



Press Release

Supplementary Decision of the Advisory Commission in the case of the heirs of Felix Hildesheimer v. Hagemann Stiftung

03 December 2021

The Advisory Commission on the return of cultural property seized as a result of Nazi persecution, especially Jewish property, unanimously decided at its last meeting to recommend that the Franz Hofmann and Sophie Hagemann Stiftung make a compensation payment in the amount of 285,000 Euro to the heirs of Felix Hildesheimer.

The subject of the proceedings is a violin by Giuseppe Guarneri “filius Andreae”. The fate of persecution of Felix Hildesheimer and his family and the loss of the instrument as a result of Nazi persecution is undisputed between the parties. The Advisory Commission has already recommended that the violin be left with the Hagemann Stiftung and that the heirs of Felix Hildesheimer be compensated for the value of the instrument (recommendation of 7 December 2016). Most recently, both parties asked the Advisory Commission to once again determine the value of the instrument after restoration had been completed. The expert opinions obtained indicated an average value of 285,000 Euro.

In partial amendment of its existing recommendation, the Advisory Commission therefore recommends that the Hagemann Stiftung provide the heirs of Felix Hildesheimer with payment in the amount of 285,000 Euro as compensation for the loss suffered.

The Advisory Commission recognizes that the new Board of Directors of the Hagemann Stiftung appointed in 2021 has been particularly committed to a just and fair solution in this matter. The Commission would therefore welcome if the parties could agree on a joint event – such as a commemorative concert – that would keep the memory of Felix Hildesheimer alive and allows to turn the Guarneri violin into a real “instrument of reconciliation”.

Beratende Kommission
im Zusammenhang mit der Rückgabe
NS-verfolgungsbedingt entzogenen Kulturguts,
insbesondere aus jüdischem Besitz

Geschäftsstelle
Seydelstraße 18
10117 Berlin
Telefon +49(0) 30 233 8493 90
geschäftsstelle@beratende-kommission.de
www.beratende-kommission.de