



Berlin, July 2, 2020

## **Welfenschatz: U.S. Supreme Court Grants SPK's Request to Decide Whether U.S. Courts Can Hear Lawsuit Against SPK**

*The U.S. Supreme Court announced today that it will review the legal questions raised by the SPK regarding jurisdiction over the Guelph Treasure restitution case in the USA and which nation's court should resolve the matter.*

In the SPK's challenge to the lawsuit seeking restitution of the Guelph treasure (Welfenschatz), the SPK had asked the U.S. Supreme Court to rule on the legal questions of whether U.S. courts have jurisdiction over the case, and whether, even if there were jurisdiction, the case should be dismissed because it is more appropriately resolved in Germany. SPK's request that the Supreme Court re-examine and reverse the lower court's decision was supported by the United States Department of Justice. The Supreme Court has granted SPK's request and announced that it will conduct this legal review.

Hermann Parzinger, President of the SPK, said: "We welcome the U.S. Supreme Court's decision to review the lower court's ruling. We look forward to explaining to the U.S. Supreme Court why this lawsuit seeking the restitution of the Guelph Treasure should not be heard in an American court."

The lawsuit seeking the Guelph treasure's restitution was filed in 2015 with the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia in Washington, D.C. (Philipp and Stiebel vs. Federal Republic of Germany and Stiftung Preußischer Kulturbesitz). The SPK continues to believe that this case should not be heard in any U.S. court. Furthermore, it believes that the lawsuit is without merit, as the Guelph Treasure's sale in 1935 was not a forced sale due to Nazi persecution. The SPK's view is backed by its many years of provenance research.

SPK is represented in this matter in the United States by the law firm of Wiggin and Dana.

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

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

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## **About SPK**

With its museums, libraries, archives and research institutes, the *Stiftung Preußischer Kulturbesitz* (Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation) is one of the most important cultural institutions in the world. Its outstanding collections include all areas of cultural tradition: from archaeological and ethnological objects by way of the visual arts to literature and music. They are the basis of intense scholarly and educational work. The combination of art and culture, with science and research, is an unmistakable feature of the Foundation. The Foundation was established in 1957 by federal law as a foundation directly responsible to the German government. It is financed by the German federal government – from the budget of the commissioner for culture and the media – and Germany's sixteen states.