

## International Memory of the World Register

# The “Golden Bull” – All seven originals and the “King Wenceslaus’ luxury manuscript copy” of the Österreichische Nationalbibliothek

(Austria and Germany)

2012-36

### 1.0 Summary (max 200 words)

The “Golden Bull” of 1356 is the most important constitutional document of the Holy Roman Empire. At that time the Empire included territories which today constitute several European countries (Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Germany, the Netherlands, Slovenia, Switzerland ) or parts of them (France, Italy, Poland). Most of the Empire’s kings also became emperors by papal coronation or, later, by papal consent, thus holding the highest lay rank in Europe (or - as put by the time - in Christianity). The relation between the king/emperor and the different principalities and lordships constituting the Empire was a major issue since its beginnings in the early Middle Ages till its end in Napoleonic times (1806), - in some respects resembling the struggle for a modern European community with balanced relations between federal and central institutions.

The Golden Bull was the creation of emperor Karl IV who wanted a constitutional frame for the election of a new king. Throughout the 13th and the 14th century the succession of kings had often been matter of dispute and even war. The Golden Bull should function as a stabilizing and peacekeeping act. It was a corporative privilege, defining the seven “Kurfürsten” (electors), a small group of members of the high nobility in the Holy Roman Empire, entitled to elect the new king of the Empire. The issuing of the Golden Bull was one of the most famous acts in European history. The text of the charter has been valid for 450 years and had the status of an imperial constitution. The fact that all seven pieces exist to date also highlights the importance of this document.

This joint nomination embraces all seven originals as well as the “Goldene Bulle des Königs Wenzel” of the Österreichische Nationalbibliothek (Cod. 338). This is a luxury manuscript copy of the Golden Bull made for the Bohemian king Wenceslaus - son of emperor Karl IV. - in 1400, carried out in careful script and ornamented with lavish book decorations. Even if - as a “book” - it does not have the same legal significance as an original, it is the oldest and finest of the many other copies of the Golden Bull in form of a manuscript. In fact – because of its textual quality and exceptional appearance – it served as the basis of many later editions.

### Synopsis of Nominations and Nominators:

#### *Originals*

- |                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| a) “Böhmisches Exemplar”  | Österreichisches Staatsarchiv, Haus-, Hof- und Staatsarchiv, Austria   |
| b) “Frankfurter Exemplar” | Institut für Stadtgeschichte (Stadtarchiv), Frankfurt am Main, Germany |
| c) “Kölner Exemplar”      | Universitäts- und Landesbibliothek Darmstadt, Germany                  |
| d) “Mainzer Exemplar”     | Österreichisches Staatsarchiv, Haus-, Hof- und Staatsarchiv Austria    |
| e) “Nürnberger Exemplar”  | Staatsarchiv Nürnberg, Germany   |
| f) “Pfälzisches Exemplar” | Bayerisches Hauptstaatsarchiv, Germany                                 |
| g) “Trierer Exemplar”     | Landesarchiv Baden-Württemberg (Hauptstaatsarchiv Stuttgart), Germany  |

#### *Luxury Manuscript Copy*

- |                                      |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| h) „Goldene Bulle des Königs Wenzel“ | Österreichische Nationalbibliothek, Austria |
|--------------------------------------|---|

a) “Böhmisches Exemplar” and d) “Mainzer Exemplar”

**2. Nominator**

**2.1 Name of nominator (organization)**

*Österreichisches Staatsarchiv – Haus-, Hof- und Staatsarchiv*

**2.2 Relationship to the nominated documentary heritage**

*Owner*

**2.3 Contact person(s) (to provide information on nomination)**

*Thomas Just*

**2.4 Contact details**

*Name*

*Mag. Thomas Just*

*Address*

*Österreichisches Staatsarchiv – Haus-, Hof- und  
Staatsarchiv  
Minoritenplatz 1. A-1010 Wien*

*Telephone*

*+431 79540 800*

*Facsimile*

*+431 79540 802*

*Email*

*[Thomas.Just@oesta.gv.at](mailto:Thomas.Just@oesta.gv.at)*

b) “Frankfurter Exemplar”

**2. Nominator**

**2.1 Name of nominator (organization)**

*Institut für Stadtgeschichte Frankfurt am Main*

**2.2 Relationship to the nominated documentary heritage**

*Owner*

**2.3 Contact person(s) (to provide information on nomination)**

*Dr. Michael Matthäus*

**2.4 Contact details**

*Name*

*Dr. Michael Matthäus*

*Address*

*Institut für Stadtgeschichte Frankfurt am Main  
Münzgasse 9, D-60311 Frankfurt am Main*

*Telephone*

*+49 (0)69-212-37042*

*Facsimile*

*+49 (0)69-212-30753*

*Email*

*[michael.matthaeus@stadt-frankfurt.de](mailto:michael.matthaeus@stadt-frankfurt.de)*

c) "Kölner Exemplar"

**2. Nominator**

**2.1 Name of nominator (organization)**

*Technische Universität Darmstadt / Universitäts-und Landesbibliothek*

**2.2 Relationship to the nominated documentary heritage**

*Owner*

**2.3 Contact person(s) (to provide information on nomination)**

*Dr. Georg Nolte-Fischer*

**2.4 Contact details**

<i>Name</i>	<i>Address</i>	
<i>Dr. Georg Nolte-Fischer</i>	<i>Universitäts-und Landesbibliothek Leitender Bibliotheksdirektor Magdalenenstr. 8 D-64289 Darmstadt</i>	
<i>Telephone</i>	<i>Facsimile</i>	<i>Email</i>
<i>+49 6151 165802</i>	<i>+49 6151 165897</i>	<a href="mailto:nolte@ulb.tu-darmstadt.de"><i>nolte@ulb.tu-darmstadt.de</i></a>

e) "Nürnberger Exemplar"

**2. Nominator**

**2.1 Name of nominator (organization)**

*Staatsarchiv Nürnberg*

**2.2 Relationship to the nominated documentary heritage**

*Owner*

**2.3 Contact person(s) (to provide information on nomination)**

*Priv.-Doz. Dr. Peter Fleischmann*

**2.4 Contact details**

<i>Name</i>	<i>Address</i>	
<i>Priv.-Doz. Dr. Peter Fleischmann</i>	<i>Staatsarchiv Nürnberg Archivstr. 17, D-90419 Nürnberg</i>	
<i>Telephone</i>	<i>Facsimile</i>	<i>Email</i>
<i>+49(0)911-93519-23</i>	<i>+49(0)911-93519-99</i>	<a href="mailto:peter.fleischmann@stanu.bayern.de"><i>peter.fleischmann@stanu.bayern.de</i></a>

f) "Pfälzisches Exemplar"

**2. Nominator**

**2.1 Name of nominator (organization)**

***Dr. Gerhard Hetzer***

**2.2 Relationship to the nominated documentary heritage**

***Owner***

**2.3 Contact person(s) (to provide information on nomination)**

***Dr. Gerhard Hetzer***

**2.4 Contact details**

<i>Name</i>	<i>Address</i>
<i>Dr. Gerhard Hetzer</i>	<i>Bayerisches Hauptstaatsarchiv Schönfeldstr. 5 80539 München</i>

<i>Telephone</i>	<i>Facsimile</i>	<i>Email</i>
<i>+49(0)89286382574</i>	<i>+49(0)89286382954</i>	<i><a href="mailto:gerhard.hetzer@bayhsta.bayern.de">gerhard.hetzer@bayhsta.bayern.de</a></i>

**g) “Trierer Exemplar”**

**2. Nominator**

**2.1 Name of nominator (organization)**

**Landesarchiv Baden-Württemberg, Hauptstaatsarchiv Stuttgart**

**2.2 Relationship to the nominated documentary heritage**

**Owner**

**2.3 Contact person(s) (to provide information on nomination)**

**Prof. Dr. Robert Kretzschmar**

**2.4 Contact details**

<i>Name</i>	<i>Address</i>
<i>Prof. Dr. Robert Kretzschmar</i>	<i>Landesarchiv Baden-Württemberg Eugenstraße 7 D-70182 Stuttgart</i>

<i>Telephone</i>	<i>Facsimile</i>	<i>Email</i>
<i>+49 (0)711/212-4271</i>	<i>+49 (0)711/212-4283</i>	<i><a href="mailto:robert.kretzschmar@la-bw.de">robert.kretzschmar@la-bw.de</a></i>

**h) “Goldene Bulle des Königs Wenzel”**

**2. Nominator**

---

**2.1 Name of nominator (organization)**

**Österreichische Nationalbibliothek**

---

**2.2 Relationship to the nominated documentary heritage**

**Owner**

---

**2.3 Contact person(s) (to provide information on nomination)**

**Dr. Andreas Fingernagel**

---

**2.4 Contact details**

Name	Address	Telephone	Facsimile	Email
Dr. Andreas Fingernagel	Österreichische Nationalbibliothek Sammlung von Handschriften und alten Drucken Josefsplatz 1 A-1010 Wien	+431 54310 290	+431 53410 296	Andreas.Fingernagel@onb.ac.at

**a) “Böhmisches Exemplar” and d) “Mainzer Exemplar”**

---

**3.1 Name and identification details of the items being nominated**

**If inscribed, the exact title and institution(s) to appear on the certificate should be given**

Goldene Bulle Kaiser Karls IV., Böhmisches und Mainzer Exemplar  
Österreichisches Staatsarchiv - Haus-, Hof und Staatsarchiv, Wien

---

**3.2 Catalogue or registration details**

Signature: AT-OeStA/HHStA UR AUR, 1356 I 10

(see also < <http://www.archivinformationssystem.at/detail.aspx?ID=489245> >) A small book consisting of two pieces bound together in one volume. Format: 23 x 16,5 cm (applies to both documents)

---

**3.3 Visual documentation if appropriate (for example, photographs, or a DVD of the documentary heritage)**

already supplied, also online at < <http://www.monasterium.net> >

---

**3.4 History/provenance**

The Bohemian Copy of the Golden Bull came into possession of the Habsburg family under King Albrecht II. (1397-1439). It can be found in the oldest archive inventory of the Habsburg archive, made by Wilhelm Putsch, in the year 1520. At this time the charter was in the Habsburg archive in Innsbruck. In 1751 it was brought to the new central archive of the Habsburg Monarchy, the “Haus-, Hof- and Staatsarchiv” (Family-, Court and State Archive) in Vienna. Since then the charter is preserved in Vienna. The piece of the Electorate of Mainz came to Vienna in 1852 together with the Archive of the Electorate of Mainz.

---

**b) “Frankfurter Exemplar”**

---

**3.1 Name and identification details of the items being nominated**

**If inscribed, the exact title and institution(s) to appear on the certificate should be given**

Goldene Bulle Kaiser Karls IV., Frankfurter Exemplar

---

### **3.2 Catalogue or registration details**

Signature: Institut für Stadtgeschichte (ISG) Frankfurt a. M., Privilegien 107

<http://www.ifaust.de/isg/zeig.FAU?sid=287E31B714&dm=1&ind=4&ipos=Goldene+Bulle>

(A book, parchment (44 sheets/86 pages) with original leather-binding, 23,5 x 17 cm, with Goldbulle (golden seal) of Emperor Karl. IV)

---

### **3.3 Visual documentation if appropriate (for example, photographs, or a DVD of the documentary heritage)**

[http://www.stadtgeschichte-ffm.de/artikel/koenigswahl.html?zoom\\_highlight=Goldene+Bulle](http://www.stadtgeschichte-ffm.de/artikel/koenigswahl.html?zoom_highlight=Goldene+Bulle)

printed foto see 3.5 Bibliography

DVD available at Institut für Stadtgeschichte Frankfurt am Main

---

### **3.4 History/provenance**

The Frankfurt city council acquired an own copy of the Golden Bull in 1366 to document Frankfurt's prominent status as Election City. The Frankfurt copy has ever since been kept in Frankfurt and already soon regarded – mistakenly – as the copy of the empire, because it was consulted for every royal or imperial election in Frankfurt. It has often been printed and many famous authors mentioned it, for example Johann Wolfgang Goethe, Heinrich Heine or Alexandre Dumas (father).

---

### **3.5 Bibliography (individual)**

Michael Matthäus: Das Frankfurter Exemplar der Goldenen Bulle, in: Evelyn Brockhoff, Michael Matthäus (Hg.): Die Kaisermacher. Frankfurt am Main und die Goldene Bulle 1356-1806, Aufsätze, Frankfurt am Main 2006, S. 40-63.

Michael Matthäus: „Reichsgrundgesetz“ oder nur „ein nichtsnutzig Stück Pergament“? Die Rezeption der Frankfurter Goldenen Bulle in Wissenschaft und Literatur, in: ibidem S. 170-196.

---

## c) "Kölner Exemplar"

---

### 3.1 Name and identification details of the items being nominated

If inscribed, the exact title and institution(s) to appear on the certificate should be given

Goldene Bulle Kaiser Karls IV., Exemplar für den Erzbischof von Köln  
Technische Universität Darmstadt / Universitäts-und Landesbibliothek

---

### 3.2 Catalogue or registration details

Hs 3065

---

### 3.3 Visual documentation if appropriate (for example, photographs, or a DVD of the documentary heritage)

- Faksimile (1982, s.u. Bibliography)
  - Digital reproduction: <http://tudigit.ulb.tu-darmstadt.de/show/Hs-3065>
- 

### 3.4 History/provenance

On fol. 1r of the manuscript there is an entry proving that it is the copy for the archbishop of Cologne: "*... pro Archiepiscopo Coloniensi originaliter expedita*".

The copy from the Electorate of Cologne came to Darmstadt from Arnshausen/Sauerland (Abbey of Wedinghausen), which was used to secure documents and books of Cologne Cathedral Library during the war against France in 1794. In the peace contract 1801 the cultural possession of the Electorate of Cologne was given to Hessen-Darmstadt. While the library books were given back in 1866, the officers of Duke Ludwig I. kept Golden Bull in Darmstadt. However, this practice was legal because the contract of 1866 included only the books of the Cathedral Library, but not archive documents.

Thus the Cologne copy is the only one which is conserved in a library instead of an archive.

---

### 3.5 Bibliography (individual)

Die Goldene Bulle Kaiser Karls IV. von 1356. Faksimile der Ausfertigung für den Kurfürsten von Köln. Mit einer Einleitung von Kurt Hans Staub und Jörg-Ulrich Fechner sowie einer Übersetzung von Konrad Müller. TH Darmstadt : 1982

---

## e) "Nürnberger Exemplar"

---

### 3.1 Name and identification details of the items being nominated

If inscribed, the exact title and institution(s) to appear on the certificate should be given

Goldene Bulle Kaiser Karls IV., Nürnberger Exemplar  
Staatsarchiv Nürnberg

---

### 3.2 Catalogue or registration details

Signature: Staatsarchiv Nürnberg (StAN), Reichsstadt Nürnberg, Urkunden 938

(A book, parchment (28 sheets/56 pages) with original red leather-binding, 23,5 x 17,6 cm, with wax seal of Emperor Karl.IV), loose

---

### 3.3 Visual documentation if appropriate (for example, photographs, or a DVD of the documentary heritage)

printed foto see 3.5 Bibliography  
CD-ROM available at Staatsarchiv Nürnberg

---

### 3.4 History/provenance

Ten years after resolution in Nuremberg in 1356 the city council of Nuremberg required an own copy of the so called "Golden Bull" between 1366 and 1378, because in chapter 29 was decided "ut regis Romanorum futuro ... in opido Nuremberg prima sua regalis curia haberetur" (the new elected Roman Emperor should hold ... the first Imperial Diet in future in Nuremberg).

The Nuremberg exemplar was permanently hold in the archive of the imperial city of Nuremberg; it was been described in an inventory from 1626 as "aurea bulla" in latin language. After Nuremberg had

---

---

become a part of the kingdom of Bavaria in 1806 the Nuremberg exemplar was kept 1830 in the main state archive in Munich, until it was given back to the Nuremberg state archives in 1990. Even in Nuremberg the text of the Golden Bull the first time was printed in 1474 by Friedrich Creussner and 1477 by the famous printer Anton Koberger.

---

### **3.5 Bibliography (individual)**

Hans Liermann: Die Goldene Bulle und Nürnberg, in: Mitteilungen des Vereins für Geschichte der Stadt Nürnberg 47 (1956), S. 107-123.

Peter Fleischmann: Die Goldene Bulle, in: Norenberc - Nürnberg 1050 bis 1806. Eine Ausstellung des Staatsarchivs Nürnberg zur Geschichte der Reichsstadt, bearb. v. Peter Fleischmann (Ausstellungskataloge der Staatlichen Archive Bayerns 41), München 2000, S. 58f.

---

## **f) "Pfälzisches Exemplar"**

---

### **3.1 Name and identification details of the items being nominated**

**If inscribed, the exact title and institution(s) to appear on the certificate should be given**

Goldene Bulle Kaiser Karls IV., Pfälzisches Exemplar

Bayerisches Hauptstaatsarchiv, München

---

### **3.2 Catalogue or registration details**

*Signature:* DE-BayHStA Kurpfalz Urk. 1

a charter, consisting of 24 leaves made of parchment with a golden seal. Format: 25,5 x 16,5 cm

---

### **3.3 Visual documentation if appropriate (for example, photographs, or a DVD of the documentary heritage)**

to be supplied

---

### **3.4 History/provenance**

The Palatine Copy of the Golden Bull was given to the Counts Palatine of the Rhine as the fifth elector in 1356 and was kept in the electoral archives at Heidelberg, later at Mannheim until the late 18th century. For security reasons it was transferred to Munich during the French Revolutionary Wars, as at that time the Elector of the Palatinate was also Elector of Bavaria. In 1799 it was stored in the "Geheimes Staatsarchiv" (Secret State Archives) in Munich, which was integrated into Bayerisches Hauptstaatsarchiv in 1921.

---

### **3.5 Bibliography (individual)**

Aus 1200 Jahren. Das Bayerische Hauptstaatsarchiv zeigt seine Schätze (Ausstellungskataloge der Staatlichen Archive Bayerns 11), München 3. Aufl. 1986, S. 134f.

---

## **g) "Trierer Exemplar"**

---

### **3.1 Name and identification details of the items being nominated**

**If inscribed, the exact title and institution(s) to appear on the certificate should be given**

Goldene Bulle Kaiser Karls IV., Trierer Exemplar

Landesarchiv Baden-Württemberg, Hauptstaatsarchiv Stuttgart

---

### **3.2 Catalogue or registration details**

*Signature:* Hauptstaatsarchiv Stuttgart H 51 U 589

<http://www.landesarchiv-bw.de/plink/?f=1-1263080>

A small book, parchment (31 sheets, 54 pages described), with original leather binding, 24 x 16 cm, with Goldbulle (golden scal) of Emperor Karl IV.

---



---

### 3.3 Visual documentation if appropriate (for example, photographs, or a DVD of the documentary heritage)

Supplied, also online at: <http://www.landesarchiv-bw.de/web/47841>

---

### 3.4 History/provenance

The Trier copy of the Golden Bull came 1803 into possession of Württemberg as duke Friedrich II. of Württemberg (1754-1816) became elector after the Reichsdeputationshauptschluss. At the same time the Trier archbishop Clemens Wenzeslaus had lost his state as elector. Elector Friedrich tried hard to get the copy of the Golden Bull as a symbol of his new dignity. Furthermore, Clemens Wenzeslaus was engaged in negotiations with Friedrich for compensation for the loss of his former Fürstprobstei Ellwangen which had devolved upon Württemberg. To improve his position in the negotiations Clemens Wenzeslaus gave Friedrich the copy of the Golden Bull as a present.

---

## h) “Goldene Bulle des Königs Wenzel”

---

### 3.1 Name and identification details of the items being nominated

If inscribed, the exact title and institution(s) to appear on the certificate should be given

Goldene Bulle des Königs Wenzel  
Österreichische Nationalbibliothek

---

### 3.2 Catalogue or registration details

Cod. 338

---

### 3.3 Visual documentation if appropriate (for example, photographs, or a DVD of the documentary heritage)

already submitted, see also Facsimile-Edition (Graz 1977),

---

### 3.4 History/provenance

The entry on folio 46v of the manuscript proves that it was produced in 1400 for King Wenceslaus IV (1376 – 1400, German king; 1378 – 1419 king of Bohemia) (*De mandato serenissimi principis domini domini Wenceslai Romanorum et Boemie regis. Anno domini millesimo quadrigentesimo*). The manuscript went from Emperor Sigismund (1433–1437) and King Albrecht II (1438–1439) into the possession of Emperor Frederick III (1452–1493), who added to the manuscript his seal of possession and the date 1441. From him the codex came into the possession of Emperor Maximilian I (1493–1519), who had it taken to Innsbruck. The Golden Bull is listed in the inventories of books in the treasure vault of the Innsbruck castle. After 1547 the manuscript moved into the library of Castle Ambras, and from there was taken to the Imperial Library in Vienna in 1665.

---

### 3.5 Bibliography (individual)

Wolf, Armin (Komm.): Die goldene Bulle. König Wenzels Handschrift. Codex Vindobonensis 338 der Österreichischen Nationalbibliothek. Kommentar v. Armin Wolf. Graz 2002

---

## All Nominations

---

### 3.5 Bibliography

Karl Zeumer, Die Goldene Bulle Kaiser Karls IV., Teil 1: Entstehung und Bedeutung der Goldenen Bulle, Teil 2: Text der Goldenen Bulle und Urkunden zu ihrer Geschichte und Erläuterung. Weimar 1908.

Bulla Aurea Karoli IV. imperatoris anno MCCCLVI promulgata - Die Goldene Bulle Kaiser Karls IV. vom Jahre 1356, bearb. von Wolfgang D. Fritz (MGH Fontes iuris germanici antiqui in usum scholarum ex Monumentis Germaniae Historicis separatim editi. XI). Weimar 1972.

---

---

Die Goldene Bulle. Das Reichsgesetz Kaiser Karls IV. vom Jahre 1356. Deutsche Übersetzung von Wolfgang D. Fritz. Geschichtliche Würdigung von Eckhard Müller-Mertens. Weimar 1978.

Hlaváčková, H.: Courtly Body in the Bible of Wenceslas IV, in: Künstlerischer Austausch, Akten des XXVIII. Int. Kongresses für Kunstgeschichte, Berlin 1992, Seite/Nr. 371-377.

Hergemöller, Bernd-Ulrich: Cogor adversum te. Drei Studien zum literarisch-theologischen Profil Karls IV. und seiner Kanzlei. Warendorf 1999.

Wolf, Armin: Artikel „Goldene Bulle von 1356“ in: Lexikon des Mittelalters Bd. IV, Sp. 1542-1543.

Brodský, Pavel: Illuminované rukopisy ceskeho puvodu v polských sbírkách. Praha 2004, Seite/Nr. 31,42.

Praha - Viden. Dve evropské metropole v behu staletí; Clam-Gallasuv palác, 26. ríjna 2005 - 9. ledna 2005. Praha 2005, Seite/Nr.: 131, 134, Kat. 32 (1.2).

Brockhoff, Evelyn u.a. (Hg.): Die Kaisermacher: Frankfurt am Main und die Goldene Bulle. 1356-1806. 2 Bde.: 1. Katalog; 2. Aufsätze. Frankfurt/M. 2006. Band 1, Seite 38 f. und Band 2, S.44f. (fol. 10v/11r).

Fajt, Jirí [Hrsg.]: Karl IV. - Kaiser von Gottes Gnaden. Kunst und Repräsentation des Hauses Luxemburg 1310 - 1437 [Katalog zur Ausstellung in New York 2005 und Prag 2006]. München 2006, Seite/Nr.: 305, 339, 479, 480, 524, 534.

Puhle, Matthias; Hasse, Claus-Peter (Hg.): Heiliges Römisches Reich Deutscher Nation 962-1806: Von Otto dem Grossen bis zum Ausgang des Mittelalters. 29. Ausstellung des Europarates in Magdeburg und Berlin und Landesausstellung in Sachsen-Anhalt. 2 Bde: 1. Katalog; 2. Essays. Dresden 2006. Band 2, Seite/Nr.: 313.

Hülsen-Esch, Andrea von (Hg.), Medien der Erinnerung in Mittelalter und Renaissance (Studia Humaniora 42). Düsseldorf 2009, Seite/Nr.: 85ff.

Hohensee, Ulrike u.a. (Hg.): Die Goldene Bulle Kaiser Karls IV. Politik - Wahrnehmung - Rezeption. 2 Bände. Berlin 2009.

Hayduk, Hanna Sofia: Rechtsidee und Bild. Zur Funktion und Ikonografie der Bilder in Rechtsbüchern vom 9. bis zum 16. Jahrhundert. Wiesbaden 2011, Seite/Nr.: 7, 103, 107 (614), 108 (620).

The Golden Bull of 1356. < [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Golden\\_Bull\\_of\\_1356](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Golden_Bull_of_1356) > (31. 01.2013)

---

## a) “Böhmisches Exemplar” and d) “Mainzer Exemplar”

### 4.0 Legal information

#### 4.1 Owner of the documentary heritage (name and contact details)

Name	Address	
Österreichisches Staatsarchiv	Haus-.Hof- und Staatsarchiv Minoritenplatz 1 – A-1010 Wien	
Telephone	Facsimile	Email
+431 79540-800	+431 79540-802	<a href="mailto:Thomas.Just@oesta.gv.at">Thomas.Just@oesta.gv.at</a>

#### 4.2 Custodian of the documentary heritage (name and contact details if different from the owner)

---

Name	Address
Mag. Thomas Just	see above

Telephone	Facsimile	Email
see above		

#### 4.3 Legal status

Austrian Federal Archive Law Nr. Nr. 162/1999 (see online < [http://www.ris.bka.gv.at/Dokumente/BgblPdf/1999\\_162\\_1/1999\\_162\\_1.pdf](http://www.ris.bka.gv.at/Dokumente/BgblPdf/1999_162_1/1999_162_1.pdf) >)

#### 4.4 Accessibility

The access for scholars is restricted to the facsimile. In special cases with evidence of scholarly interest access in the Reading Room of the Haus-, Hof- und Staatsarchiv under the supervision of qualified attendants is possible. The object is completely digitized, so it is also possible to get online access to the item for free at < <http://www.monasterium.net> >

#### 4.5 Copyright status: Public Domain

### b) "Frankfurter Exemplar"

#### 4.0 Legal information

##### 4.1 Owner of the documentary heritage (name and contact details)

Name	Address	
Institut für Stadtgeschichte	Münzgasse 9 D-30611 Frankfurt am Main	
Telephone	Facsimile	Email
-49 (0)69-212-37042	+49 (0)69-212-30753	<a href="mailto:michael.matthaeus@stadt-frankfurt.de">michael.matthaeus@stadt-frankfurt.de</a>

##### 4.2 Custodian of the documentary heritage (name and contact details if different from the owner)

Name	Address	
Dr. Michael Matthäus	see above	
Telephone	Facsimile	Email
see above		

#### 4.3 Legal status

Satzung des Instituts für Stadtgeschichte [Stadtarchiv] der Stadt Frankfurt am Main vom 11. Mai 1995 (see online <http://www.stadtgeschichte-ffm.de/download/satzung.pdf>)  
Benutzungs- und Entgeltordnung vom 13. Dez. 2001 (see online <http://www.stadtgeschichte-ffm.de/download/benutzerordnung.pdf>)

#### 4.4 Accessibility

Describe how the item(s) / collection may be accessed

The access for scholars is restricted to the facsimile (DVD). In special cases with evidence of scholarly interest access in the Reading Room of the Institut für Stadtgeschichte under the supervision of qualified attendants is possible.

#### 4.5 Copyright status: Public Domain

## c) "Kölner Exemplar"

### 4.0 Legal information

#### 4.1 Owner of the documentary heritage

Name	Address	
Technische Universität Darmstadt	Universitäts- und Landesbibliothek Magdalenenstr. 8, D-64289 Darmstadt	
Telephone	Facsimile	Email
+49 6151 165800	+49 6151 165897	<a href="mailto:nolte@ulb.tu-darmstadt.de">nolte@ulb.tu-darmstadt.de</a>

#### 4.2 Custodian of the documentary heritage (name and contact details if different from the owner)

Name	Address	
Dr. Georg Nolte-Fischer	see above	
Telephone	Facsimile	Email
see above		

#### 4.3 Legal status

The manuscript is a publicly accessible cultural asset of the Federal Republic of Germany / Hessian State .

#### 4.4 Accessibility

The access for scholars is restricted to the facsimile. In special cases with evidence of scholarly interest access in the Manuscript Reading Room of the Universitäts- und Landesbibliothek under the supervision of qualified attendants is possible. The manuscript is completely digitized, so it is also possible to get online access to the item for free at: <http://tudigit.ulb.tu-darmstadt.de/show/Hs-3065>

#### 4.5 Copyright status: Public Domain

## e) "Nürnberger Exemplar"

### 4.0 Legal information

#### 4.1 Owner of the documentary heritage (name and contact details)

Name	Address	
Staatsarchiv Nürnberg	Archivstraße 17 D-90419 Nürnberg	
Telephone	Facsimile	Email
-49(0)911-93519-0	-49(0)911-93519-99	<a href="mailto:poststelle@stanu.bayern.de">poststelle@stanu.bayern.de</a>

#### 4.2 Custodian of the documentary heritage (name and contact details if different from the owner)

Name	Address	
Priv.-Doz. Dr. Peter Fleischmann	Archivstraße 17 D-90419 Nürnberg	
Telephone	Facsimile	Email
-49(0)911-93519-23	-49(0)911-93519-99	<a href="mailto:peter.fleischmann@stanu.bayern.de">peter.fleischmann@stanu.bayern.de</a>

#### 4.3 Legal status

---

Bayerisches Archivgesetz (Bavarian Archive Law): [www.gda.bayern.de/aufgaben/archivgesetz/php](http://www.gda.bayern.de/aufgaben/archivgesetz/php)  
Benützungsordnung für die staatlichen Archive Bayerns (Archivbenützungsordnung - ArchivBO)  
see online < <http://www.gda.bayern.de/fachinformationen/benutzungsordnung> >

---

#### 4.4 Accessibility

---

The original charter is only shown to historians; all other interested people can use a microfilm.

---

4.5 Copyright status: Public Domain

---

### f) "Pfälzisches Exemplar"

#### 4.0 Legal information

##### 4.1 Owner of the documentary heritage (name and contact details)

---

Name	Address	Telephone	Facsimile	Email
Bayerisches Hauptstaatsarchiv	Schönfeldstraße 5, 81549 München	+89/28638-2574	+89/28638-2573	<a href="mailto:poststelle@bayhsta.bayern.de">poststelle@bayhsta.bayern.de</a>

---

##### 4.2 Custodian of the documentary heritage (name and contact details if different from the owner)

---

Name	Address	Telephone	Facsimile	Email
Dr. Gerhard Hetzer		see above	see above	<a href="mailto:gerhard.#@bayhsta.bayern.de">gerhard.#@bayhsta.bayern.de</a>

---

##### 4.3 Legal status

---

Bayerisches Archivgesetz (Bavarian Archive Law): [www.gda.bayern.de/aufgaben/archivgesetz/php](http://www.gda.bayern.de/aufgaben/archivgesetz/php)

---

#### 4.4 Accessibility

---

The original is only shown in special cases. Normally interested people can use a microfilm.

---

4.5 Copyright status: Public Domain

---

### g) "Trierer Exemplar"

#### 4.0 Legal information

##### 4.1 Owner of the documentary heritage (name and contact details)

---

Name	Address	Telephone	Facsimile	Email
Landesarchiv Baden- Württemberg	Eugenstraße 7, D-70182 Stuttgart	+49(0)711/2124271	+49(0)711/212-4283	<a href="mailto:Robert.kretzschmar@la-bw.de">Robert.kretzschmar@la-bw.de</a>

---

##### 4.2 Custodian of the documentary heritage (name and contact details if different from the owner)

---

Name	Address
Dr. Nicole Bickhoff	Landesarchiv Baden-Württemberg, Hauptstaatsarchiv Stuttgart, Konrad-Adenauer-Str. 4, D-70172 Stuttgart

---

---

Telephone	Facsimile	Email
+49(0)711/212-4334	+49(0)711/212-4360	nicole.bickhoff@la-bw.de

---

#### 4.3 Legal status

---

Archive Law of Baden-Württemberg, 27.07.1987, see online  
<http://www.landesarchiv-bw.de/sixcms/media.php/120/49996/LArchG.29734.pdf>

---

#### 4.4 Accessibility

---

The access for scholars is restricted to the facsimile. In special cases with evidence of scholarly interest access in the Reading Room of Hauptstaatsarchiv Stuttgart under the supervision of qualified attendants is possible. The manuscript will be completely digitized.

---

**4.5 Copyright status:** Public Domain

---

### h) “Goldene Bulle des Königs Wenzel”

#### 4.0 Legal information

##### 4.1 Owner of the documentary heritage (name and contact details)

---

Name	Address	
Österreichische Nationalbibliothek	Sammlung von Handschriften und alten Drucken, Josefsplatz , 1010 Wien	
Telephone	Facsimile	Email
+431 54310290	+431 54310296	<a href="mailto:andreas.fingernagel@onb.ac.at">andreas.fingernagel@onb.ac.at</a>

---

##### 4.2 Custodian of the documentary heritage (name and contact details if different from the owner)

---

Name	Address see above	
Dr. Andreas Fingernagel		
Telephone	Facsimile	Email
see above		

---

#### 4.3 Legal status

---

The manuscript is a publicly accessible cultural asset of the Republic of Austria

---

#### 4.4 Accessibility

---

The access for scholars is restricted to the facsimile. In special cases with evidence of scholarly interest access in the Reading Room of the Department of Manuscripts and Rare Books under the supervision of qualified attendants is possible.

The manuscript has been digitized (<http://data.onb.ac.at/rec/AL00177992>).

---

**4.5 Copyright status:** Public Domain

---

### All Nominations

#### 5.0 Assessment against the selection criteria

##### 5.1 Authenticity.

The Authenticity of all seven originals as well as of the luxury copy of king Wenceslaus is undisputed. All documents have been the objects of intense research for centuries.

---

---

## 5.2 World significance

The “Golden Bull” stands in line with the “Magna Charta” (1215). On the one hand it was a corporative privilege, defining a small group of the high nobility in the Holy Roman Empire. Only this small group of seven men could elect a new king. Thus it was important until the end of the Reich in 1806. It was a creation out of his own will by Emperor Charles IV., it was an outstanding political achievement. The Golden Bull also set stage for the final inclusion of Bohemia in the structure of the Holy Roman Empire. The Golden Bull was crucial for the political development of Germany, Austria and Bohemia. It was important for the stability of the Holy Roman Empire.

---

## 5.3 Comparative criteria:

### 1 Time

The 14<sup>th</sup> Century has been a time of crisis. In that time the first constitutional law of the Holy Roman Empire gave security to its political leaders. It documents how the highest authorities in the Holy Roman Empire wanted to solve the problems in the election of a king.]

Concerning King Wenceslaus' copy, the work is, on top of the documentary value of its originals, a political document of the highest importance, since it documents how a claim for power or for a position can be raised on the basis of a manuscript. It originated in a period (around 1400) in which the relationship between the elector princes and the king was a matter of contention.

### 2 Place

The Golden Bull decided that the election as Roman King should take place in Frankfurt. Since 1356 nearly all Roman Kings have been elected there. It defined the position of Frankfurt as the “Election City” in the Holy Roman Empire. It was written in Nürnberg and Metz. It was the crucial document for the existence of the Holy Roman Empire, an Empire which territory was centred on the Kingdom of Germany, and included neighbouring territories, which at its peak included the Kingdom of Italy and the Kingdom of Burgundy. For much of its history, the Empire consisted of hundreds of smaller sub-units, principalities, duchies, counties, Free Imperial Cities and other domains. It existed from 962 to 1806 in Central Europe.

### 3 People

The Golden Bull reflects the political thoughts of its age. It is a handbook for the election of the king in the Holy Roman Empire. And it is also the best example of courtly ceremonial of the middle age in central Europe.

### 4 Subject and theme

The document represents the political way of thinking of its time. It was the constitutional foundation of Central Europe for more than 450 years.

### 5 Form and style

The document is a medieval charter in the form of a book. It is written on parchment and authenticated with a golden seal, the so called “Goldene Bulle”. The seal gave the document its name: “Goldene Bulle” (Golden Bull). The golden seal of the piece of the Electorate of Mainz got lost during the German Mediatisation (Reichsdeputationshauptschluss). The Nürnberg copy has a seal of wax.

The aesthetic appearance of the King Wenceslaus' copy is the basis of its outstanding place among the transmissions of the text. It represents a type of work commissioned by a person of high status; this type lived on into the late Middle Ages, but then lost its importance (due also to the emergence of book printing).

### 6 Social/ spiritual/ community significance:

The document is one of the most important charters of medieval history. Its aura is still alive, it is still in the minds of the people of Central Europe because nearly everybody learns about it in school. In the Czech Republic Emperor Karl IV. is still regarded as the most important personality of the medieval time, especially due to the annunciation of this document.

---

## All Nominations

### 6.0 Contextual information

#### 6.1 Rarity

Originals: There are few other medieval documents of similar importance.

The outstanding aesthetic character of the king Wenceslaus' copy make it a rare document of its time.

#### 6.2 Integrity

The seal of the "Mainzer Exemplar" is missing. All other nominated items are complete.

---