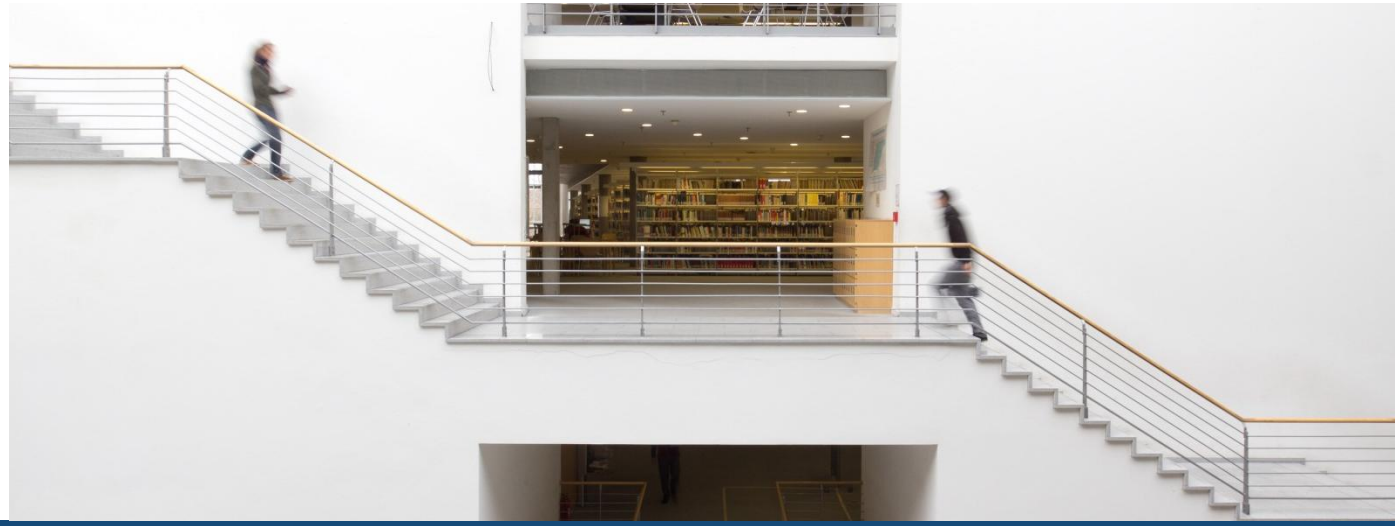
SUB | NIEDERSÄCHSISCHE STAATS- UND UNIVERSITÄTSBIBLIOTHEK GÖTTINGEN

Coins, Shells and Exotic Garments – Virtual Reconstruction of a late 18th Century University Collection

Gudrun Bucher & Susanne Al-Eryani & Stefanie Rühle (SUB Göttingen)

CERL Seminar 2017

26. Oct. 2017



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About the ASCH project

- **Title**: Developing interoperable metadata standards for contextualizing heterogeneous objects, exemplified by objects of the provenance Baron von Asch (short ASCH)
- **Funder**: Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG)
- **Duration**: 01.09.2014 – 28.02.2018
- **Project Lead**:
  - State and University Library of Göttingen (SUB)
  - Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology
- **Team**:
  - Project coordination: Stefanie Rühle (sruehle(a)sub.uni-goettingen.de)
  - Susanne Al-Eryani (al-eryani(a)sub.uni-goettingen.de)
  - Gudrun Bucher (gudrun.bucher(a)sub.uni-goettingen.de)
  - Jörg-Holger Panzer (panzer(a)sub.uni-goettingen.de

Aims of the project

- **Virtual reconstruction of the „Asch collection“ by indicating provenance information**
  - **Challenges:** different object types held in different cultural heritage collections

- **Contextualisation of the different items by relating the objects to the corresponding provenance and other information, such as Asch‘s letters, transportation lists, object labels (handwritten by von Asch and sent to Göttingen)**
  - **Challenges:**

  → proving the reliability of provenance information via evidence (letters, labels, diaries, inventories etc.)

  → interlinking between item and evidence

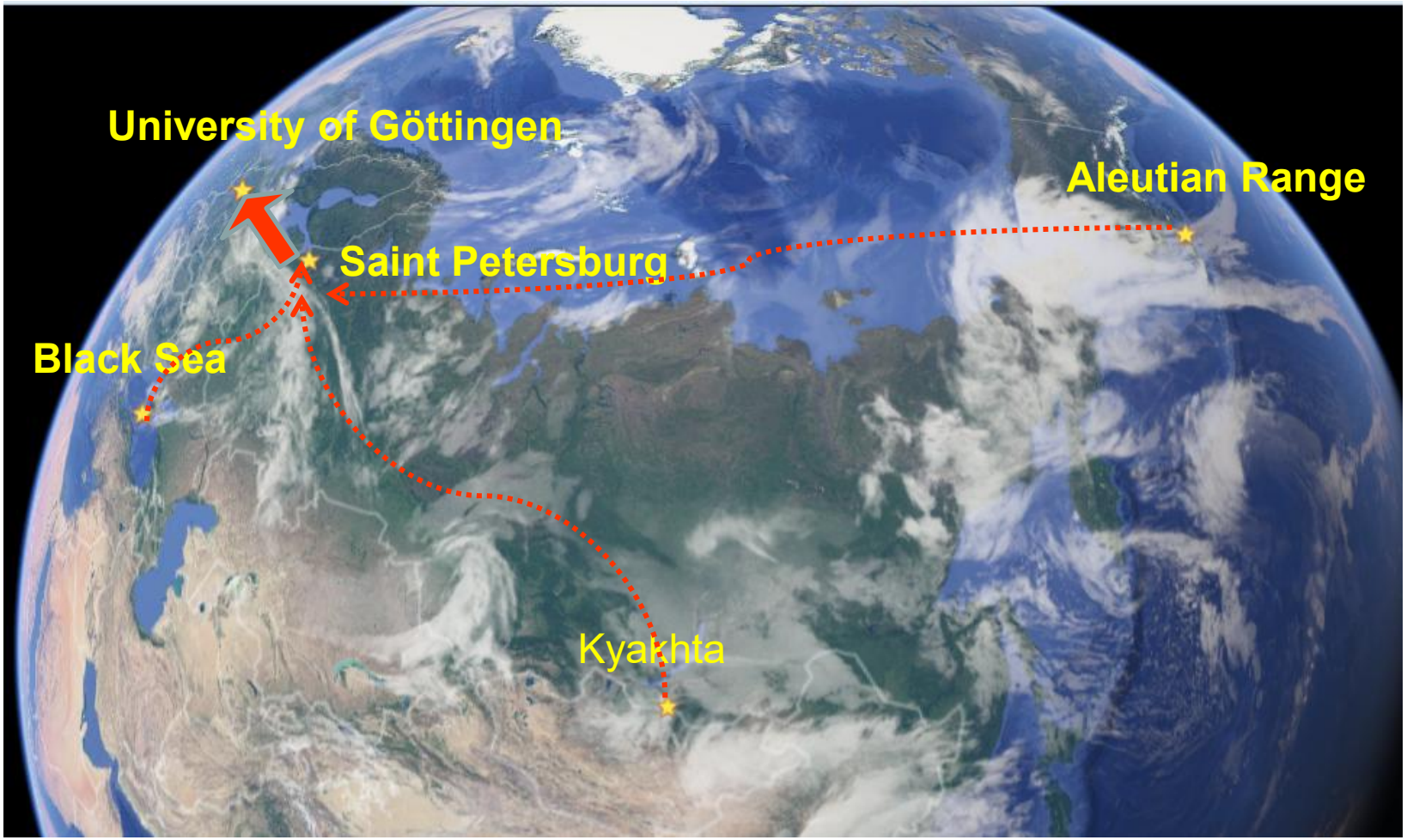
Baron Georg Thomas von Asch



Georg Thomas v. Asch
(1729-1807)

- **A**pplied
- **S**tandards for
- **ASCH**
- **C**ultural
- **H**eritage

The object‘s routes to Göttingen



Kyakhta, Siberia

Russian America

???

History of Art

Anatomy

Zoology

Turkey

Academisches Museum Göttingen (1773)





Archae-
ology

Blacksea Region

Geo Sciences

Göttingen State
University Library

Cultural
Anthropology

St. Petersburg

Provenance Description to reunite the collection virtually

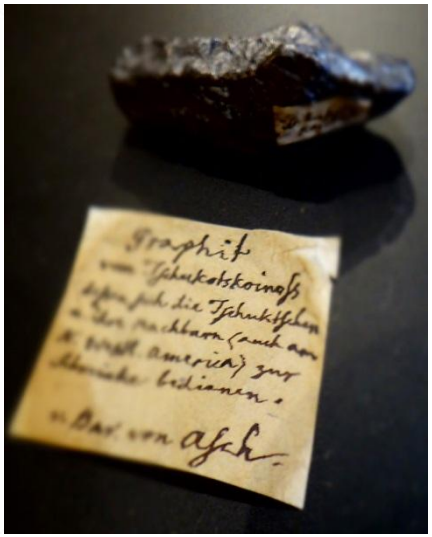












The University Collections holding items of the provenance Baron v. Asch

- the Historic Printed Collections, Manuscripts and Rare Books at the Göttingen State and University Library
- the Ethnographic Collection at the Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology
- the Skull Collection at the Department of Anatomy and Embryology, Centre for Anatomy, University Medical Centre Göttingen
- the Historical Collections at the Geoscience Centre
- the Coin Cabinet at the Department of Archaeology
- the Art Collection at the Department of Art History
- the Museum of Zoology

Description of Provenance

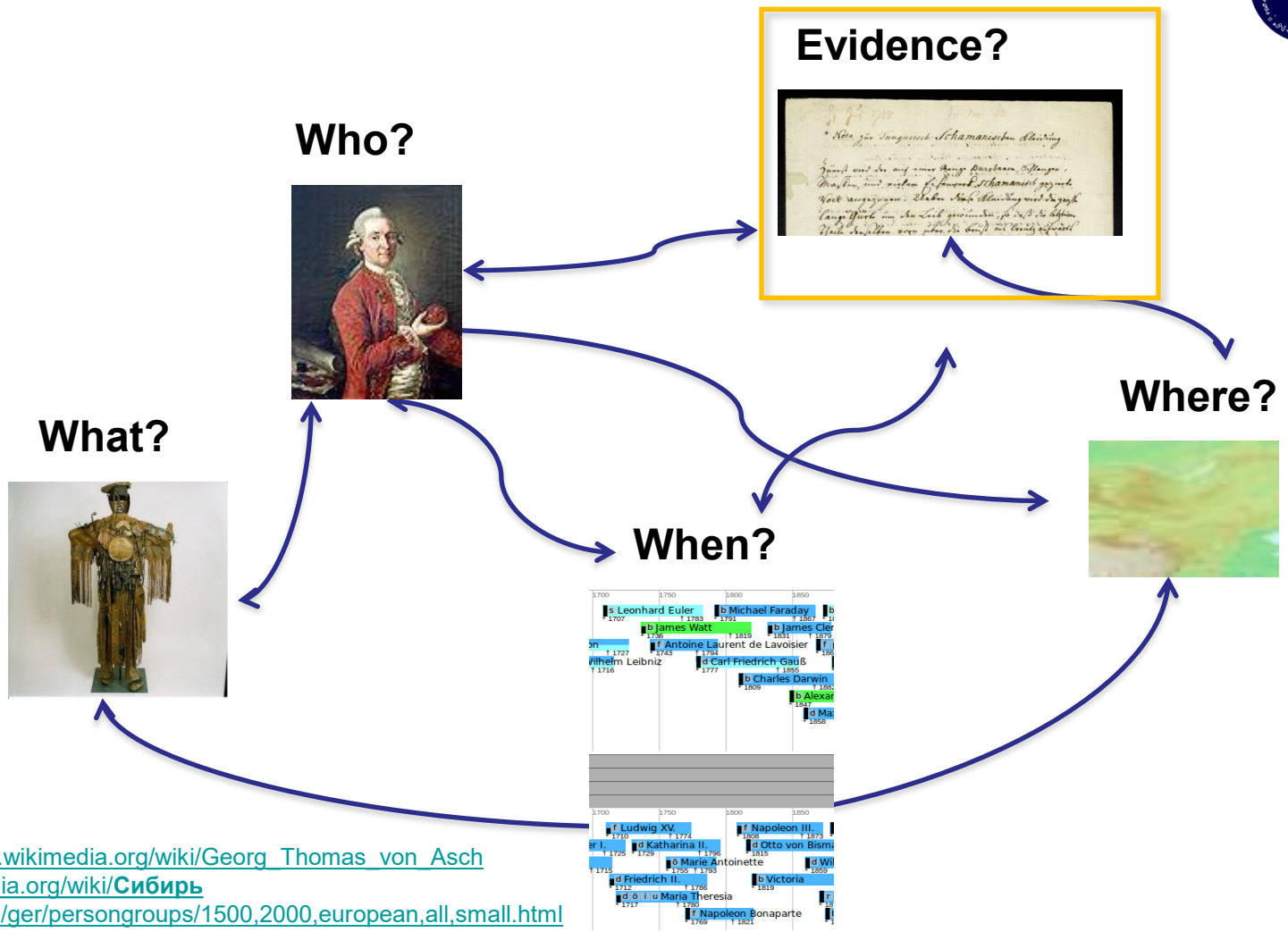
- „… descriptions of the entities and activities involved in producing and delivering or otherwise influencing a given object.“
  Source: https://www.w3.org/TR/prov-overview/

- Description of the events in the lifecycle of an object
  - –LIDO (Lightweight Information Describing Objects)
  - –CIDOC-CRM (Conceptual Reference Model of the International Committee for Documentation of the International Council of Museums)
  - –W3C PROV (a specification to express provenance records)

- Involved entities: what, who, when, where

- Evidences verifying statements

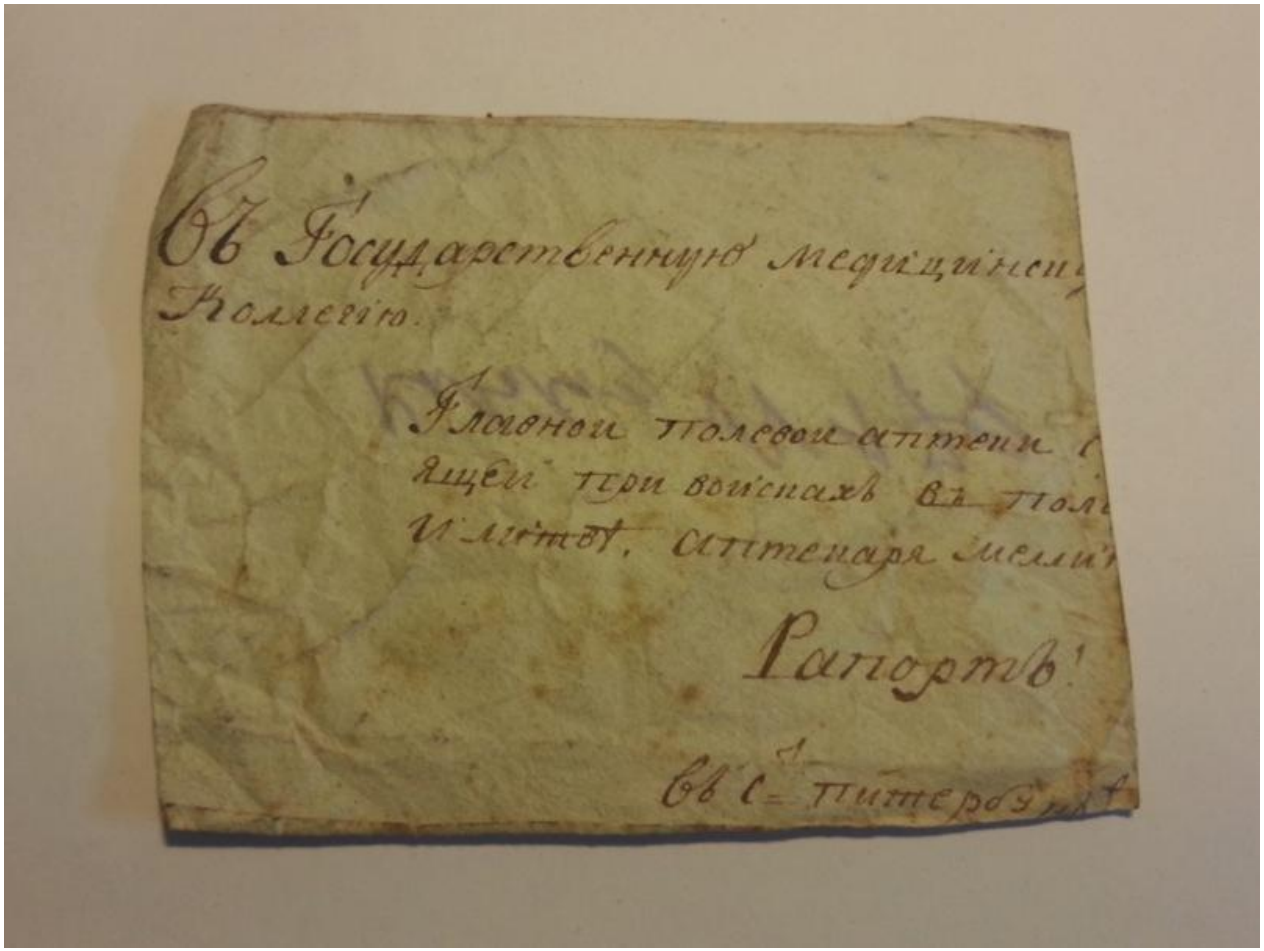
Contextualization of Provenance Information



Source: http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Georg_Thomas_von_Asch
http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/**Сибирь**
http://www.vistorica.com/ger/persongroups/1500,2000,european,all,small.html

Evidences for the von Asch provenance

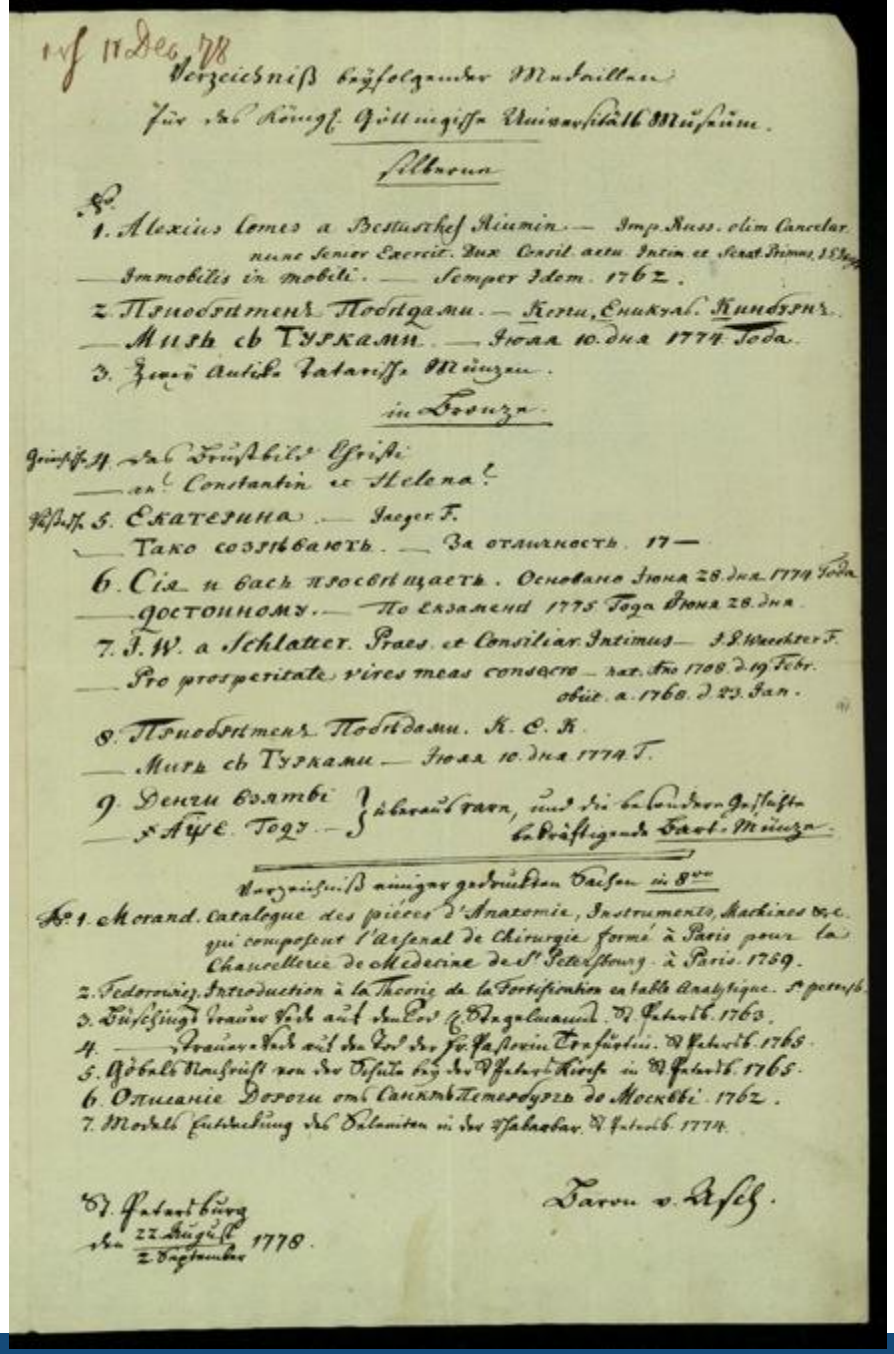
- Letters and listings from von Asch [Library and University Archive]
- Letters by others about the items von Asch sent to Göttingen [Library]
- Lists and inventories of the university [different Institutes Archives]
- Notes about single items [different Institutes; Library]
- Labels (written by von Asch himself or later by Blumenbach et al. in Göttingen) [different Institutes]



Asch wrote on the backsides of his official medical reports

=

Identification of labels written in St. Petersburg



Verzeichniß [illegible]

Für das Königl. Göttingische Universitäts Museum.

Silbern

No
1. Alexius Comes a Bestuzhef Riumin — Imp. Russ. olim Cancellar. nunc Senior Exercit. Dux Consil. actu. Intim. et Senat. Primus [illegible]
— Immobilis in mobili. — Semper Idem. 1762.
2. Пожертвовал Победами. — Графъ Емануил Кундзичъ.
— Миръ съ Турками. — Іюля 10. дня 1774 года.
3. Zwey antike Tatarische Münzen.

in Bronze.

Griechische und Römische Christi
— an. Constantin et Helena?
Russisch 5. Екатерина — Jaeger F.
— Тако сознаваютъ. — За отличность. 17—
6. Сія и васъ изобличаетъ. Основано Іюня 28. дня 1774 года
— достойному. — По екзамен 1775 года Іюня 28. дня
7. J. W. a Schlatter. Praes. et Consiliar. Intimus — J. B. Wuchter F.
— Pro prosperitate vires meas consecro — nat. Ano 1708. d. 19. Febr.
obiit. a. 1760. d. 23. Jan.
8. Пожертвовал Победами. K. C. K.
— Миръ съ Турками — Іюля 10. дня 1774 г.
9. Henry Coombi — Abreu Tavares, und die besondere Gestalt — Sr Alfe. Togt. — bedeutende Fast-Münze.

Verzeichniß einiger gedruckten Sachen in 8vo

No 1. Morand. Catalogue des pieces d'Anatomie, Instruments, Machines &c. qui composent l'Arsenal de Chirurgie formé à Paris pour la Chancellerie de Medecine de St. Petersbourg. à Paris. 1759.
2. Fedorowicz. Introduction à la Theorie de la Fortification ou table Analytique. [illegible]
3. Büschings kurze Nachricht von den Lehrern des Gymnasii zu St. Petersb. 1763.
4. — Kurze Nachricht von der Lehrart der Französischen Schule. St. Petersb. 1765.
5. Göbels Aufsatz von der Disputir Kunst der Russischen Völker. in St. Petersb. 1765.
6. Описаніе Города отъ Санктпетербурга до Москвы. 1762.
7. Moralische Betrachtung der Planeten in der Sphaera. St. Petersb. 1774.

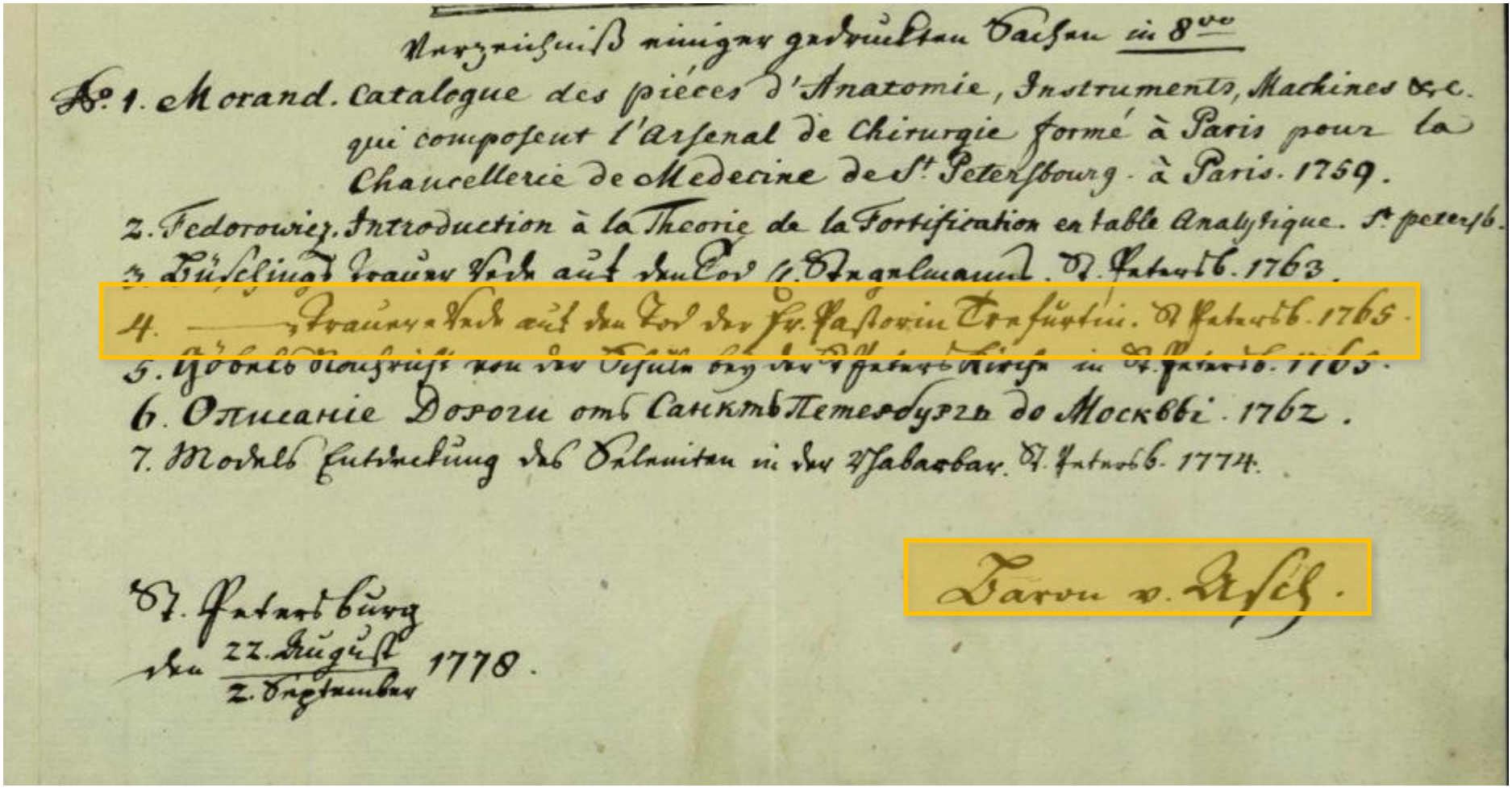
St. Petersburg
den 22. August
2. September 1778.

Baron v. Asch.

lists written by Asch

sent together with
his letters
or
his parcels

kept in the library
AND
the university archive


Verzeichniß einiger gedruckten Bücher in 8vo

No 1. Morand. Catalogue des pieces d'Anatomie, Instruments, Machines &c. qui composent l'Arsenal de Chirurgie formé à Paris pour la Chancellerie de Medecine de St. Petersbourg. à Paris. 1759.

2. Fedorowiez. Introduction à la Theorie de la Fortification en table Analytique. St. petersb.

3. Büschings Trauer Rede auf den Tod d. Hr. Pastorin Trefurtin. St. Petersb. 1763.

4. ——— Trauer-Rede auf den Tod der Fr. Pastorin Trefurtin. St. Ptetersb. 1765.

5. [illegible]

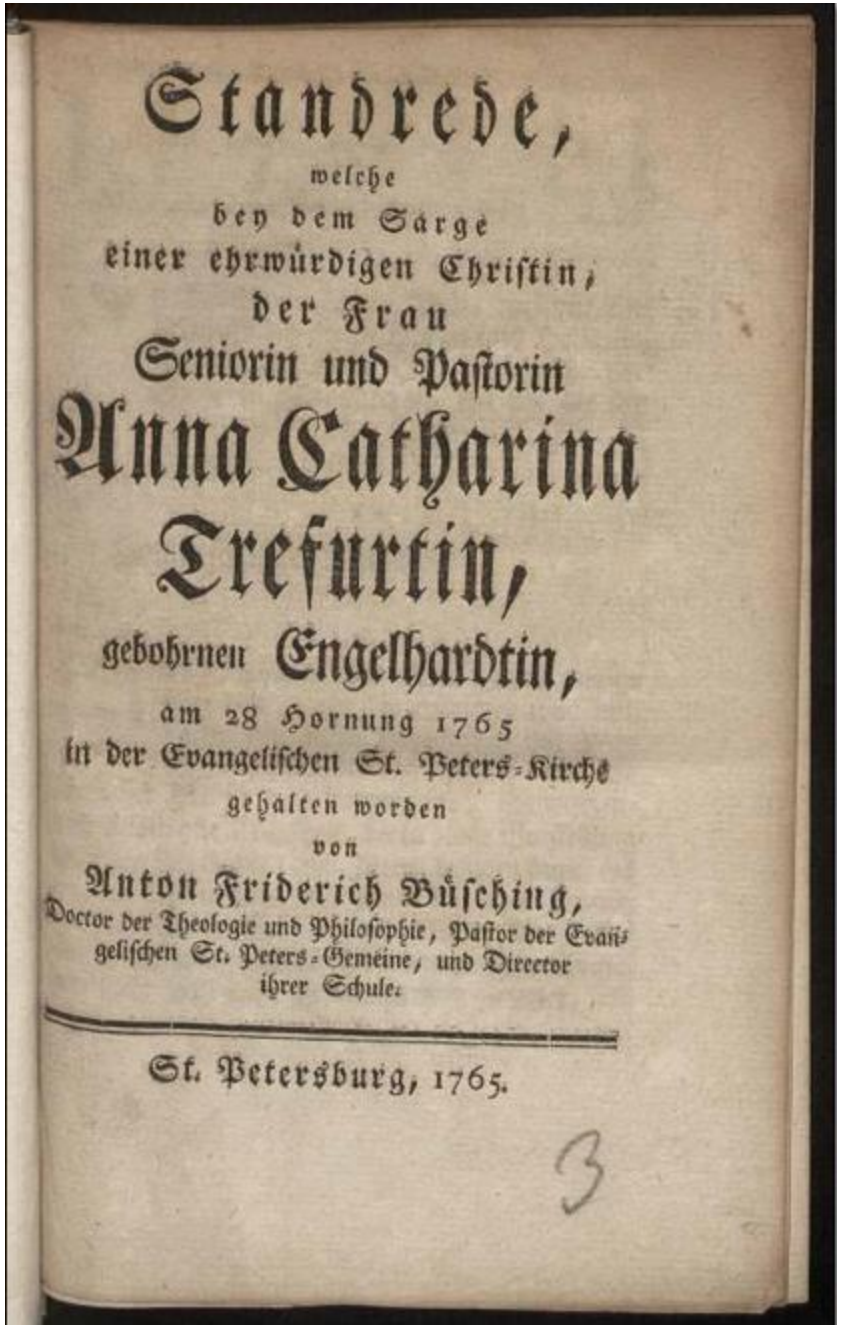
6. Описаніе Дороги отъ Санктъ Петербургъ до Москвы. 1762.

7. Modell Entwerfung der Palmiten in der Sabaobar. St. Petersb. 1774.

St. Petersburg
den 22. August / 2. September 1778.

Baron v. Asch.

____ [Büschings] TrauerRede auf den Tod der Fr. Pastorin Trefurtin. St. Ptetersb. 1765



Standrede,

welche

bey dem Sarge

einer ehrwürdigen Christin,

der Frau

Seniorin und Pastorin

Anna Catharina

Trefurtin,

gebohrnen Engelhardtin,

am 28 Hornung 1765

in der Evangelischen St. Peters-Kirche

gehalten worden

von

Anton Friderich Büsching,

Doctor der Theologie und Philosophie, Pastor der Evangelischen St. Peters-Gemeine, und Director ihrer Schule.

St. Petersburg, 1765.

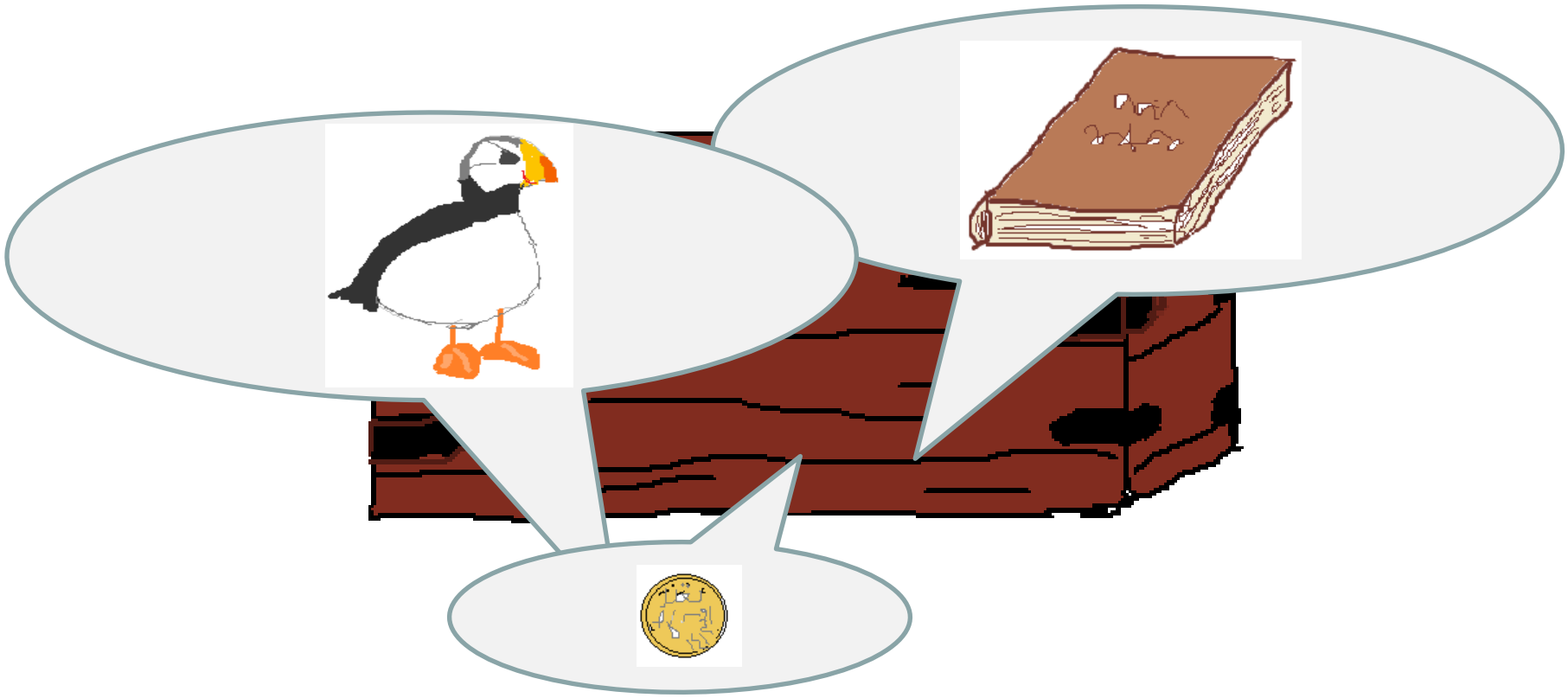
3

Title page of the book, now part of the stock of the Göttingen State and University Library.

Digital Copy:

https://www.deutsche-digitale-bibliothek.de/item/6IOEUJNCLFUMCADYCPFRXIL7V4AS66X6

Where we want to go



Cultural and Scientific Heritage in the WWW



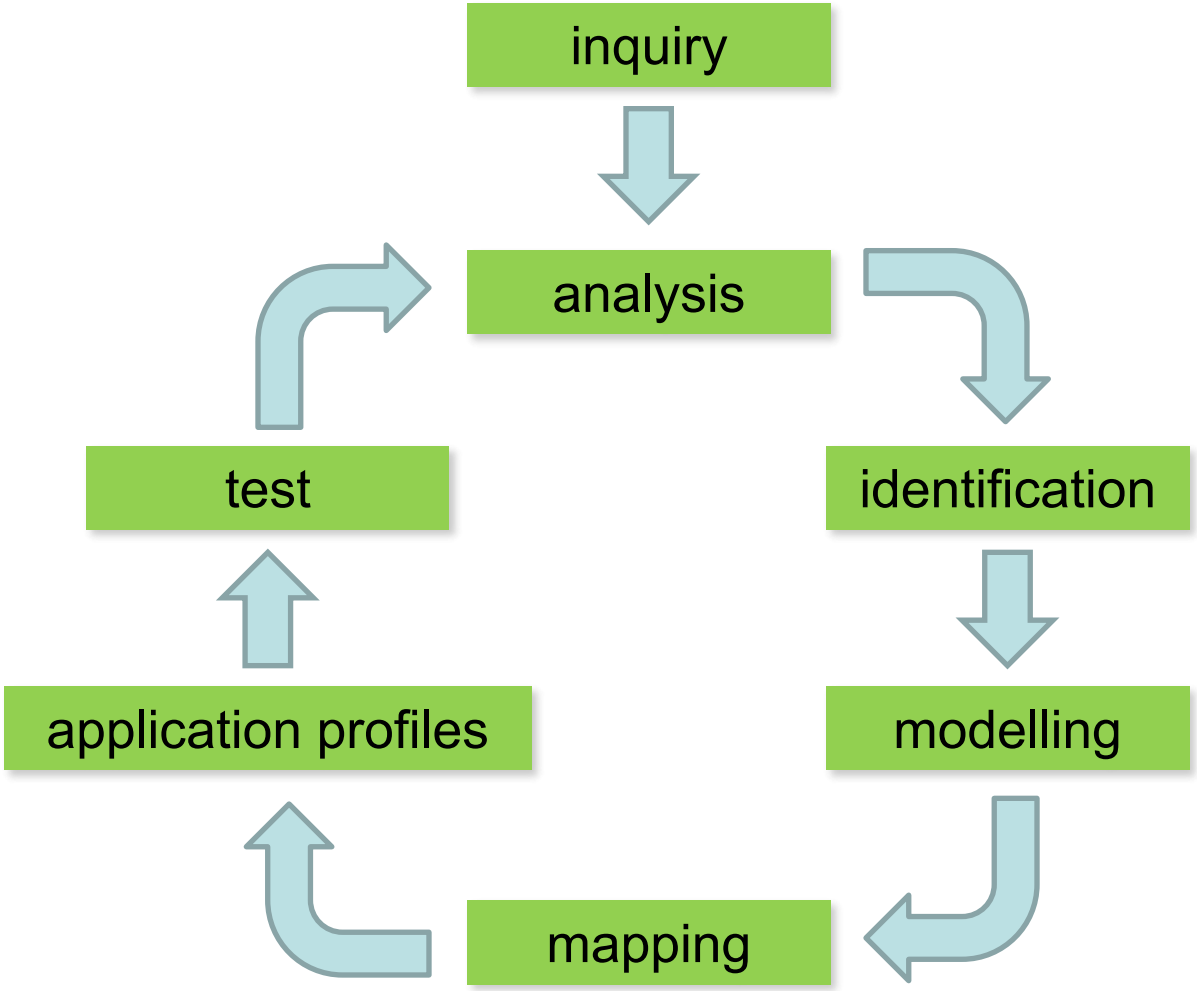
- The vision
  - A one-stop shop for access to millions of digital cultural and scientific objects
  - Interlinking the results of different projects, institutions and disciplines

- The need
  - well-structured consistent description of objects using metadata standards

- The reality
  - Metadata descriptions are aligned to the requirements of specific projects, in-house rules, legacy data, community agreements, …
  - Metadata standards used by cultural and scientific institutions sometimes differ widely in their model and structures

And most time it does make sense!

7 Steps to the Metadata Model

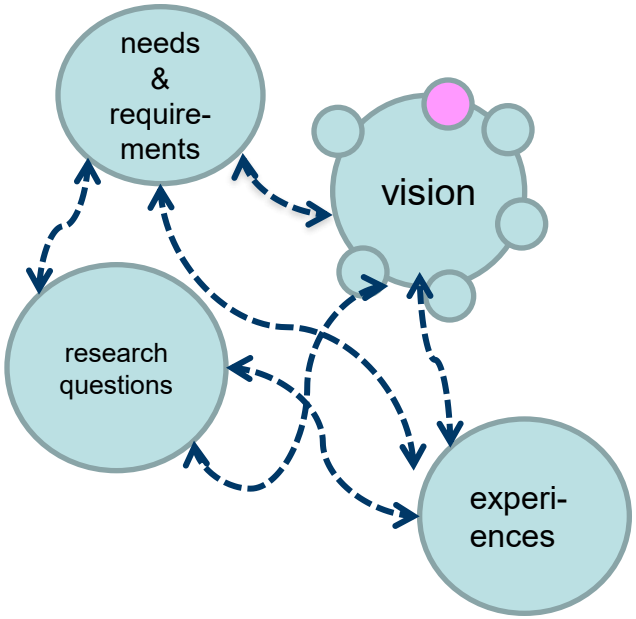


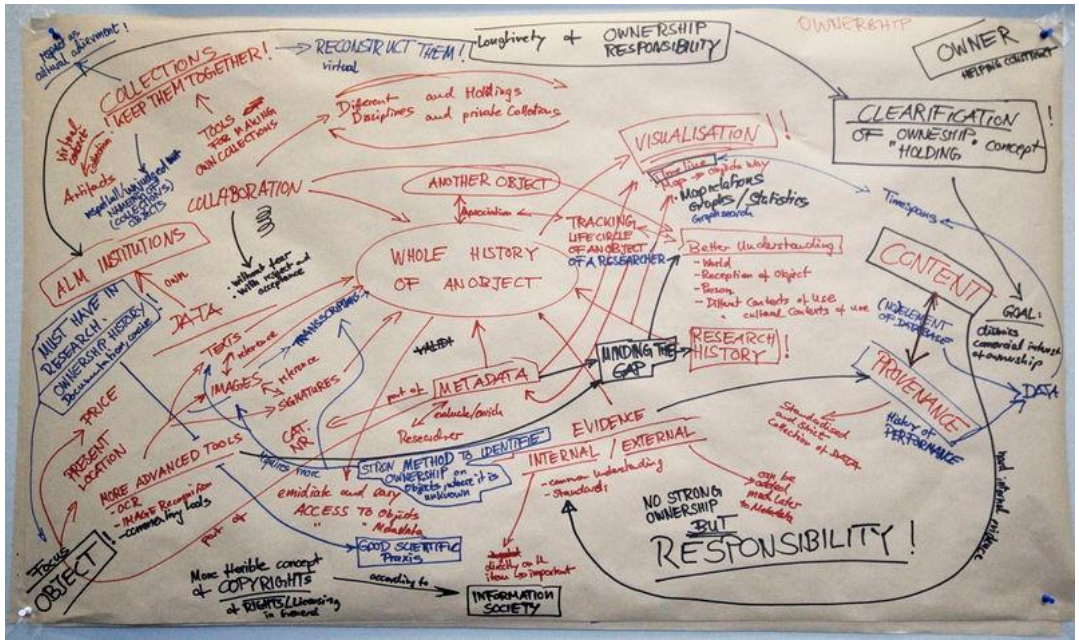
Step One: Empirical survey, analysis and evaluation of gathered information

- one-on-one interviews and group discussions with:

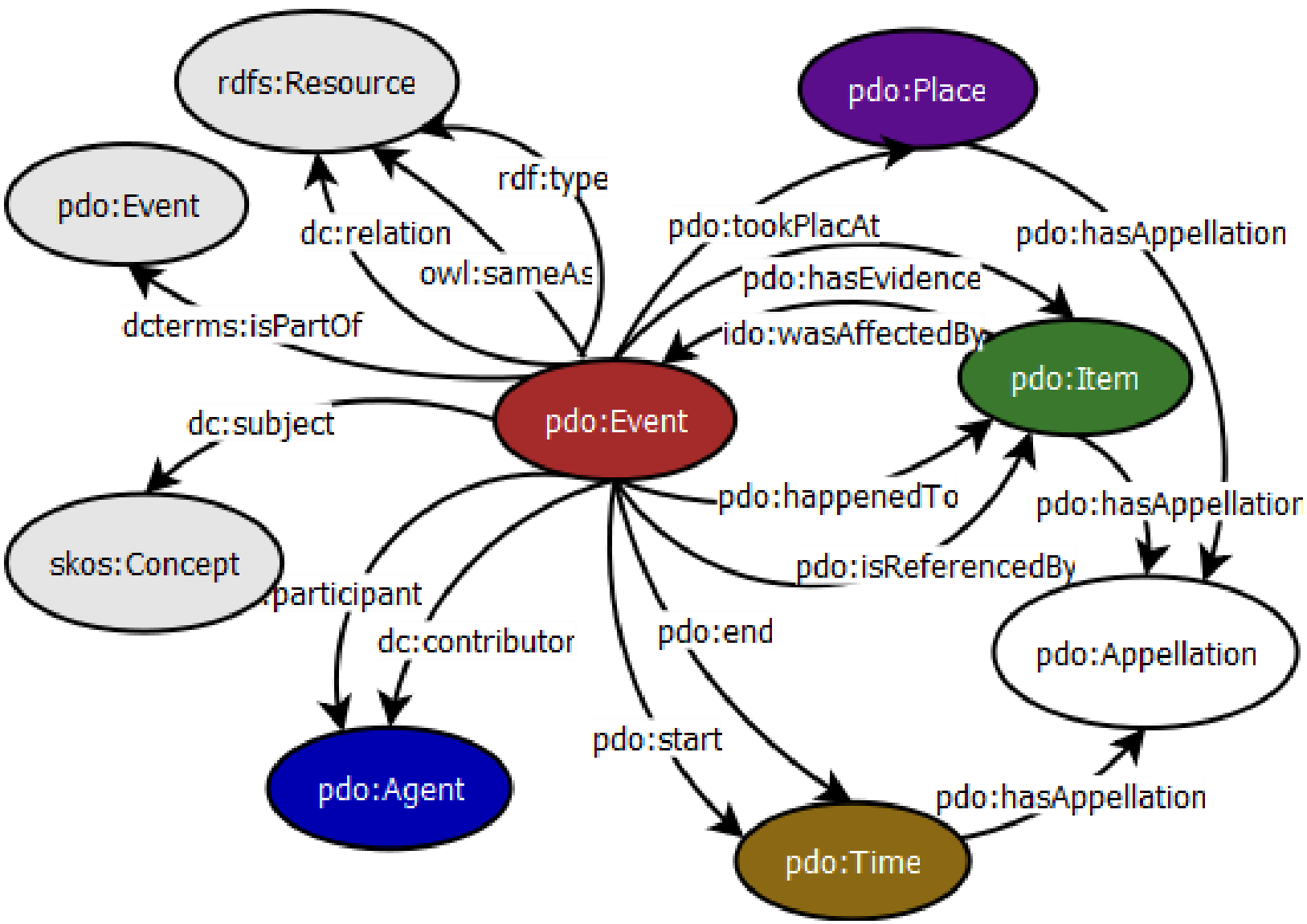
  → representatives of different kinds of cultural heritage institutions

  → representatives of different scholarly disciplines

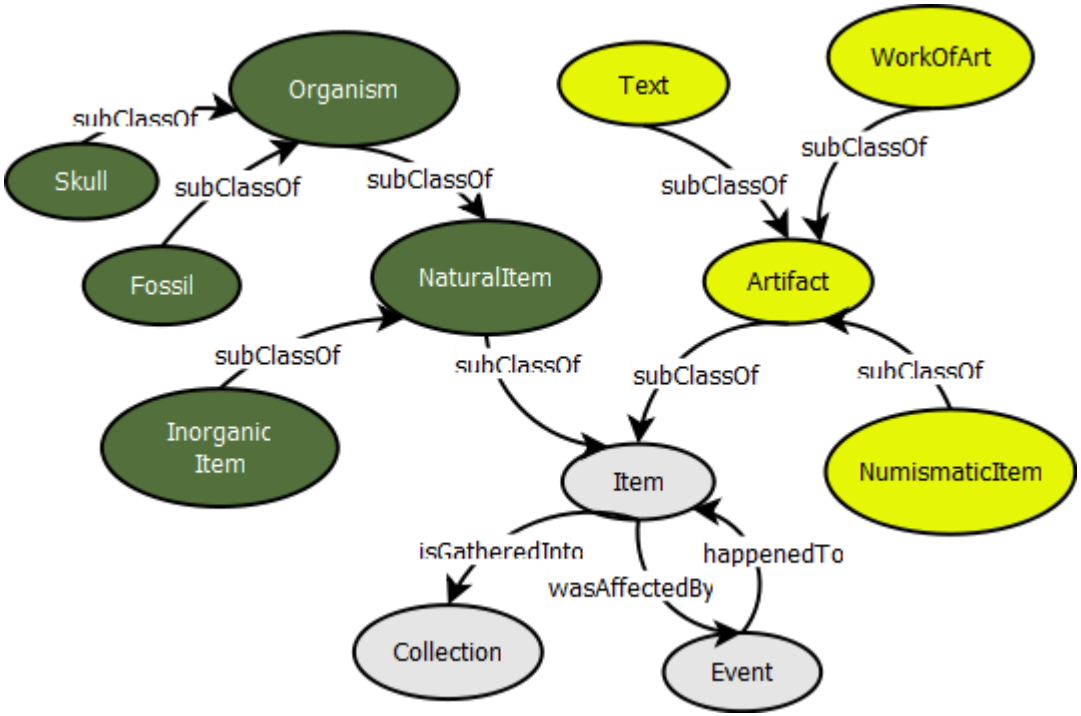




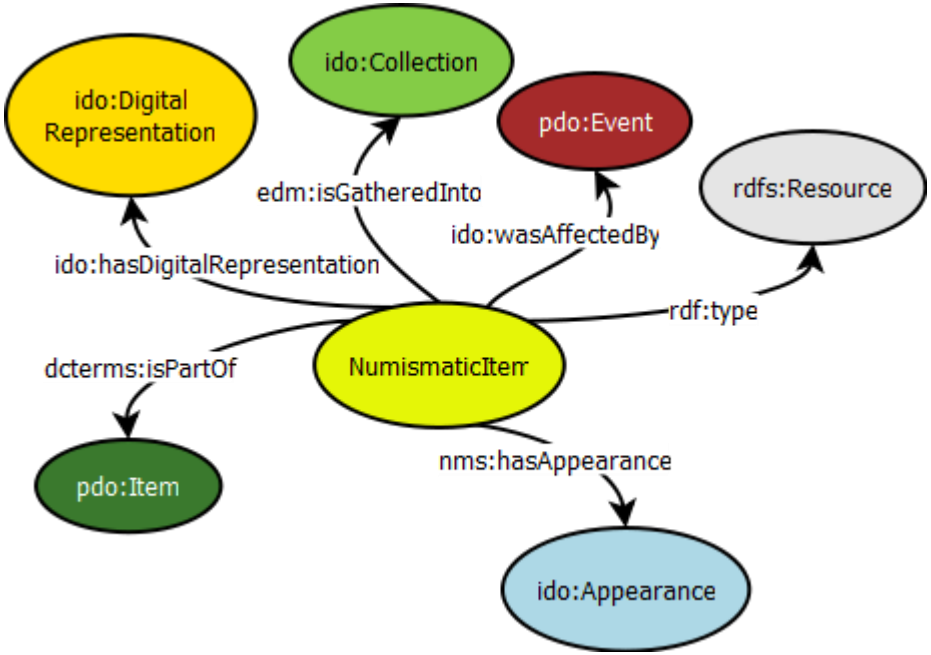
Provenance Description Ontology



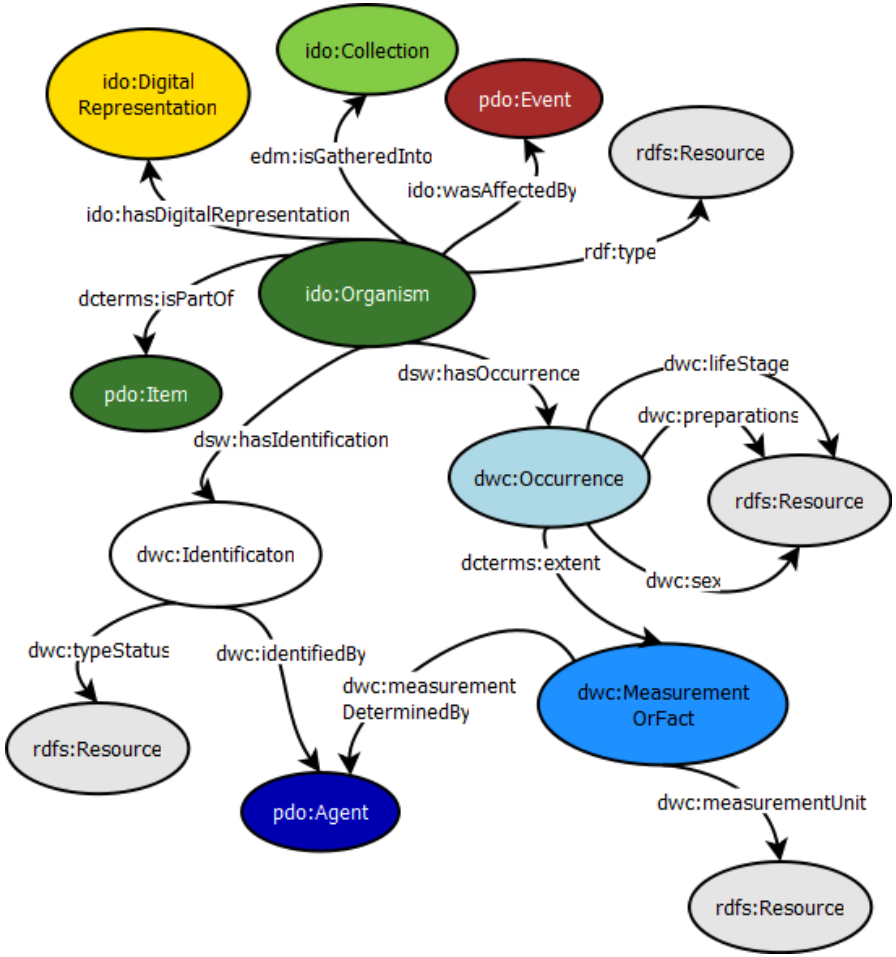
Subclasses of ITEM allow different description standards



Event, Collection, Digital Representation – one for all



Different needs for item description



First Conclusion



- Domain or type specific metadata descriptions of the item
  - e.g. description of a book using Dublin Core, bibo, RDA Vocabulary, of a coin using nomisma.org, of a bird using Darwin Core

- Cross-domain metadata description of the provenance of an item
  - provenance = all descriptions of activities/events in the lifecycle of an item (e.g. creation, finding, losing, destruction) – object biography
  - description of provenance using e.g. PROV-O, CIDOC-CRM, DCMI Metadata Terms and pdo [Provenance Description Ontology]

- Statements about provenance statements to prove the reliability of provenance information
  - e.g. by evidences like letters, diaries, label, inventories, etc.
  - using PROV-O and Dublin Core

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Examples from the Ethnographic Collection



Shaman‘s costume,

Tungus (Evenks),

Siberia

Inv. Nr. As 957

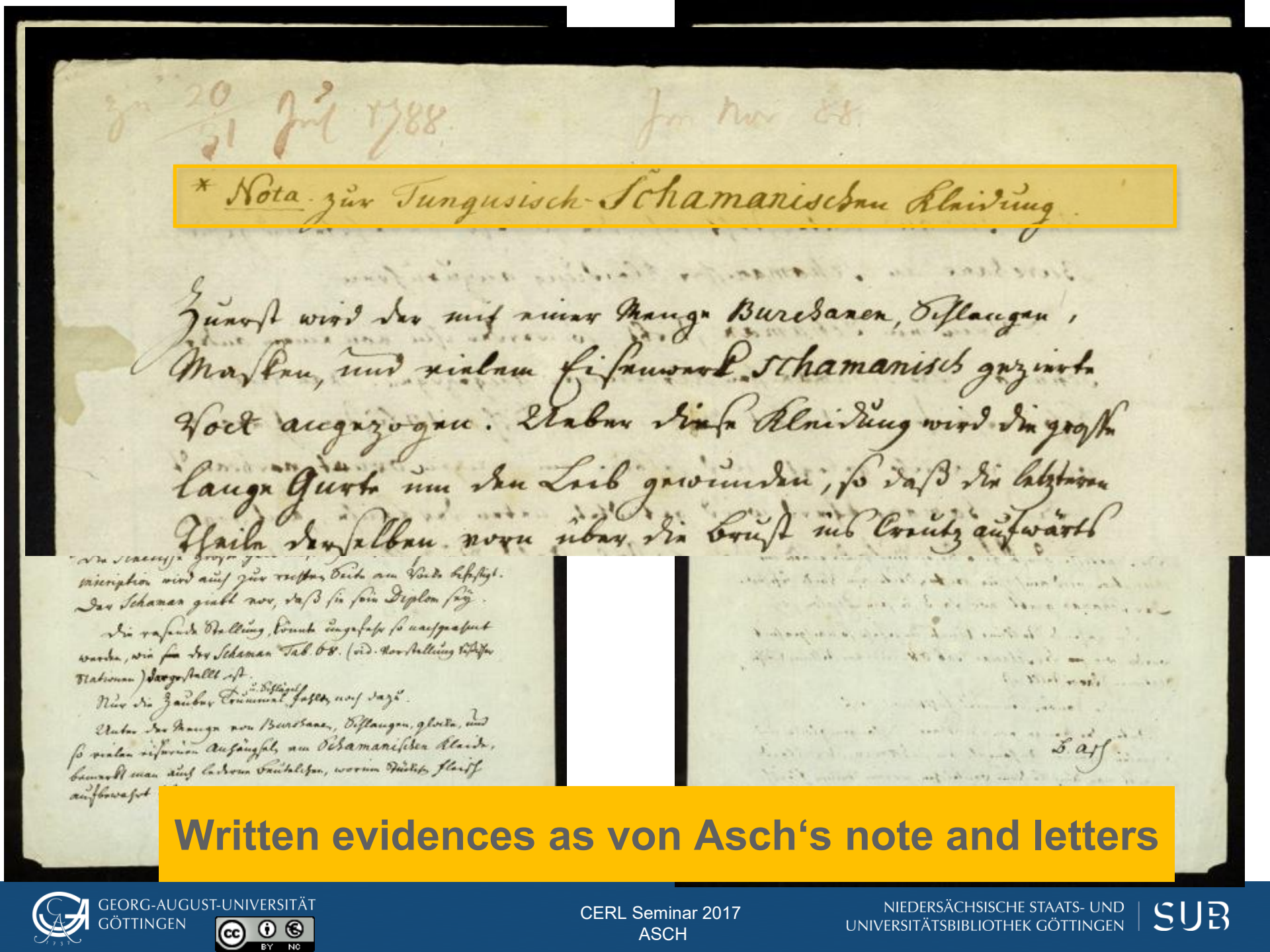
Complexity of the object: As 957



As 957 a – m

- coat
- apron
- cap
- mask
- mirrors
- helping spirits anthropomorphic (with clothes made from fabric)
- helping spirits zoomorphic made from metal
- boots
- pouch with pipe (added one year later)
- different materials as copper, iron, brass, fabric, leather

Missing: the drum and drum stick


* Nota. zur Tungusisch-Schamanischen Kleidung

Zuerst wird der mit vielen Schellen, Pfeifen, Klappen, und vielem Eisenwerk Schamanisch gezierte Rock angezogen. Ueber diese Kleidung wird der grosse lange Gurt um den Leib gewunden, so daß die letztern Theile desselben vorn über die Brust und Rücken aufwärts

Inscription wird auf der rechten Seite am Rocke befestigt.
Der Schaman giebt vor, daß sie sein Diplom sey.
Die rasende Stellung, konnte dergestalt so unsprechend warden, wie sie der Schaman Tab. 68. (wid. Vorstellung Tschuk Tschuk) vorgestellt ist.
Nur die Zauber Trommel fehlet, muß dazu.
Unter den Schellen von Messing, Pfeifen, und so vielen eisernen Anhängsel, am Schamanischen Kleide, bemerkt man auch einen Frauenhaar, worum Thierhaar, Fleisch aufbewahrt

Taf.

Written evidences as von Asch‘s note and letters

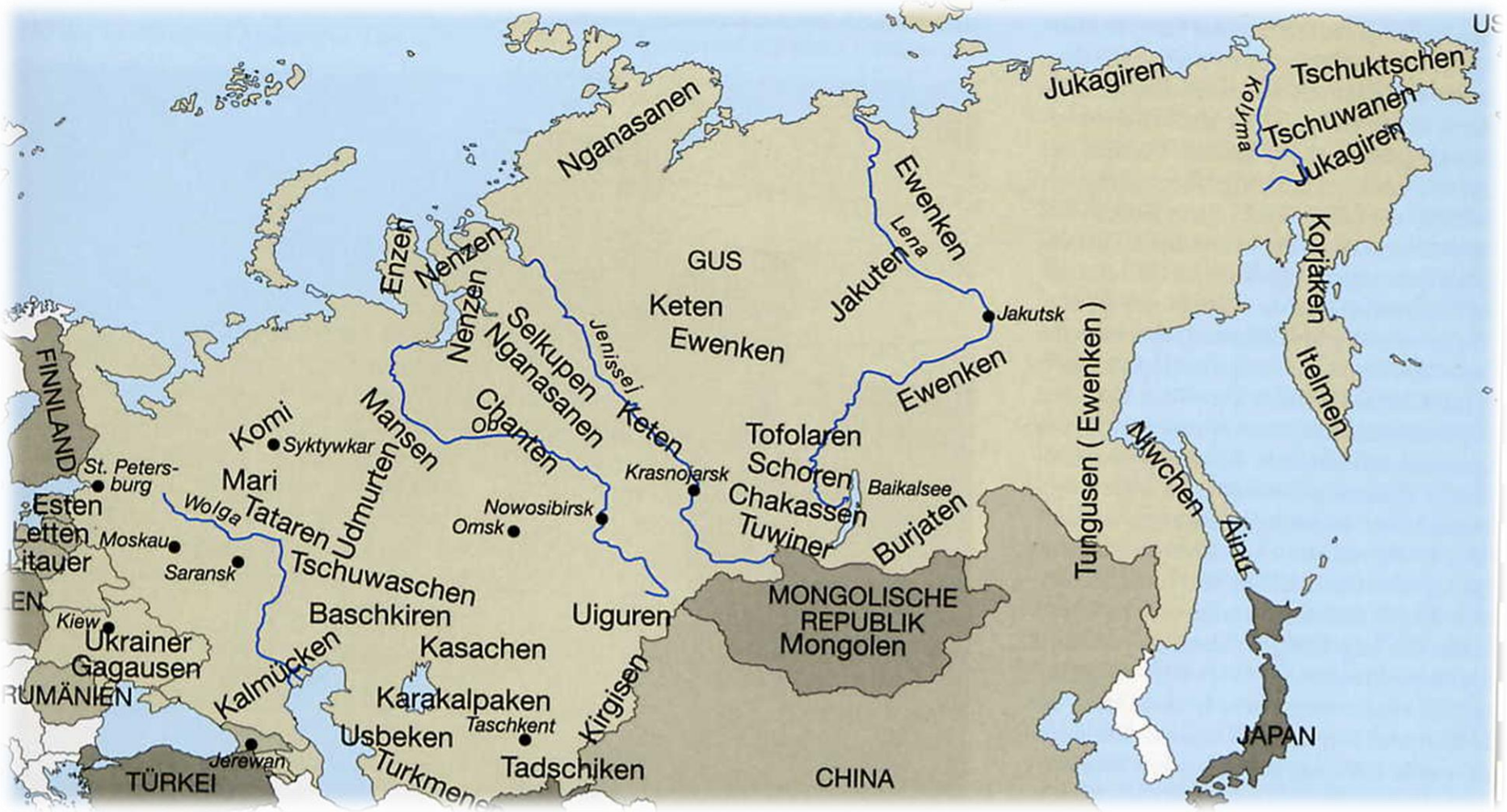
Who made this object?

A simple question with complicated answers.

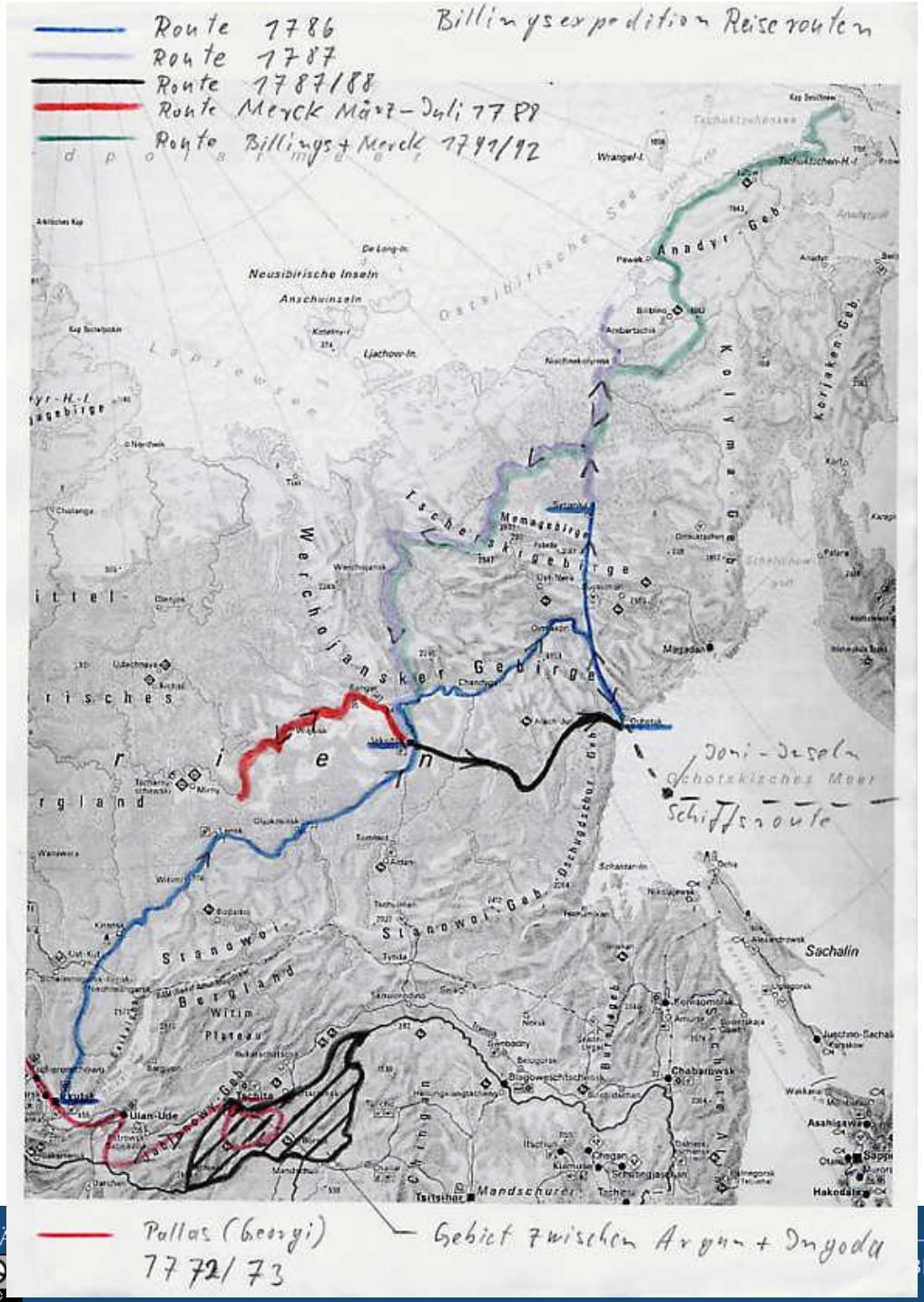
Provenance research beyond headline-catching events

Information from the documents:
- Tungus origin
- Between the rivers Argun and Ingoda
- Time of acquisition by Asch (July 1788)
- Burning of Shamans after death (wrong, if Tungus origin confirmed)
- Information about similar pieces in Russia
- Recommendations for display





Evenky - Tungus



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documentation aquisition time

the pipe arrived later and is probably not related to the shaman‘s costume



Coat

Style
Similarities
What is typical for tungus origin?

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Most characteristic: APRON

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plates
„mirrors“

Indication for
Buryat origin

CC BY NC



Mirrors according to literature more typical for Buryat shamans

BY NC

Conclusions:
objects are seen in their contexts

- Machine readable descriptions
  - Containing the desired info in a machine readable way

- The uncertainties
  - Shall be also machine readable

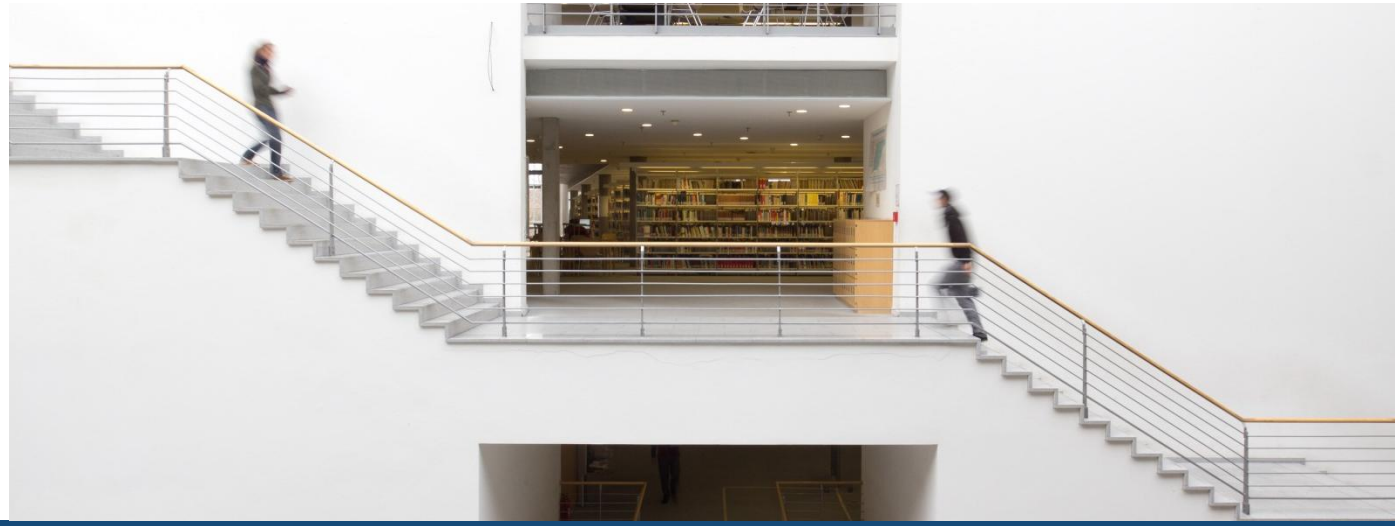


3 Description entities
- Item – appearance
- Event – life cycle, provenance
- Statement – validation of reliability of item and event info

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Thank you for your attention!

http://asch.wiki.gwdg.de



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