

Abstract: A hitherto unknown gothic book cover of cut leather, formerly Cod. 4 (rot) of the monastic library of Göttweig, and the Masters of the Leaf Ornaments

A hitherto unknown gothic book cover of cut leather (cuir-ciselé) has been identified as remains of former cod. 4 (rot) from the library of the Benedictine abbey of Göttweig (Lower Austria). It belongs to a group of cut-leather book covers with leaf ornaments, produced in the 15<sup>th</sup> century for monasteries in Styria, Upper and Lower Austria. This group is examined critically, and further book covers are ascribed to it. Unlike originally assumed, they were produced not just by one artist referred to as „Master of the Leaf Ornaments“ but by several „Masters of the Leaf Ornaments“. The interpretation of letters on a book cover from Melk as meaning „Martinus ligator“, thought to be the name of one of these masters, is disproved and the alleged Martinus must be eliminated from the list of only six known masters working with cut leather.

Keywords: codicology; book cover; cut leather (cuir-ciselé); abbey of Göttweig; abbey of Melk; abbey of Heiligenkreuz

Schlagworte: Kodikologie; Bucheinband; Lederschnitt; Kloster Göttweig; Kloster Melk; Kloster Heiligenkreuz