

Re: Q: Bakunin and Raphael

Martin Chidiac

Sehr geehrte Frau Doherty,

erste Ergebnisse meiner Recherchen.

Die Legende ist sehr schoen beschrieben bei: Erhard Hexelschneider,
Ein Schatz in der Tabakdose, S. 91-92, Dresden 1997
ISBN 3-929048-29-9

Bakunin wollte zudem auch noch einige Murillos auf die Barikaden
legen. Allerdings wird die Anekdote als Spott auf die preussischen
Soldaten gewertet, die schon waehrend des siebenjaehrigen Krieges
1756-63 Schloss Hubertusburg und das Palais Bruehl verwuestet hatten.

Hexelschneider fuehrt an weiterer Literatur zum Thema an:

Luehr, Hans-Peter: Bakunin und der Dresdner Mai-Aufstand, in:
Dresdner Hefte 13 1995, Heft 43, S. 67-76.

Michael Bakunin, Gottfried Semper, Richard Wagner und der Dresdner
Mai-Aufstand 1849, Bonn 1995.

Unterhaltungen mit Bakunin. Gesammelt von Arthur Lehning, Leipzig
1991.

Erste Nachrichten zu dem Thema gibt es bei:
Alexander Herzen: Mein leben. Memoiren und Reflexionen.

Falls sich noch andere Hinweise Anfinden, werde ich Sie
benachrichtigen

Mit freundlichen Gruessen

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Dear Listmembers, I seek a published source, in German, for the anecdote below. Please note that I'm aware that the story may be apocryphal, and that while I would welcome any relevant information, the matter of the story's status as historical truth or fiction is ultimately not my concern. Ideally, I'd like to have a published source (historical, literary, journalistic -- any form will do) from the period 1890-1920, but I would be grateful for any information on German sources of any period. (The leads I've pursued thus far are so many and varied that it would be impossible to list them here. All suggestions are welcome!)

Russian anarchist Mikhail Bakunin is said to have proposed hanging Raphael's masterpiece the "Sistine Madonna" on the barricades during the Dresden uprising of May 1849. Bakunin's objective was to deter the Prussian troops from firing on the revolutionaries by placing the prized painting in the line of fire. ("The story," writes E. H. Carr, "that Bakunin proposed to hang the *Sistine Madonna* on the barricades, on the ground that the Prussians were 'too cultured to fire on Raphael,' belongs to the world of picturesque legend.")

I seek a German source for any version of that "picturesque legend.

" My aim is to establish the currency of the story among artists in Germany around 1920, the moment of the so-called "Kunstlump-Debatte" carried out among the Berlin Dadaists George Grosz and John Heartfield, the Expressionist painter and playwright Oskar Kokoschka (at the time Professor at the Kunstakademie in Dresden), and the German Communist Party critic, Gertrud Alexander. Damage done to masterpieces in Dresden's Zwinger galleries during the uprising of March 1920 was a focal point of the heated exchanges on art and politics among those several important figures of early Weimar culture. Many thanks in advance for any assistance subscribers to the list may be able to provide.

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Reference:

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<<https://arthist.net/archive/24335>>.