THE WEIMAR NIETZSCHE-ARCHIV – A LOSS-REPORT (in German)

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In this presentation we report on a paradigmatic case of lost cultural heritage of outstanding national significance. Discredited by the misuse of Friedrich Nietzsche's legacy during the years of National Socialism, the Weimar Nietzsche-Archiv was dissolved in 1945 without replacement. While the manuscripts ended up in the Goethe- and Schiller-Archiv (GSA) and were accessible to researchers working on the historical-critical Nietzsche edition, a large portion of Nietzsche's material estate, particularly furnishings and artistic decorations, remained hidden from public sight for decades. Only the rooms on the ground floor, designed by Henry van de Velde, were accessible as a museum in the 1990s. However, the rooms on the first floor where Nietzsche spent his final years continue to be used as guest rooms today. The designation of Nietzsche's death chamber was struck from the official floor plans in the 1970s and can only be reconstructed on the basis of old photographs. Hans Wahl's plans to museologically preserve Nietzsche's death chamber as a counterpart to Goethe's and Schiller's death chambers had already been discarded in the early post-war years.

Reuniting the scattered items of Nietzsche's estate is only possible today in digital form or by means of temporary exhibition projects. However, interlinking the objects in a database or recreating 3D models are no adequate substitute for experiencing the spatial context. As the current digital reconstruction of Nietzsche's death chamber in the *Weimar+* app has shown us, every visualisation of lost collection spaces is ultimately limited by what remains unknown and gaps in documentation – gaps which were expressly and politically desired with respect to Nietzsche in the early years of the East German regime.

Forgotten objects are the material traces of a disruptive transmission. This brings up reception-historical and museum-practical questions which my presentation examines in detail.