activities until its dissolution. For this reason the printed book collection also forms part of the nomination. There are 28,849 volumes in the collection, all of which are recorded in the library’s electronic catalogue and card index.
The incunabula and early prints up to 1520 and the Saint Gall Abbey prints from 1633 to 1799 are worthy of particular note.

Incunabula and early prints
The Abbey Library began collecting incunabula in the 15th century and the collection with around 1000 titles was substantially expanded through purchases and donations until the dissolution of the abbey. The collection is compactly arranged along the north wall of the library hall and, besides incunabula, also includes early prints up to 1520. 46 titles in 34 volumes have been kept here as a permanent deposit of the Bishop of Saint Gall since 1930. In addition to the printed catalogue of incunabula dating
from 1880 there is an electronic catalogue and a further list compiled in 2001.
Reference: Advent of printing

Prints from the abbey’s own printing press (1633-1799)
In 1633 the Abbey of Saint Gall was the first Benedictine monastery in Switzerland to establish its own printing press, initially in the affiliated monastery at Neu St. Johann, and from 1641 onwards in the abbey buildings in Saint Gall. Until the expulsion of the monks in 1799 hundreds of pamphlets and books were printed here, as well as a great number of publications of the principality’s government, mandates, ordinances and other notices. The latter are preserved in the Abbey Library, the former in the Abbey Archives. The impressive collection reflects the political and cultural activities of the monastery. The prints from the abbey’s own press preserved in the Abbey Library and the Abbey Archives are therefore an important part of the nominated inventory, and in a way form the continuation of the manuscripts crafted in the Abbey’s own scriptorium. Most noteworthy among the prints are the Codex Traditionum, begun in 1645, with imprints of the documents in the Abbey Archives, the ten-volume textbook on Cursus Theologicus Sangallensis from 1666/1670 and the commemorative Idea sacrae Congregationis Helveto-benedictinae from 1702.
Reference: Tremp

3.4 History/provenance

3.4.1 Introduction
The Abbey of Saint Gall is a monument of European history, which has existed for over a thousand years. During most of its existence it belonged to the leading monastic institutions north of the Alps, especially from the 8th to the 11th and from the 15th to the 18th centuries. By a stroke of good fortune, notwithstanding times of danger and inevitable losses, most of the contents of the Abbey Library and the Abbey Archives have been preserved and continually handed down for more than a thousand years. This is unique in Europe and very rare world-wide.

3.4.2 Abbey Archives
The history of the fonds of the Abbey Archives of Saint Gall has been described above and in Johannes Häne’s “Inventar des Stiftsarchivs St. Gallen” (Inventory of the Abbey Archives of Saint Gall), which appeared in 1898. The fonds nominated have their origins in the assertion of political rights, administrative acts or exchange of information by the Abbey of Saint Gall. Until the dissolution of the abbey, they were kept in the Abbey Archives or one of the administrative offices of the Abbey of Saint Gall.

After 1900, apart from the reappearance of individual papers, four large collections of archive material which had been thought lost were returned to the Abbey Archives of Saint Gall:

- In 1931, the so-called Zürcher Abteilung X archives were returned to the Abbey Archives of Saint Gall as part of an exchange agreement with the State Archives of the Canton of Zurich.
- 52 early medieval charters were taken from the Abbey Archives by the Baroque scholar Melchior Goldast (1578–1635) and ended up with the rest of his literary estate in the City Library of Bremen. However, in 1948 they were returned to the Abbey Archives and are nowadays easily identifiable by their reference codes StiASG, Urkk. Bremen 1–52.
- The 174 volumes which had been given to the Catholic Administration of the Canton of Saint Gall following the dissolution of the abbey were likewise returned to the Abbey Archives in 1948 as a deposit (StiASG, Depositum Katholische Administration, Bd. 57–215).
- In 1981, the Abbey of Einsiedeln gave the papers of the last Prince-Abbot of Saint Gall, Pankraz Vorster, as a deposit to the Catholic Administration of the Canton of Saint Gall, which transferred them in the same year to the Abbey Archives of Saint Gall (StiASG, Nachlass Pankraz Vorster).

3.4.3 Abbey Library
The history of the Abbey Library’s fonds has been described above and is found also in the history of the library written by Franz Weidmann in 1841. The fonds nominated have their origins in the monastic, liturgical, academic and cultural activities of the Abbey of Saint Gall. At the time of the dissolution of the abbey, they were located either in the library itself or in one of the abbey’s special subsidiary libraries. As far as the printed works are concerned, for which no index existed in 1805, the nominated fonds has been pragmatically defined (see above).
Recently, apart from the reappearance of individual papers, the following items were returned to the Abbey Library:

- 40 manuscripts from the Central Library in Zurich. These had been retained in Zurich since 1712 and were returned to the Abbey Library of Saint Gall as a permanent deposit in 2006. The Central Library of Zurich has declared its approval of the nomination of these items for entry in the International Memory of the World Register.

- 5 single-print sheets from the collection of the monk Gallus Kemli of Saint Gall. Three of these (Nos. 30, 39 and 40) were acquired by the Abbey Library of Saint Gall in 2015/16. The other two were returned to the Abbey Library of Saint Gall as a permanent deposit. No. 2 (returned in 2016) is the property of the Gottfried Keller Foundation and No. 9 (returned in 2015) is privately owned.

- 3 manuscripts of the 1st half of the 18th century, as permanent deposit of the Dominican monastery of Saint Catherine in Wil (Cod. Sang. 2137, 2138, 2139), in May 2016.

### 4.0 Legal information

#### 4.1 Owner of the documentary heritage (name and contact details)

##### 4.1.1 Abbey Archives

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<tr>
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##### 4.1.2 Abbey Library

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##### 4.1.3 Owners of the deposits in the Abbey Library

For written agreements see Appendix 4

##### 4.1.3.1 Zentralbibliothek Zürich

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Zentralbibliothek Zürich</td>
<td>Zähringerplatz 6, 8001 Zürich</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Telephone</th>
<th>Fax</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>+41 44 268 31 00</td>
<td>+41 44 268 32 04</td>
<td><a href="mailto:susanna.bligenstorfer@zb.uzh.ch">susanna.bligenstorfer@zb.uzh.ch</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Address</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bischof von St. Gallen</td>
<td>Klosterhof 6b, 9000 St. Gallen</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Telephone</th>
<th>Fax</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>+41 71 227 33 40</td>
<td>+41 071 227 33 41</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kanzlei@bistum-stgallen.ch">kanzlei@bistum-stgallen.ch</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4.1.3.3 Dominikanerinnenkloster St. Katharina, Wil

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dominikanerinnenkloster St. Katharina</td>
<td>Klosterweg 7, 9500 Wil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone</td>
<td>Fax</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+41 71 911 46 47</td>
<td>+41 071 911 46 47</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4.1.3.4 Gottfried Keller-Stiftung, Bern

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gottfried Keller-Stiftung</td>
<td>Hallwylstrasse 15, 3003 Bern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone</td>
<td>Fax</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+41 58 463 82 71</td>
<td>+41 58 463 82 15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4.1.3.5 Dr. Urs Rolf Engel, St.Gallen

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sandrainstrasse 6, 9010 St.Gallen</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4.2 Custodians of the documentary heritage (name and contact details if different from the owner)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Peter Erhart</td>
<td>Regierungsgebäude, 9001 St.Gallen, Switzerland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone</td>
<td>Fax</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+41 58 229 38 23</td>
<td>+41 58 229 38 15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cornel Dora</td>
<td>Klosterhof 6d, Postfach, 9004 St. Gallen, Switzerland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone</td>
<td>Fax</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+41 71 227 34 28</td>
<td>+41 71 227 34 18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4.3 Legal status

4.3.1 Introduction
After the dissolution of the Princely Abbey of Saint Gall the collections of the Abbey Archives and the Abbey Library were given into the keeping of the new canton (founded in 1803) and the Catholic Administration of the Canton of Saint Gall (founded in 1813).

4.3.2 Abbey Archives
Today, the archives of the Abbey of Saint Gall, are jointly administered by the abbey’s two legal successors: the Canton of Saint Gall (secular administration) and the Catholic Administration of the Canton of Saint Gall (ecclesiastical administration). On 14 June 1822 the council of the Canton of Saint Gall came to the following decision in answer to an application submitted by the Catholic Administration council: In der wohlthätigen Absicht, den im Stiftsarchiv enthaltenen Reichtum historischer und statistischer Materialien für alle Folgezeit vollständig und unversehrt zu erhalten […:] Das alte, aus den Zeiten des fürstlich st.gallischen Stiftes herrührende und bis zu dessen Auflösung reichende Archiv soll für den Staat und für die katholische Administration ein gemeinschaftliches, untrennbares und unveräußerliches Eigentum verbleiben. (“With the charitable intention of preserving for posterity the wealth of historical and statistical material contained in the Abbey Archives in complete and undamaged condition […] the old Abbey Archives, which date from the times of the Prince-Abbots of Saint Gall until the dissolution of the abbey are to remain the joint, indivisible and inalienable property of the state and of the Catholic Administration.”) Based on this statement, an Agreement concerning Ownership and Administration of the Abbey Archives of Saint Gall was reached on 2 June 1953 (sGS 271.3: http://www.gesetzessammlung.sg.ch/frontend/versions/1682).

Part of the book collection of the Abbey Archives of Saint Gall (StiASG, Depositum Katholische Administration, Bd. 57–215) as well as the papers left by the last Prince-Abbot of Saint Gall, Pankraz Vorster (StiASG, Nachlass Pankraz Vorster) are solely owned by the Catholic Administration of the Canton of Saint Gall. The books and the papers of Pankraz Vorster were given as a deposit to the Abbey Archives in 1948 and 1981 respectively.

4.3.3 Abbey Library
The Catholic Administration of the Canton of Saint Gall (address: see above) is an organization of public right. As legal successor to the Abbey of Saint Gall since 1813, it is the owner of the Abbey Library and its collection. The Abbey Library is administered by the Director of the Abbey Library, who is supervised by the Commission of the Abbey Library and the Administration Council, the latter being the executive of the Catholic Administration.

Legal documents:
- Regulations of the Abbey Library of Saint Gall dated 8 February 2011.

Agreement of deposit owners (see attached documents and loan agreements):
The following owners have agreed that their deposits in the Abbey Library may be included in the documentary heritage of the Abbey of Saint Gall and be part of this application:
- Zentralbibliothek Zürich: 40 manuscripts belonging to the Central Library of Zurich, which have been deposited in the Abbey Library of Saint Gall as a permanent loan since 2006: the Stiftung Zentralbibliothek Zürich (address: Zähringerplatz 6, 8001 Zürich) is the owner of these 40 manuscripts and has agreed to their inclusion.
- Bishop of Saint Gall: 46 incunabula and early prints (in 34 volumes) as permanent loans to the Abbey Library since 1930. The bishop has agreed to their inclusion.
- Dominikanerinnenkloster St. Katharina, Wil: three manuscripts going back to the first half of the 18th century (Cod. Sang. 2137, 2138 and 2139) that were deposited as permanent loans in the Abbey Library in Mai 2016. The prioress has agreed to their inclusion.
- Gottfried Keller-Stiftung: one 15th century woodcut Geburt Jesu und Verkündigung an die Hirten, which has been deposited in the Abbey Library of Saint Gall as a permanent loan since 2016: the Gottfried Keller Foundation (address: Bundesamt für Kultur, Kunstsammlungen des Bundes,
Gottfried Keller-Stiftung, Hallwylstrasse 15, 3003 Bern) is the owner of the single-sheet print mentioned and has agreed to its inclusion.

- Dr. Urs Rolf Engel: one 15th century woodcut Christus am Ölberg, which has been deposited in the Abbey Library of Saint Gall as permanent loan since 2015: Dr. Urs Rolf Engel (address: Sandrainstrasse 6, 9010 St. Gallen) is the owner of the single-sheet print mentioned and has agreed to its inclusion.

For the written agreements see Appendix 4.

### 4.4 Accessibility

Access restrictions are concerned exclusively with conservation matters.

Both collections are accessible for scholarly research according to standards applied elsewhere in similar institutions. Rare and valuable documents can be viewed in the reading rooms of the Abbey Archives and the Abbey Library subject to current regulations. In the interests of conservation, the viewing of rare documents requires special authorization from the administration of these institutions. It is possible to order originals during opening hours on working days the whole year round.

Nowadays, many of the items in these two collections can also be consulted in printed or electronic form and in facsimile editions.

Virtual access to the documents kept in the Abbey Archives is possible via the portal www.monasterium.net or the online inventory of the Abbey Archives at http://scope.stiftsarchiv.sg.ch. In addition, all the maps and plans kept in the Abbey Archives are now available online.

For scholars worldwide and the general public the manuscript collection of the Abbey Library is made accessible by e-codices, which is highly valued as a model for providing access to a manuscript collection of this character and quality. The Abbey Library co-founded the e-codices portal in 2004 and is known as an international pioneer in this field. At present, some 600 manuscripts in excellent quality, together with information and sources, can be consulted free of charge at www.e-codices.ch.

Since the middle of the 20th century the Abbey Library has organized annual and thematised special exhibitions with items from its collection in the famous Baroque hall. These exhibitions are held for the benefit of a wider public, including many tourists from all over the world. Drawing around 120,000 visitors each year, they are among the most-visited exhibitions of their kind in Switzerland. Since 2015, two special exhibitions have been held per year. In addition, the Abbey Library plays host to numerous scholars and seminars every year, enabling people to familiarize themselves with the most famous and important items in the collection.

In 2006, 2010 and 2014, the Abbey Archives organized three exhibitions of original documents. Every year, over 1,000 people join guided tours of the Abbey Archives to gain an insight into the collection.

### 4.5 Copyright status

Being more than two centuries old, there are no copyrights associated with the nominated documents of the Abbey Archives and the Abbey Library.

For the agreements granting non-exclusive rights see Appendix 6.
5.0 Assessment against the selection criteria

5.1 Authenticity.
The Abbey Archives and the Abbey Library collections are famous for their high degree of authenticity, since many of the manuscripts were written by the Saint Gall monks in the abbey’s chancellery and scriptorium. The two collections are closely interrelated. Thanks to careful archiving and cataloguing during the existence of the monastery and following the secularization of the abbey, the history of the inventories can be easily reconstructed.

5.2 World significance
The collections preserved in the Abbey Archives and the Abbey Library provide a unique and universal source for the reconstruction of local and European history. The documentary heritage preserved in the two institutions is the most important example of how monasteries contributed to the religious, cultural, social, political and economic development of Western Europe from the Early Middle Ages up to the time of secularization, around 1800. Both the collections contain numerous sources fundamental to Western cultural and spiritual history.
The historical transmission of the monastery in the Abbey Archives and the Abbey Library is of uniquely high quality. There is no monastic archive or library in Western Europe that holds an older or more important collection.
The nominated fonds are irreplaceable and their disappearance would constitute a terrible impoverishment of the heritage not only of Europe but of humanity.

5.3 Comparative criteria
The heritage nominated meets the requirements of all six of the proposed tests.

1 Time
The holdings of the Abbey Archives and the Abbey Library are significant witnesses to the cultural and institutional development of monasticism and monastic institutions in Western Europe. They shed light on periods in the history of Western Europe about which very little documentation is preserved elsewhere. Our knowledge about the conditions of life in the Early Middle Ages would be considerably restricted without these fonds.
For example, one charter in the Abbey Archives dating from 763 (Urk. I 28) provides the oldest evidence of the three-field crop rotation system, whilst another issued in 754 provides the oldest dated evidence of the existence of beer in the whole of the German-speaking area (Urk. Bremen 7). A charter dating from c. 744 provides the oldest evidence of a pilgrimage of a laywoman to Rome (Urk. Bremen 2).
The Abbey Library possesses many important texts from Western culture that are either unique, the earliest extant copy or the best extant copy, for example the Saint Gall monastery plan, the Benedictine Rule, valuable documents relating to the history of music, the oldest book in German, the oldest extant Vulgate fragments and much more (see above).
Numerous examples of Middle Latin or Old High German words are recorded only in the collections in the Saint Gall Abbey Library and Archives.
Many more points could be listed.

2 Place
The fonds preserved in the Abbey Archives and the Abbey Library have remained in their unique entirety in the same place up to this day. There are clear interconnections between the records and hagiographic and historiographic texts, many of which contain the oldest extant information on the history of local places. The fonds are important and irreplaceable for both the history of the wider region of Lake Constance and of Western European culture in general.
With the help of the expenditure logs, the abbot’s daily records, individual plans and other records (e.g. building agreements), as well as other descriptive cultural records in the Abbey Library, we can reconstruct the history of the development of the Abbey of Saint Gall, since 1983 a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Very few such building histories from the Early Middle Ages are so well documented as that of the Abbey of Saint Gall.
The first written evidence of the existence of over a thousand towns, villages and hamlets in Switzerland, Germany (Baden Wurttemberg, Bavaria), France (Alsace), Austria (Vorarlberg) and the Principality of Liechtenstein can be found in the records corpus at the Abbey of Saint Gall.

The hagiographic and historiographic works in the Abbey Library document the early history of the Lake Constance region in narrative and chronical form. The monastic histories by Ratpert, Ekkehart IV and their successors allow us to trace the development of Saint Gall diachronically, from the cell of the hermit Saint Gallus, through the various developmental stages of the monastery (including its buildings), up to the foundation of the town of Saint Gall and beyond. The biographies of the saints Gallus, Otmar and Wiborada preserved in the Abbey Library provide the monastery and region of Saint Gall with detailed original tales of people who had a profound influence on the identity of the monastery, town and wider region.

3 People
The Abbey of Saint Gall was part of the Carolingian renaissance from the 8th to 10th century and continued to be important in the regional context of Switzerland and Southern Germany up to its dissolution in 1805. Saint Gallus and his successors in the monastery were important agents in the Christianization of Southern Germany.

The Abbey of Saint Gall was one of the earliest centres of writing in Europe. Its archive and library fonds not only demonstrate how writing developed in Western Europe, they also document the evolution of practical and spiritual daily life in a major monastic community, its liturgical rituals, scientific, cultural, artistic, political and organizational activities and its network.

4 Subject and theme
The fonds in the Abbey Archives and the Abbey Library provide sources that allow us to reconstruct and study the political, religious, cultural and economic history of the Abbey of Saint Gall and its relations with the global powers, the papacy and the Holy Roman Empire. They give insight into how a monastic community, a princely abbey and its administrative bodies and courts developed over time, as well as into the local area, and how this was closely related to the historical development of Switzerland and indeed Europe over eleven centuries. The abbey’s scriptorium was one of the finest in Europe and skilled artisans from Saint Gall, such as Notker Balbulus and Tuotilo, produced art that spread all over Europe.

5 Form and style
The fonds preserved in the Abbey Archives and the Abbey Library document the use of writing and how it developed from the Early Middle Ages onwards. The early medieval records in the Abbey Archives are among the most important sources documenting the use of writing in a wide range of legal transactions and in various geographical and social contexts. In addition there are fonds of formal documents in the Abbey Library. Thanks to the richness of the Saint Gall archive of charters, it is possible to study the development and workings of the major chancelleries of the emperors, kings, popes and bishops in the Middle Ages and Early Modern Age.

The fonds in the Abbey Library document the development of the scriptorium at Saint Gall and, together with the fonds in the Abbey Archives, form a palaeographic corpus that is probably unique in terms of its scope and coherence. Some of the monks at the monastery were writers of both records and books. The parchment-making techniques and the use of this material can be traced through the whole of the medieval period.

As described in Section 3, the Abbey Library of Saint Gall houses important sources on many aspects of cultural development, for example on Late Antiquity, the flourishing of Irish culture in the Early Middle Ages, the story of monastic life, book art in the Early Middle Ages, the Bible, liturgy, music, law, medicine, German language and literature, the saints and general history.

6 Social/spiritual/community significance:
Thanks to its outstanding documentary heritage, which clearly demonstrates the considerable contribution made by the monasteries to the development of European culture, even after its secularization the Abbey of Saint Gall has remained to this day an important reminder of a religious monastic community and in particular of the Benedictine Order.

The hagiographic and liturgical works in the Abbey Library provide what is among the oldest and most valuable evidence in the Lake Constance area and beyond of the Christianization of Alemannia in the
Early Middle Ages. Just as Saint Gallus, whose writings are preserved in the Abbey Library, is
considered to be the “Apostle of Alemannia”, the Abbey of Saint Gall is seen as a place from which
Christianity and Western culture spread in Alemannia. Furthermore, the town of Saint Gall was a major
cultural centre in Western Europe for over 1,100 years.
The Abbey Library of Saint Gall receives about 120,000 visitors a year, young and old alike and from all
over the world. The records held in the Abbey Archives providing the first documentary evidence of
many places in the Lake Constance region allow towns and villages to celebrate anniversaries (e.g.
1,300 years, 1,250 years) and so contribute to the cultural identity and study of history
(academic/popular publications, festivals, excursions etc.).
Both the Abbey Archives and the Abbey Library display their collections to the public, organizing
exhibitions and running guided tours. They participate in the academic discourse in the form of
publications (e.g. the joint publication series *Monasterium Sancti Galli*), lectures and conferences.

6.0 Contextual information

6.1 Rarity
It is a stroke of good fortune that the contents of the Abbey Archives and the Abbey Library of Saint Gall
have remained so well preserved. This is a vast, self-contained collection of outstanding-quality
documentation covering the whole of the period from the founding of the Abbey of Saint Gall (around
720) until its dissolution (in 1805), which has been preserved at its original location.

6.2 Integrity
The integrity of the documentary heritage of the Abbey of Saint Gall is remarkable and unique. The
fonds of the Abbey Archives and the Abbey Library complement each other ideally.
In times of unrest and fires (Hungarian invasion in 926, fires in 937, 1314 and 1418, the Reformation in
1529, the War of Toggenburg from 1712 to 1718 or the revolutionary unrest from 1798 to 1805) the
archives and the library were usually put into safekeeping in good time. Many famous documents that
were removed from Saint Gall in the past (some were taken to Bremen or Zurich, for example) have
meanwhile been restored to the Abbey Archives and the Abbey Library and are also part of the
nominated fonds.