

The Anni Winter Collection or: the miracle of the suitcase

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Introduction

On April 2 1971 auction house Graf Klenau¹ sold the 'Nachlass Winter' - which, according to Klenau, consisted of objects which Adolf Hitler had bequeathed to Frau Anni Brunner-Winter.

Hitler Guest Book Brings \$928

MUNICH, Germany (AP) - Adolf Hitler's guest book had been sold for \$928, the top price paid at a two-day auction of the Nazi leader's estate, the auctioneers reported Saturday.

The swastika-adorned book from Hitler's Munich household contains signatures of such prominent Nazis as Rudolf Hess, Heinrich Himmler and Joseph Goebbels. The book's buyer was not identified.

Sixty four other items, the bulk of Hitler's remaining possessions, were sold, a spokesman for the Graf Klenau von Klenowa auctioners said.

Most bidders were from the United States, Britain and France, with German collectors showing almost no interest in the property, the spokesman said.

Oxnard Press Courier, Oxnard (California, USA), Sunday April 4, 1971.

Anni Brunner-Winter or Anni Winter/Anny Winter², as she is also known, was the housekeeper/manager of Hitler's Munich apartment from 1929 until his death in 1945.

Numerous artefacts attributed to Hitler 'from her legacy' have been auctioned by auction house Graf Klenau and its successor Hermann Historica, as well as by auctions houses in the United States and the UK, since this first auction in 1971.

This raises some questions: are these artefacts authentic? How did Anni Winter get this material?

1 55. Auktion Waffen und Militaria. 2 April 1971. Sonderkatalog Nachlass Winter.

The 1971 address was: Graf Klenau OHG, Maximilianstrasse 32. Tel 08 11 / 22 22 82.

Postanschrift D-8 München 1 Postfach 122.

2 Baptized as Anna Schuller, born Pfellkofen, 'Kreis Regensburg', 27-02-1905. First married to Georg Winter. (ca. 1896-?). Second marriage in 1953 with Georg Brunner (1896 -?). She died in Munich, on 17-10-1970.

Sources: Birth certificate, issued 15-10-1946; marriage certificate Munich, issued 30-11-1953.

Anton Joachimsthaler. *Korrektur einer Biographie. Adolf Hitler 1908-1920*. Herbig, München, 1989. Page 260 and 287.

Paul Bruppacher. *Adolf Hitler und die Geschichte der NSDAP Teil 2: 1938 bis 1945*. Books on Demand, Norderstedt, 2013. (2de revised edition; first edition 2008). Page 632.

Munich, April 26, 1945 - Julius Schaub

At 26³ April 1945 Hitler's aide Julius Schaub arrived from Berlin in Hitler's Munich apartment, where he, acting on Hitler's orders, emptied the safe with Hitler's personal possessions. With these he traveled to Berchtesgaden, where he did the same with the content of the safe in Hitler's villa on the Obersalzberg. Then he burned all this material, except for a few architectural sketches, which were at the last moment stolen by Hitler's secretary Christa Schroeder.⁴

Anni Winter declared on November 6 1945⁵:

“Die sämtlichen Unterlagen aus der Wohnung hat Schaupp [= Julius Schaub] mitgenommen. In der Wohnung waren keine Akten. Ein den Teil der Sachen hat auch Hummel, der die rechte hand Bormanns war, an sich genommen. (...) Er hat sehr viel Privatzeug vom Führerbau an sich genommen.”

"All the documents from the apartment were seized by Schaupp [= Julius Schaub]. There were no files in the apartment. Hummel, who was Bormann's right-hand man, also took some of the stuff. (...) He took a lot of private stuff from the Führerbau. "

In this statement, given to *Geheimrat*⁶ Zentz for use in the Nuremberg Tribunal, she also stated that she hadn't seen Hitler since the summer of 1944, when she visited him on the Berghof (Berchtesgaden). Her last contact with him had been on New Year's Day 1945, by telephone.

3 According to Volker Ullrich, in *Adolf Hitler. Biographie. Die Jahre des Untergangs 1939-1945*. Band 2. S. Fischer Verlag GmbH, Frankfurt am Main, 2018. Page 636.

4 See also:

A. Joachimsthaler. *Korrektur einer Biographie. Adolf Hitler 1908-1920. Mit 67 Textabbildungen und 69 Fotos*. Herbig, [München], [1989]. Page 37-38.

[Christa Schroeder]. *Twaalf jaar bij Hitler. Confidenties van een particuliere secretaresse*. Vertaald en bewerkt door Albert Zoller. Met vele voor het eerst uitgegeven foto's en afbeeldingen van tekeningen van Hitler zelf. D.A. Daamen's Uitgeversmaatschappij N.V., 's -Gravenhage, MCML. 254p. Translated from the French. Original title: *Douze ans auprès Hitler*. Copyright René Juliard, Paris 1949.

Christa Schroeder. *Er war mein Chef*. Aus dem Nachlass der sekretärin von Adolf Hitler. Herausgegeben von Anton Joachimsthaler. Mit 90 Fotos. Langen / Müller, München / Wien, 1985. Page 213-214.

<https://archive.org/details/SchroederChrista1985-ErWarMeinChef/page/n231>

5 Frau Anni Winter. Nuremberg trial transcripts and documents from the collection of General William J. Donovan . Statement given to Geheimrat Zentz, Munich, 06-11-1945.

<http://lawcollections.library.cornell.edu/nuremberg/catalog/nur:00567>

6 Geheimrat - Secret Advisor. Title given to high state officials in Germany.

Berlin, April 29, 1945 - Hitler's last will

In his bunker in Berlin Hitler dictates his last will. It consists of two parts, his political as well as his personal last will. Underneath the relevant part of his personal last will, to which the forgery industry after 1967 regularly refers:

<p>"Zum Testamentsvollstrecker ernenne ich meinen treuesten Parteigenossen Martin Bormann.</p> <p>Er ist berechtigt, alle Entscheidungen endgültig und rechtsgültig zu treffen. Es ist ihm gestattet, alles das, was persönlichen Erinnerungswert besitzt, oder zur Erhaltung eines kleinen bürgerlichen Lebens notwendig ist, meinen Geschwistern abzutrennen, ebenso vor allem der Mutter meiner Frau und meinen, ihm genau bekannten treuen Mitarbeitern und Mitarbeiterinnen, an der Spitze meinen alten Sekretären, Sekretärinnen, Frau Winter, usw., die mich jahrelang durch ihre Arbeit unterstützten." (...)</p> <p>Signiert – Adolf Hitler, 29. April 1945.⁷</p>	<p>"I appoint my most loyal party comrade Martin Bormann as the executor of the will.</p> <p>He is entitled to make all decisions, to be final and juridical valid. He is allowed to give everything that has personal memory value, or will allow them to maintain a small middle-class life, to my brother and sisters, and above all to my wife's mother and my faithfully known and faithful co-workers, above all my secretaries, Ms. Winter, etc. who have supported me throughout the years with their work. " (...)</p> <p>Signed – Adolf Hitler, April 29, 1945.</p>
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Munich, April 30, 1945 - Anni Winter's flight

On this day the American Army conquers Munich. Only hours before American soldiers enter Hitler's apartment Anni Winter flees the building, where she had been living since 1929.⁸ As far as can be reconstructed she takes with her two suitcases. One filled with some Hitler artefacts, the other with her own personal belongings.⁹

⁷ <https://www.ns-archiv.de/personen/hitler/testament/testament-1945.php>

⁸ Despina Stratigakos. *Hitler at Home*. Yale University Press, 2017. Page 270.

⁹ In a series of interviews with Captain Musmanno and Miss Billig of the US Army in 1948, Anni Winter tells that she fled already on April 29, and that she returned in October 1945 to the Munich apartment, which she found virtually intact, with nothing looted. According to Winter she moved back in January 1946, which was by then totally looted and partially vandalized by Americans and Germans. According to Despina Stratigakos (in *Hitler at Home*, page 271-274, 276-277, 312) however, the looting started immediately after American forces had occupied the building. Winter, Anni, interviewed on March 30, 1948, April 28, 1948 and September 3, 1948. Miss Billig, interviewer on 09/03/1948, 03/30/1948, 04/28/1948; Captain Musmanno, interviewer on 03/30/1948. Box 2FF58, Interrogations of Hitler's Associates, 1947-1948, Musmanno Collection. Gumberg Library, Duquesne University. <http://digital.library.duq.edu:2012/cdm/compoundobject/collection/mussinter/id/1555/rec/64>

Berlin, April 30, 1945 - Hitler's suicide

Hitler committed suicide on approx 15.30 hrs. Hitler biographer Volker Ullrich, in *Adolf Hitler. Die Jahre des Untergangs* (2018), page 659:

At 17.40 hours, when Hitler's corpse was still burning, Martin Bormann sent a radio message to Dönitz, saying that he (Dönitz) was appointed as Hitler's successor and that a written confirmation was on its way to him. Bormann didn't tell Dönitz about Hitler's death. On the following morning, May 1 1945, Bormann telegraphed Dönitz, with the message that Hitler's will (which hadn't reached Dönitz) was in force. Still Dönitz wasn't told of Hitler's death. First at around 15.00 hrs he was told so.

At 22.36 hours May 1, 1945, Radio Hamburg announced the death of Hitler. Bormann, the executioner of the will, was by then a dead man too. He had died earlier that day, trying to escape from Berlin. It's presumed he killed himself.¹⁰

Munich, December 18, 1950 - Anni Winter arrested

That Anni Winter possessed Hitler artefacts was known since 1950, when she was arrested when she tried to sell the suitcase with Hitler objects. This arrest was made after the police was tipped off that Winter was about to sell Hitler artefacts. The Bavarian authorities suspected that Anni Winter had stolen these objects from the Hitler's Prinzregentenplatz apartment in 1945. Bavaria considered itself to be the heir of Hitler, and therefore to be the rightful owner of his legacy.

Winter however declared that Hitler had given her all the Hitler objects in her possession. If so, he must have done so before or during their last conversation, New Year's Day 1945.¹¹

Newspapers from all over the world reported about the arrest, the search in her house and the confiscation of the objects. Photo's of the seized objects were published too, so it is well known what exactly was in this suitcase.

¹⁰ Bormann remained missing until 1972, when his remains were found and identified.

¹¹ Frau Anni Winter. Nuremberg trial transcripts and documents from the collection of General William J. Donovan . Statement given to Geheimrat Zentz, Munich, 06-11-1945. Page 2.
<http://lawcollections.library.cornell.edu/nuremberg/catalog/nur:00567>

In the German magazine *Allgemeine Wochenzeitung der Juden in Deutschland* a very precise list was published¹²; in Anglo-Saxon and Dutch newspapers lists were also published, but a bit less precise. By comparing the German, the English and the Dutch lists and the photos, it is possible to reconstruct the content of the suitcase.

	(Source) Allgemeine Wochenzeitung der Juden in Deutschland, 22-12-1950	(Source) Articles in Anglo-Saxon and Dutch press
1.	Erkennungsurkunde Adolf Hitler zum Reichskanzler, datiert vom 30. Januar 1933, die ihm vom ehemaligen Reichspräsidenten von Hindenburg im Namen des Volkes überreicht wurde. Das 30 x 40 cm große Dokument	A document re. the appointment of Hitler as Reichskanzler signed by Hindenburg
2.	Hitlers Militärpaß aus dem 1. Weltkrieg mit sämtlichen Eintragungen seine Beförderungen, Verleihung des EK 1 und 2. Demobilisierung etc. bis zum 1. Lebensmittelkartenempfang in München und das dazugehörnde Soldbuch.	Some identity papers of Hitler: his WW1 Military passport, military pay book (WWI);
3	Hitlers Parteibuch mit der Nr. 1 das ihm nach Neugründung der NSDAP verliehen wurde und vom ehemaligen Reichsschatzmeister Schwarz und Hitler selbst als 1. Vorsitzenden , unterzeichnet wurde.	NSDAP Membership booklet
4.	Hitlers österreichischer Reisepaß, aus dem hervorgeht, daß er am 26. August 1923 in der Schweiz war, obwohl er unter eid vor Gericht behauptet hatte, niemals im Ausland gewesen zu sein.	Austrian passport
5.	Hitlers ADAC-Ausweis, sein Heimatschein, der er 16jährig. unterschrieben hat.	Heimatschein (Austrian identity paper); ADAC [automobile club] membership card
6.	Sechs goldene Parteiabzeichen, die Hitler persönlich getragen hat.	Six pins with a little eagle on top
7.	Drei Parteiabzeichen, die auf der Rückseite mit seinem Namen signiert sind.	Three NSDAP insignas with Hitler's name engraved (round ones) / Three swastika buttons or pins
8.	Fünf Skizzen und Aquarelle die Hitler selbst gezeichnet hat, und Skizzen über Bauwerke des Dritten Reiches	Three WW1 Hitler watercolors; ten drawings by Hitler (according to one source doodles Hitler had made during meetings) NB: Difference in German and English according to the different sources.
9.	Eine Anzahl Gratulationskarten zum Weihnachtsfest 1936/1937 mit der persönlichen Unterschrift Hitlers.	Ten (printed) congratulations cards signed by Hitler
10.	Verschiedene Bände "Mein Kampf" von Hitler persönlich gezeichnet.	5 copies of <i>Mein Kampf</i>
11.	Zwei signierte Fotografien von Hitler persönlich	Two photo's; one is definitely Adolf Hitler's father,

12 Persönliche Urkunden Hitlers beschlagnahmt. "Am 14 Dezember gelang es Beamten der Kriminalpolizei und der Staatsanwaltschaft München, einen außergewöhnlichen Fang zu machen. Nach Monatelangen Vorbereitungen konnten auf Veranlassung des Präsidenten des bayerischen Landesentschädigungsamtes, Dr. Philipp Auerbach, die gesamten persönlichen Dokumente und Urkunden Adolf Hitlers im Original beschlagnahmt werden. Die Dokumente, die in München zu einem Preis von 180.000 DM verkauft werden sollten, wurden wenige Minuten, bevor der endgültige Verkauf zustande kam, in der Wohnung der ehemaligen Haushälterin Hitlers sichergestellt.(...) *Allgemeine Wochenzeitung der Juden in Deutschland*, 22-12-1950.

		Alois Hitler Sr. The other is likely to be his mother.
12.	Ein Etui, ethaltend drei Medaillons mit dem Kopf Hitlers	Etui with three medal, next to Hitler's portrait.
13.	Ein Etui, enthaltend Hitlers Taschenuhr, auf der Rückseite mit "A.H." graviert, das Etui von dem damaligen Königl. Bayer. Hofjuwelier Lenbach stammend.	A watch
14.	Ein Lederetui, enthaltend seine Fotografie im Silberrahmen, vom Hitler gezeichnet.	A framed picture of Adolf Hitler; A leather document case
15.	Ein Band mit Hitler in Polen [= Heinrich Hoffmann. <i>Mit Hitler in Polen</i> . Zeitgeschichte Verlag, Berlin, 1939].	A book about the war in Poland with christmas wish by Hitler.
		Hitlers weapon license

Sources

Photo's of the confiscation, 1950

http://www.usmbooks.com/hitler_memorabilia.html

Photo's of the confiscation, 1950

<https://groenegraf.blogspot.com/2017/05/de-koffer-van-hitler.html>

– the man named there 'minister Philip Auerbach' was in reality 'state commissaris Phillip Auerbach (<https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/philipp-auerbach>) –he's depicted on one of the photos from 1950, which originate from the Süddeutsche Zeitung.

Van overal. *Het Vrije Volk*, Amsterdam (NL), 11-10-1950

<https://resolver.kb.nl/resolve?urn=ddd:010950563:mpeg21:a0019>

Goods owned by Hitler confiscated. *Newcastle Morning Herald and Miners Advocate* (Australia), 15-12-1950

Reuter - Huishoudster van Hitler gearresteerd. *De Telegraaf*, Amsterdam (NL), 15-12-1950.

<https://resolver.kb.nl/resolve?urn=ddd:110585226:mpeg21:a0103>

Hitler-Urkunden aufgefunden. Koffer mit dokumentarischem Nachlaß beschlagnahmt. N.Fr.Pr. [?, Germany], 15-12-1950.

Bid to sell Hitler relics. *Townsville Daily Bulletin* (Australia), 16-12-1950

Was Hitler sich aufgehoben hatte... *Welt am Sonntag* (Germany), 17-12-1950.

Persönliche Urkunden Hitlers beschlagnahmt. *Allgemeine Wochenzeitung der Juden in Deutschland*, [West-Berlin?], 22-12-1950.

Klaus Wiegrefe. Hitlers Nachlass. *Der Spiegel*, Hamburg, 52/2001, 22-12-2001.

<http://www.spiegel.de/spiegel/print/d-21057454.html>

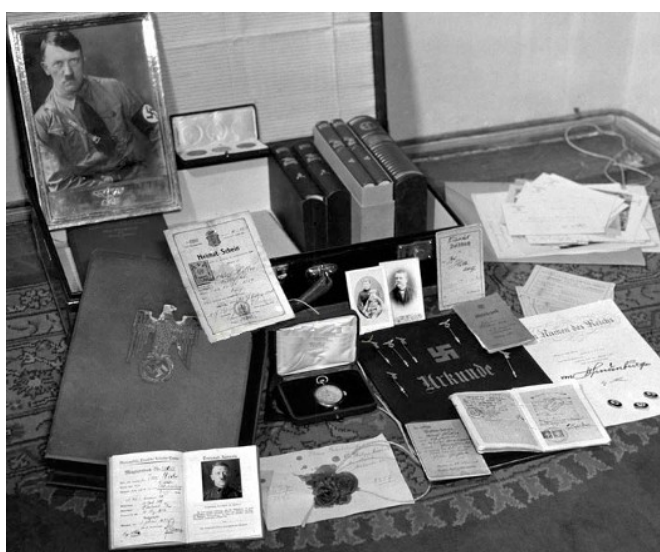


Photo from the suitcase, 1950

Munich, March 1954 - the verdict

After a long trial Anni Winter is handed back some of the Hitler objects from the suitcase, as it was established Hitler had indeed given these personally to her.¹³ The other objects remained confiscated and are part of Hitler's legacy, which is to this very day in custody of the Bayerische Hauptstaatsarchiv in Munich.

The state of Bavaria was convicted to pay 4/5 of the trial costs.¹⁴

These ten objects were handed back to Anni Winter

	5 copies of <i>Mein Kampf</i> A leather document case A book about the war in Poland ¹⁵ Three Hitler watercolors	
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An Australian newspaper reported about the handing back of the material: "Frau Anni promptly announced that she would sell her cherished legacy to buy a cafe."¹⁶

If she did so indeed, or if a reporter just made this up - we don't know. But given the fact that Anni Winter tried to sell all Hitler artefacts in her possession in 1950, it's more than likely she sold the objects handed back to her in or shortly after 1954.

According to certificates of authenticity 'issued in the 1960's' 'by Anni Winter', Landgericht I listed the items handed back to Winter, and confirmed these were her property in file nr. 9/0/265/53, dated March 10, 1954.¹⁷ Yet, as far as is known, nobody has ever seen this file.

13 Huishoudster van Hitler wint proces. *De Tijd*, Amsterdam (NL), 25-03-1954.
<https://resolver.kb.nl/resolve?urn=ddd:011203050:mpeg21:a0155>

14 *De Tijd*, 25-03-1954.

15 Heinrich Hoffmann. *Mit Hitler in Polen*. Zeitgeschichte Verlag, Berlin, 1939. Printed in huge numbers.

16 Hitler's last effects go. *Sunday Mail*, Brisbane, 11-04-1954.

17 A.o. 'Anny Brunner-Winter'. Bestätigung '1 lederne Braune Brieftasche' mit aufgesetztem gold[...] Adler und Buchstaben AH. München, 11-11-1968.

See: <http://www.droog-mag.nl/hitler/coa/winter/index.html> for photos of these CoAs.

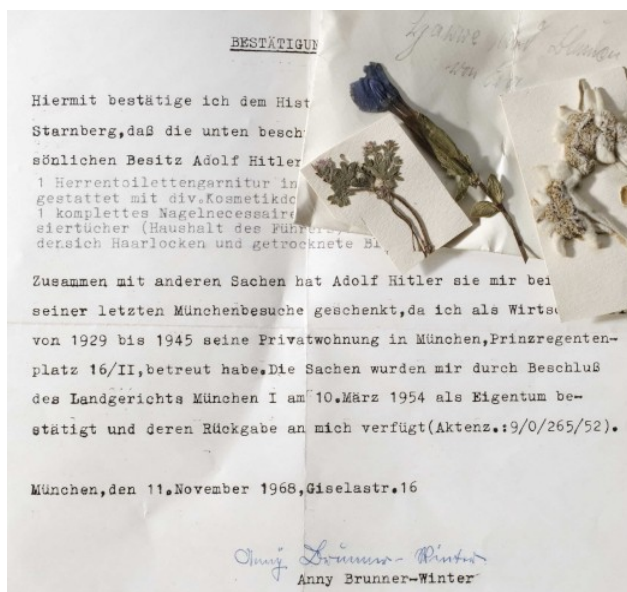
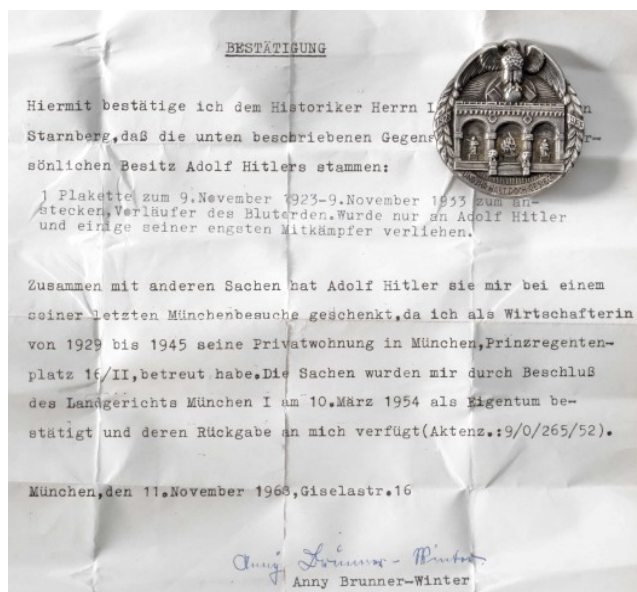
Munich, 1967-1969 - Anni Winter, CoA issuer

At least sixteen certificates of authenticity (CoA) issued by 'Anny Brunner-Winter' or 'Anny Winter-Brunner' to alleged Hitler artefacts, and dated in 1967-1969 exist.

If these were indeed issued by Anni Winter in those years or if these are forgeries from a later date, or if some of these are indeed issued by Mrs. Winter and others by forgers is a question that only forensic research of these certificates can answer.

Fact is that all of these certificates are of a highly dubious nature. Two of them, dated April 5, 1967, were written for Wolfgang Schulze von Mertschinsky - who was in the 1970's Konrad Kunjau's American agent.

Others are issued by material that is either clearly forged or wrongly attributed to Hitler. And some of these CoA have a strange composition, with a standard first and third alinea, apparently typed on one typewriter, and with the second alinea, describing the object, apparently typed on a different typewriter. Like this:



In text:

Hiermit bestätige ich dem Historiker
Herrn Dr. Henry Picker in Starnberg, daß
die unten beschriebenen Gegenstände
aus dem persönlichen Besitz Adolf Hitler

I hereby confirm to the historian
Herr Dr. Henry Picker in Starnberg,
that the items described below
come from the personal property of

stammen:

Adolf Hitler:

[Beschreibung Gegenstand]

[Description item]

Zusammen mit anderen Sachen hat Adolf Hitler sie mir bei einem seiner letzten Münchenbesuche geschenkt, da ich als Wirtschafterin von 1929 bis 1945 seine Privatwohnung in München, Prinzregentenplatz 16/II, betreut habe. Die Sachen wurden mir durch Beschluß des Landsgerichts München I am 10.März 1954 als Eigentum bestätigt und deren Rückgabe an mich verfügt (aktenz.: 9/0/265/52).

Together with other things, Adolf Hitler gave it these to me on one of his last visits to Munich, because I looked as housekeeper after his private apartment in Munich, Prinzregentenplatz 16/II from 1929 to 1945. The item was confirmed to be my property and returned to me by decision of the Landgericht München I on March 10, 1954 (reference: 9/0/265/52).

München, [date] 1968, Giselastr. 16

Munich, [date], Giselastr. 16

It's remarkable that in these certificates it is stated that the items were given to her by Hitler on one of his last visits to Munich, which must have been before July 1944.¹⁸

Given the nature of these items - amongst others his medals and daily utensils as his mustache brush and mustache net, it is highly unlikely that Hitler would have given these to anybody in or before 1944.

Some auctioneers state that Hitler bequeathed in his last will specific items to Anni Winter.¹⁹ Which is complete nonsense, as the last will shows. Even if he would have done so, the executioner of the will, Martin Bormann, neither had the opportunity or possibility to give any item from Hitler's Munich apartment to Anni Winter after Hitler's death.

Another auction house invented this fairy tale, "At war's end, Winter managed to cache a number of Hitler's personal possessions, much of which was never discovered by the authorities,"²⁰ as explanation were all these alleged Hitler items came from.

18 Frau Anni Winter. Nuremberg trial transcripts and documents from the collection of General William J. Donovan . Statement given to Geheimrat Zentz, Munich, 06-11-1945. Page 2.

19 For instance auction house Hermann Historica, description lot 7259, auction April 15, 2010. "Hitler gave her several objects during his lifetime and left her other pieces in the will he wrote in April 1945."

20 Basil (Bill) Panagopulos. Alexander Historical Auctions. Description of lot 0001, 'Adolf Hitler presentation photograph. December 19, 2017.

https://www.liveauctioneers.com/item/58239841_adolf-hitler-presentation-photograph

It's however highly unlikely that Mrs. Winter managed to 'rescue' more than one suitcase filled with Hitleriana from Hitler's Munich apartment.

The authenticity of the objects

There's absolutely no proof that any of the 'authentic' Hitler items to which Anni Winter (or forgers claiming to be her) issued certificates of authenticity are indeed what these certificates claims they are.

Some of the items might originate from the Nazi era, but no evidence exists that they were once in the possession of Hitler. Some other of these items are very likely to be post 1945 forgeries.

Munich, September 30, 1970 - Anni Winter's testament

In 2012, Hermann Historica auctioned a document²¹ that was allegedly Anni Winter's testament. Dated September 30, 1970, it was made by the Munich notary Levin von Wulffen, Lenbachplatz 5/V, 'Urkunde Rolle Nr. 232/1970.

We've only seen the first page of this testament, which raises one number of questions.

We do know that this notary really existed, and worked in Munich from 1970 1999. His 'Urkunden-Archiv is anno 2019 in the possession of notary Ingrid Diller-Bauer, Residenzstrasse 23, 80333 Munich.²²

But this testament looks rather strange; in it the name 'Anni Bauer' was typed, then the word 'Bauer' was crossed out, and replaced by a handwritten word, 'Brunner'. Also, only the first page was shown by the auctioneer - so we don't have any idea what her last will actually was - *if* this document is genuine.

See Appendix II.

Munich, October 17, 1970 - Anni Winter's death

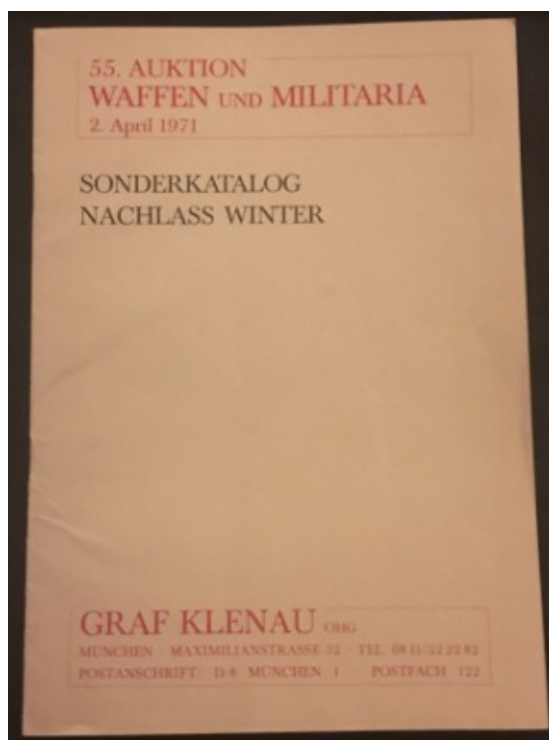
Anni Winter dies on October 17, 1970, age 65.²³

21 Auction 65r, lot # 5177.

22 Verwahrstelle Urkunden in M. Bundesnotarkammer, Deutschland. [Seen 22-03-2019].
https://www.notar.de/suchergebnis?active_search=urkunden&city=M&page=97

23 Paul Bruppacher. *Adolf Hitler und die Geschichte der NSDAP Teil 2: 1938 bis 1945*. Books on Demand, Norderstedt, 2013. (2de revised edition; first edition 2008). Page 617.

Munich, April 2, 1971 - Anny Winter's legacy auction



Auction house Klenau von Klenowa, an auction house with a rather dubious background²⁴, organizes the '55th Auction of Arms and Militaria', with a special Anny Winter legacy catalog.²⁵

The auction is lead by Tyra 'Imperial Countess von Klenau zu Klenowa' and her son Arnhard. The Countess runs this company after her husband, Erich Count von Klenau, died in a car crash in 1969.

The German nobility frowns at the use of this title, since the last Count von Klenau died without heirs in 1846.

At least Hitler 56 items were sold²⁶ (it is yet unknown how many items were offered). Which is rather strange, as Winter only had gotten back 10 Hitler items in 1954. Amongst the auctioned items were:

- #1603 - Christmas card from Hitler to Winter, 1930.
- #1620 -A draft of a speech by Hitler.
- #1622 - Piece of paper with shopping notes - 200 DM.
- #1646 - Book: *München - Vom Wesen einer deutschen Stadt*. Published by Oberbürgermeister Fiehler, München, undated.
- #1648 - Picture of Adolf Hitler in silver frame ("Huftbild im Braunhemd und Silberrahmen) - 2600 DM (possibly the same as auctioned in 2015).
- #1649 - Hitler in Berghof, 1932 - 550 DM.
- #1650 - Edelsteinbesetzte Platin-Anstecknadel in Form des Hoheitsadlers.
- #? - Anny Winter's guestbook dotted with swastika's with signatures of famous Nazis - 3400 DM.
- #? - War loan certificate - 900 DM.
- #? - Card with remarks from Hitler to Frau Winter.
- #? - Membership card of Adac (German motorcar drivers associaton) - 1000 DM.
- #? - Several books (by other authors than Hitler).
- # ?- Several medals.
- #? - A wallet of ostrich-skin - 800 DM / \$665.
- #? - Collar buttons.

24 Founded in the 1960's by Erich Hübner alias Erich Graf von Klenau von Klenowa, 1902-1969), who started his career as a safecracker and a swindler. He gained the 'Graf' (count) title in very suspect circumstances in 1946. Van den Born & Droog. Graf Klenau/Hermann Historica Research project, 2019. Unpublished.

25 Nachlass 55. Auktion Waffen und Militaria. 2 April 1971. Sonderkatalog Nachlass Winter. The 1971 address was: Graf Klenau OHG. Maximilianstrasse 32. Postanschrift D-8 München 1 Postfach 122.

26 Hitler Guest Book Brings \$928. *Oxnard Press Courier*, Oxnard (California, USA), 04-04-1971.



Photo of auctioned photos, belonging to *Time* article. Pay special attention the left bottom photo: Bernile Nienau and Hitler at the Obersalzberg. Winter was the housekeeper of the Munich apartment. It is highly unlikely she even knew the child.

"Here I have a cue card for an early Hitler speech," the auctioneer announced in his nasal Bavarian accent. "The words that Hitler penciled on it repeat the pattern to be followed in his harangue: 'November 1918 - Criminals - The Political Situation Today - Our Irrevocable Demands - The Coming Elections - Our Candidates - Our Tactics - The Jews.'" Bidding in the stuffy auction room on Munich's fashionable Maximilianstrasse started briskly. The scruffy cue card was quickly knocked down to a broker acting on behalf of a British collector. Price: \$545.

Next came Hitler's ostrich-skin wallet, which was stuffed with 37 pictures, two negatives of Eva Braun and a free ticket to a 1927 high school dance in Linz, Austria. A broker bought it for a Texas oilman. The price: \$665. An autographed Hitler portrait went for \$670. Hitler's 1927 membership card in an automobile club fetched \$270. An elderly German paid \$130 for a short shopping list

²⁷ Courtesy Sven-Felix Kellerhoff, Welt.

(vegetable soup and cognac) that *der Führer* had written out for Munich's famed Dallmayr delicatessen.

Esoteric Impulses

All told, the Munich auction last week sold some five dozen Hitler souvenirs, all of them from the estate of the late Anny Winter, who was Hitler's housekeeper from 1929 to 1945. Anny's ardor for collecting just about anything Hitler touched netted her grandnephews a windfall of \$16,400.

Collectors and souvenirhunters have always been inspired by strange and esoteric impulses. A lock of Napoleon's hair, which even Josephine would not have given a sou for, can today fetch upwards of \$200. A frying pan used by Britain's "Great train Robbers" when they were hiding out in a Midlands farmhouse in 1963 recently went for \$120. Even so, the mania for Hitleriana is an especially puzzling phenomenon. In the past year, sales of Third Reich mementos have begun to rise sharply. A few of the collectors are old diehard Nazis like a former SS Gruppenführer who has a private museum in his Munich home. But young Germans are turned off by the craze for souvenirs of Adolf. The French put a quick end to the collection of Hitleriana by outlawing the trade in Third Reich relics.

Peculiar Types

The largest group of collectors is American. Munich auctioneer Count Arnhard Klenau von Klenova, who conducted last week's sale, claims to know of at least 200 American collectors. In his Hollywood home, Bob Hope has books with Hitler's name plate, several sheets of Hitler's personal stationery and a porcelain dinner plate inscribed "*Kanzlei des Führers*" (Führer's Chancellery), which Hope acquired while entertaining troops. The west Pint archives, says the count, are also searching for relics. "Though I personally know only a very small portion of our regular customers," adds Klenau, "I'm convinced that they are not collecting for political reasons. I look at them as affluent, elderly, admittedly somewhat peculiar types who have an urge to get close to history."

West German Psychologist Julia Mueller, author of a book on German youth problems, disagrees. "The main reason for the attraction seems to me to be the almost inconceivable obscenity with which the Nazis did everything," says she. "This, in an age where pornography has become emasculated by overexposure, may offer itself as a quite successful substitute for the feelings pornography aimed to arouse."

Further sources on auction 1971

Dertig mille voor voorwerpen Hitler. *Het Parool*, Amsterdam, 03-04-1971.

<https://resolver.kb.nl/resolve?urn=ABCDDD:010836353:mpeg21:a0217>

Hannelore Schutz. Deutsche haben von Hitler genug. *AZ*, [German newspaper], 05-04-1971,
Gastenboek van Hitler voor DM 3400. *De Tijd*, Amsterdam, 05-04-1971.

<https://resolver.kb.nl/resolve?urn=ddd:011235792:mpeg21:a0087>

Gemeldet aus Absurdistan. *Rheinischer Merkur*, Bonn, 10-04-1971.

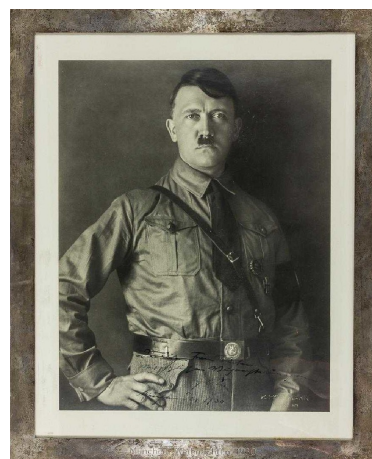
The framed pictures of Hitler



1. Framed photo of Hitler, in Winter's suitcase, 1950



2. Supposedly same framed photo of Hitler, on Hermann Historica auction, 2015



3. Supposedly same framed photo of Hitler, on Alexander Historical Auctions, 2017

It is a fact that Anni Winter owned in 1950 a photo of Hitler in a silver frame. It was one of the items which was confiscated. It is also a fact that this particular item was not handed back to her in 1954.

Yet, on the 1971 Graf Klenau auction a photo of Hitler in a silver frame, from the legacy of Anni Winter, was sold for 2,600.- DM.²⁸ It is obvious that this must have been another object than the Winter's framed Hitler photo confiscated in 1950.

Unfortunately we don't know how the object sold in 1971 exactly looked like. It might be the same as was sold in 2015 in Munich, or possibly the same as was sold in 2017 in Chesapeake. Or it might be a completely different one.

All we know is that none of the framed Hitler photos 'from the legacy of Anni Winter' is the same as was in her possession from the moment she stole it out of Hitler's apartment in April 1945 until it was confiscated from her in December 1950.

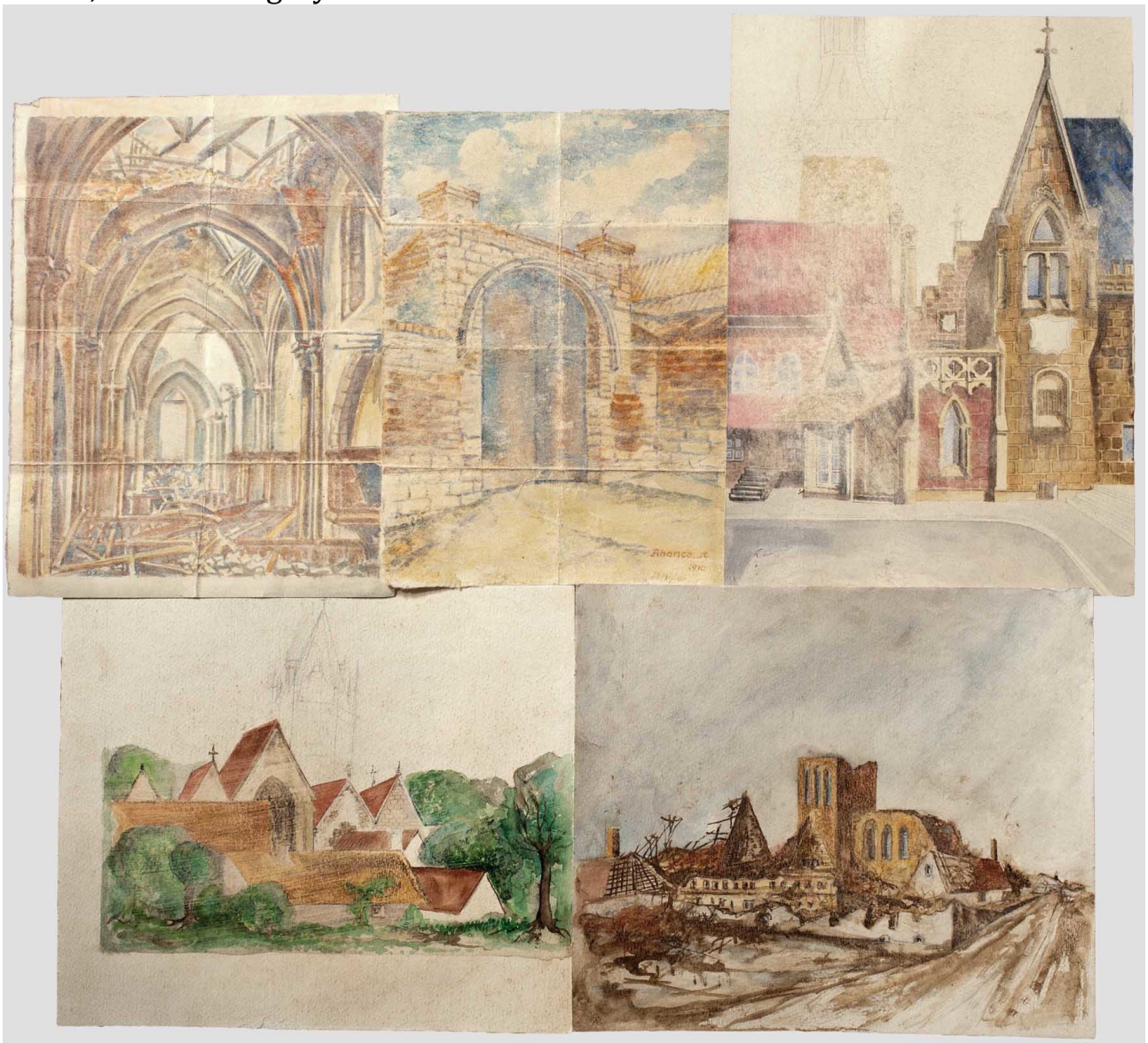
²⁸ Hitler hoog in veiling. De Volkskrant, Amsterdam, 05-04-1971.
<https://resolver.kb.nl/resolve?urn=ABCDDD:010848720:mpeg21:a0209>

Winter's Hitler watercolors?

It is a fact that in 1950 at least three watercolors, allegedly made by Hitler, were confiscated from Anni Winter. It is also a fact that three of these watercolors were returned to her.

Unfortunately, we don't know what was depicted on these watercolors. Nor what happened to these after 1954 - as these were not amongst the objects auctioned at the 1971 auction.

In 2012 auction house Hermann Historica sold at auction 64r these five watercolors, 'from the legacy of Anni Winter':



These were bought by the American collector Kenneth W. Rendell.

At the same auction, in the same lot, also 'Hitler's sketchbook', 'Hitler' drawings and some bills of of Munich shop for painting materials were sold.

In another lot Hitler's painting attributes were sold (paint boxes, pencils, ink, etc, were offered:



This lot was also bought by Rendell. There exists no evidence at all that any of these items were made by Hitler or were once his property.



Exhibited in the US based International Museum of World War II as genuine Hitler artefacts

Yet in Rendell's private museum, the International Museum of World War II²⁹ in Natick, Massachusetts (USA), all these materials are exhibited as authentic Hitler items.

²⁹ <https://museumofworldwarii.org/>

Objects from Anni Winter's 1971 legacy

As far as can be reconstructed none of the items 'from the legacy of Anni Winter' auctioned in 1971 were in Winter's possession in 1950.

Some of these objects - especially the books, but possibly also other items, -did originate from the Nazi era. But if any of these once belonged to Hitler is highly questionable.

After 1971 more and more objects surfaced 'from the legacy of Anni Winter'. A few of these items are very likely to be authentic (some personal documents from Anni Winter). But all other allegedly genuine Hitler artefacts 'from her legacy'? As none of these objects were handed back to her in 1954, all must be considered as either forgeries or wrongly attributed to Hitler.

Myth

A favorite myth amongst Nazi memorabilia collectors is that Anni Winter plundered Hitler's belongings well before April 30, 1945 and kept these hidden for many years, which explains how she possessed this huge Hitler objects collection in the 1960's.

Yet, no evidence exists to corroborate this story.

What's more likely

The certificates of authenticity issued by Anni Winter in the 1960's - if these were indeed issued by her - seem to point to this:

- Anni Winter helped in the 1960's one or more forgers, by issuing fraudulent certificates of authenticity to objects which were never in Hitler's possession.
- Forgers used her name to sell forged Hitler objects, possibly with her consent.
- Auctioneers abused/are abusing her name to sell forged Hitler artefacts.
- It's more than likely that Anni Winters sold all items which were confiscated from her in 1950 and given back in 1954, shortly after these were returned to her.

Conclusion and questions

It is clear that most objects 'from the legacy' of Anni Winter are either forgeries, fantasy items or objects wrongly attributed to Hitler. Because of this, every 'Hitler'-object allegedly originating from Anni Winter must be considered to be a forgery, unless the authenticity and provenance can be proven for 100%.

We know she was handed back 10 Hitler objects in 1954. We may assume these objects are authentic:

5 copies of *Mein Kampf*
A leather document case
A book about the war in Poland
Three Hitler watercolors

What happened to these objects after 1954 is unknown. As far as is known, these were not amongst the objects auctioned in 1971.

Questions

What is true about Winter's statement (in several CoAs allegedly issued by her in the 1960's), about the existence of file nr. 9/0/265/53, dated March 10, 1954, Landgericht I, Munich?

What was depicted on these three watercolors and where are they now?

What was the content of Anni Winter's testament, d.d. September 30, 1970? Was this testament authentic or a forgery?

What were the names of Anni Winter's alleged 'grandnephews', who were the consignors of 'her legacy' of the auction in 1971? Were they really her grandnephews? Or were they ordinary swindlers? Or both?

Conclusion

Whatever the answers might be, the Anni Winter case is a good example how twisted the trade in alleged Hitler artefacts is.

Jaap van den Born and Bart FM Droog, Nijmegen / Eenrum, March 2019

Appendix I - Personal papers Anni Winter



Personal papers Anni Winter, auctioned by Hermann Historica, auction 59r, 2010. Believed to be authentic. Photo left bottom: Anni Winter and her lawyer, 1954.

Appendix II - Anny Winter's testament

Urk. Rolle Nr. W/1970
Vom 30. September 1970 BÖ.

5/2

VI 8431/70 1. Dez. 1970
Eröffnet am
Amtsgericht München

[Signature]
Rechtspfleger

URNr. 232 W/1970

T e s t a m e n t

Heute, den dreißigsten September
neunzehnhundertsiebzig,
-30. September 1970-
begab ich,

Levin von W u l f f e n ,
Notar mit dem Amtssitz in München, Geschäftsstelle in
München 2, Lenbachplatz 5/V, mich auf Ansuchen in die
Becker-Klinik in München, Seestraße 12, wo ich im Zim-
mer Nr. 35 im dritten Stockwerk antraf:

Brumme
Frau Anna B a u e r, geborene Schuller
Kaufmannswitwe in München 23, Giselastraße 16/I, der-
zeit in der Becker-Klinik in München, Seestraße 12,
Zimmer 35/III,
ausgewiesen durch *von der Holten Dessepan*
Die Erschienene liegt zwar krank zu Bette, ist aber wie
ich mich durch die mit ihr geführte Verhandlung über-
zeugt habe, voll geschäfts- und testierfähig. Sie erklär-
te vor mir, Notar, ein Testament errichten zu wollen.
Die Zuziehung von Zeugen war weder geboten, noch er-
wünscht, so daß diese unterblieb. Sodann beurkundete
ich ihren letzten Willen, den sie mir persönlich und
mündlich mit dem Ersuchen um Beurkundung bekanntgab,
wie folgt:

I.

Ich wurde am 27. Februar 1905 in Pfaffenhofen
Standesamt Pfaffenhofen als Tochter von
Oskar und Luise Schuller, geb. Altschäffle
geboren. Ich war verheiratet mit Georg Brumme
der bereits verstorben ist. Ich bin deutsche Staatsan-

*1 Pfaffenhofen
Ks. Regensburg
f.d.G.
K. Brumme,
München*

Hermann Historica, Auction 65r, 2012. #5177.

Appendix III - Fairy tales by auction houses and a museum

Hermann Historica, Munich (Germany), April 15, 2010:

"Hitler gave her [Anni Winter] several objects during his lifetime and left her other pieces in the will he wrote in April 1945. When Anny Winter began to sell some of the items to American collectors in 1950 to supplement her meager income as a tailor, the State of Bavaria raised property claims. The verdict was made in 1954 and ordered that a large number of objects were to be returned to Anny Winter. She sold most of the items until her death in 1970, the remaining pieces were offered in Graf Klenau's (predecessors of Hermann Historica) "Sonderkatalog Nachlass Winter" and sold in the subsequent auction in Munich in 1971."

Source: <https://www.invaluable.com/auction-lot/drittes-reich-zeitgeschichte-anny-winter-persoe-7259-c-b395bf9e76#>

Malcolm Claridge, Dreweatts Auctioneers, Bristol, UK, November 2011:

"After Hitler and Eva Braun committed suicide in 1945, his housekeeper Anny Winter removed a lot of personal items from his Prinzregentstrasse apartment for safekeeping to save them from looters.

Anny was Hitler's housekeeper for 16 years from 1929 to 1945 and in recent years, a lot of Hitler's personal possessions have begun to surface on the auction market - particularly in Germany."

Source: Matt Quinton. *The Sun*, London, 23-11-2011.

<https://www.thesun.co.uk/archives/news/929277/hitlers-bedsheets-to-fetch-3k-at-auction/>

[Kenneth W. Rendell], The International Museum of World War II, Natick (MA, USA), February 1, 2014:

"Our exhibition opens with the contents of Hitler's artist studio in his Munich apartment— watercolor paints, paint brushes, sketch books, drafting tools, and a number of watercolors — an eerie window into the very personal world of Adolf Hitler. The contents of his apartment were left to his long-time housekeeper, Anny Brunner-Winter, in his will. After the War, the Bavarian government confiscated everything and, after protracted court proceedings, she prevailed and they came to us intact. Hitler's apartment building at 16 Prinzgrasse, like much of Munich, was not damaged by bombs and is, today, a special police headquarters."

Source: <https://museumofworldwarii.org/exhibitions/the-failed-artist/>

Kris Lindblom, Third Reich Arts, USA, 2016:

"Adolf Hitler was a lot of things, to his secretary's and his house keeper he was by all accounts both kind and generous, Frau Winter was of course no different. (...) In 1952 the Bavarian state moved to seize the gifts of Frau Winter and others and a court battle ensued until it was settled in 1954 at which time the items were all returned to their rightful owners."

Source: <https://www.thirdreicharts.com/adolf-hitler-owned-1935-nurnburg-table-medal-in-gold-frau-winter-estate>

[Basil Panagopoulos], Alexander Historical Auctions, Chesapeake (MD, USA), December 19, 2017:

"At war's end, [Anni] Winter managed to cache a number of Hitler's personal possessions, much of which was never discovered by the authorities. In 1954, a Munich court ended a three-year legal squabble over some of those remaining effects, and awarded Winter one well-used suitcase, five copies of Mein Kampf, and three watercolors."

Source: https://www.liveauctioneers.com/item/58239841_adolf-hitler-presentation-photograph