



ONGOING RESTORATION OF THE RIGA GERMAN THEATRE'S ARCHIVE MATERIALS AT THE COLLECTION PRESERVATION CENTRE OF THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF LATVIA

DACE DUBROVSKA

Master Restorer for Manuscripts, Documents, Books, and Other Archive Materials
dace.dubrovsk@lnb.lv
Collection Preservation Centre of the National Library of Latvia

ABOUT

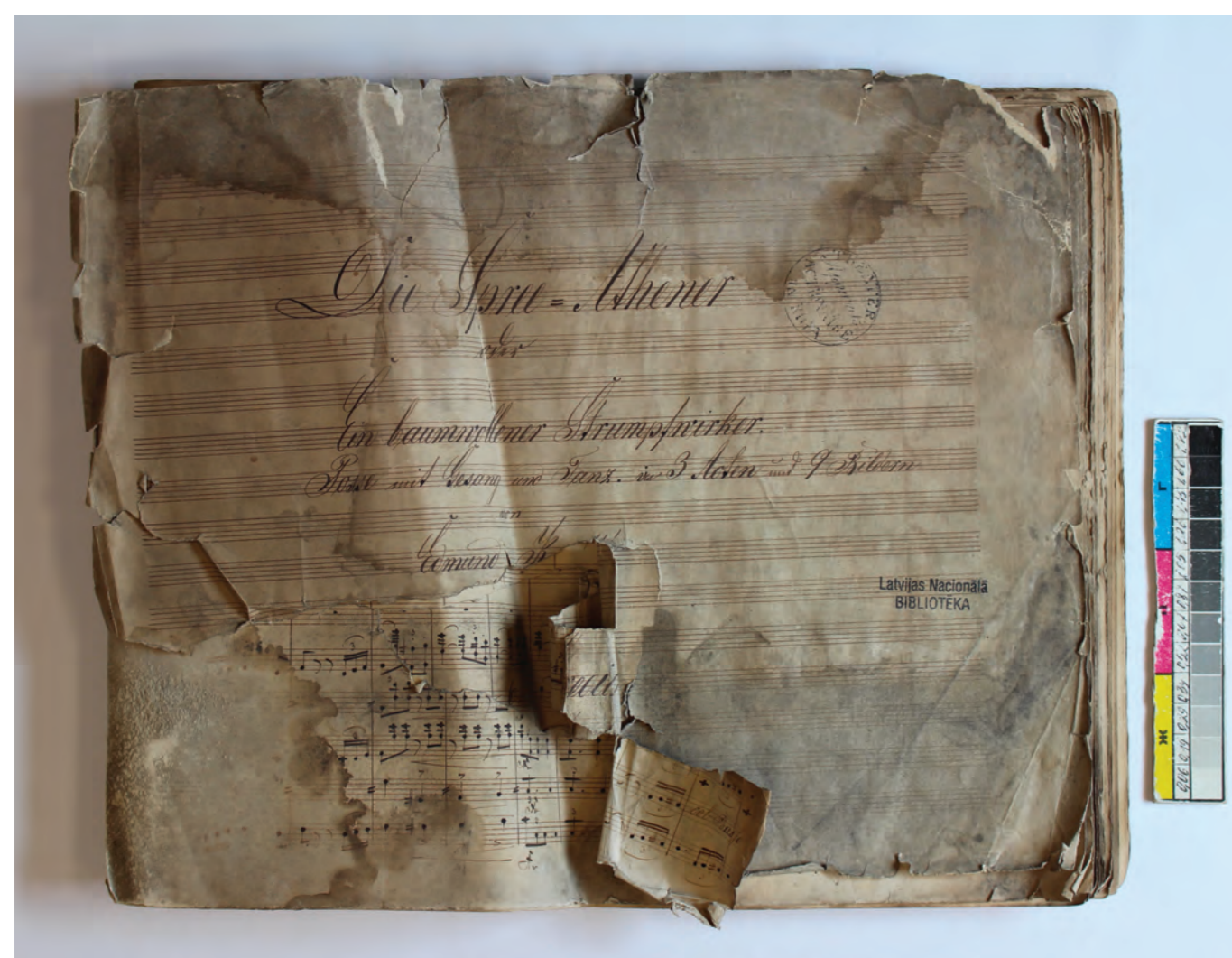
We are continuing the restoration work on the Riga City German Theatre's (1782-1918) archive materials. They are being stored at the Alfrēds Kalniņš Music Reading Room in the National Library of Latvia's (NLL) Special Collections Department and are unique evidence of Riga's musical and theatrical life of the time. Some of the material is meant for the exhibition marking the 240th Anniversary of the Wagner Hall in the autumn of 2022.

CONDITION BEFORE RESTORATION

The notes are written with ink on medium-thick paper. Eight notebooks with a varying number of pages. The notebooks have not been bound. The title and the name of the author appear on the first page. Two ink stamps. The NLL's inventory number sticker and a notice in pencil are on the reverse side.

The paper was quite yellowed, very dirty, with grey dusty sediment, stains of various types, stains. The first two pages were quite damaged. The text had faded in places. The pages were folded and crumpled, with tears of various character and losses of paper. A large loss of paper on the first page - 1/4 of the page.

"DIE SPREE-ATHENER ODER. C. STREDICKE"
SHEET NOTES
PAPER, HANDWRITING IN INK
SIZE: 27 X 32 CM, PG. 115.



Before restoration



Before restoration



Before restoration



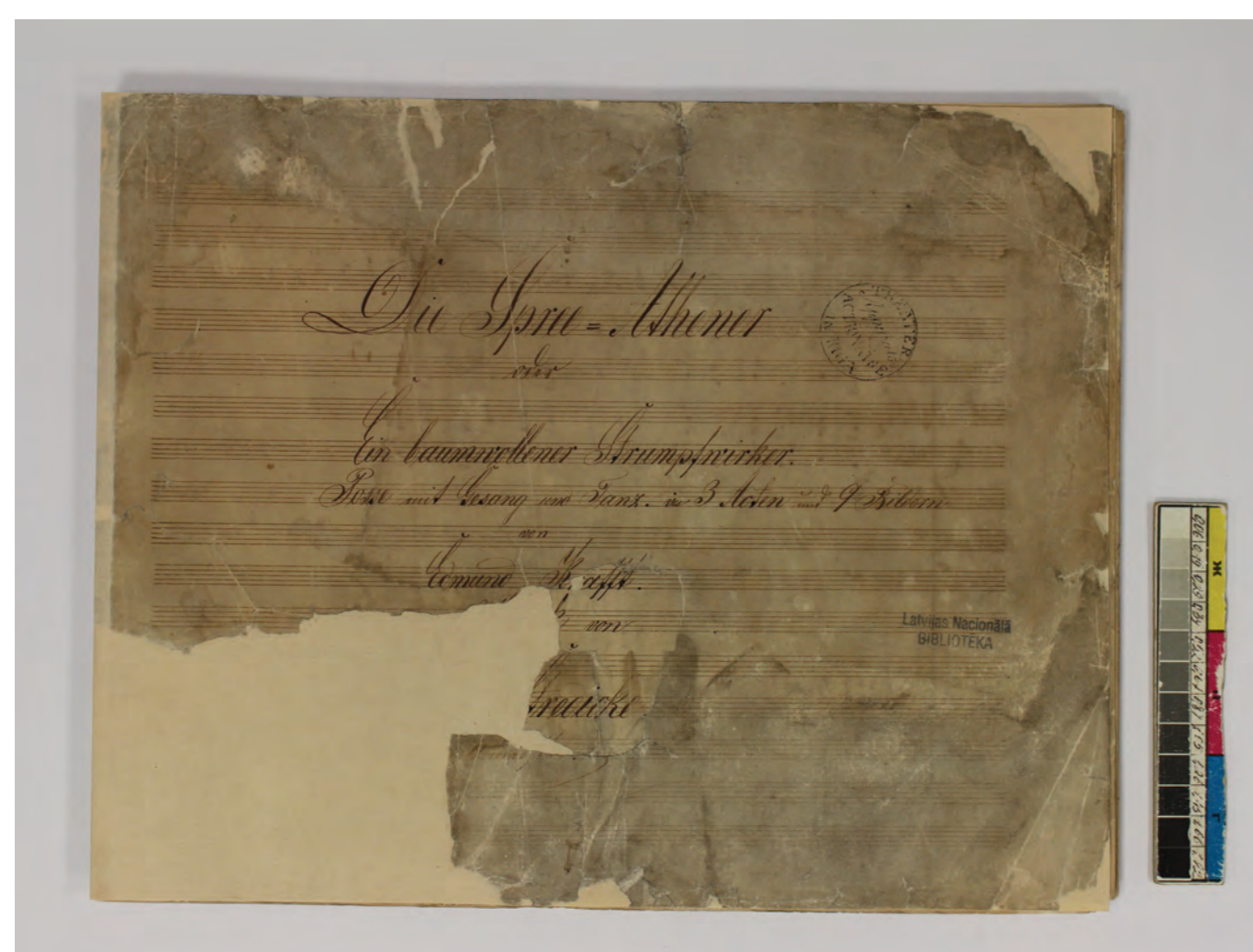
Before restoration



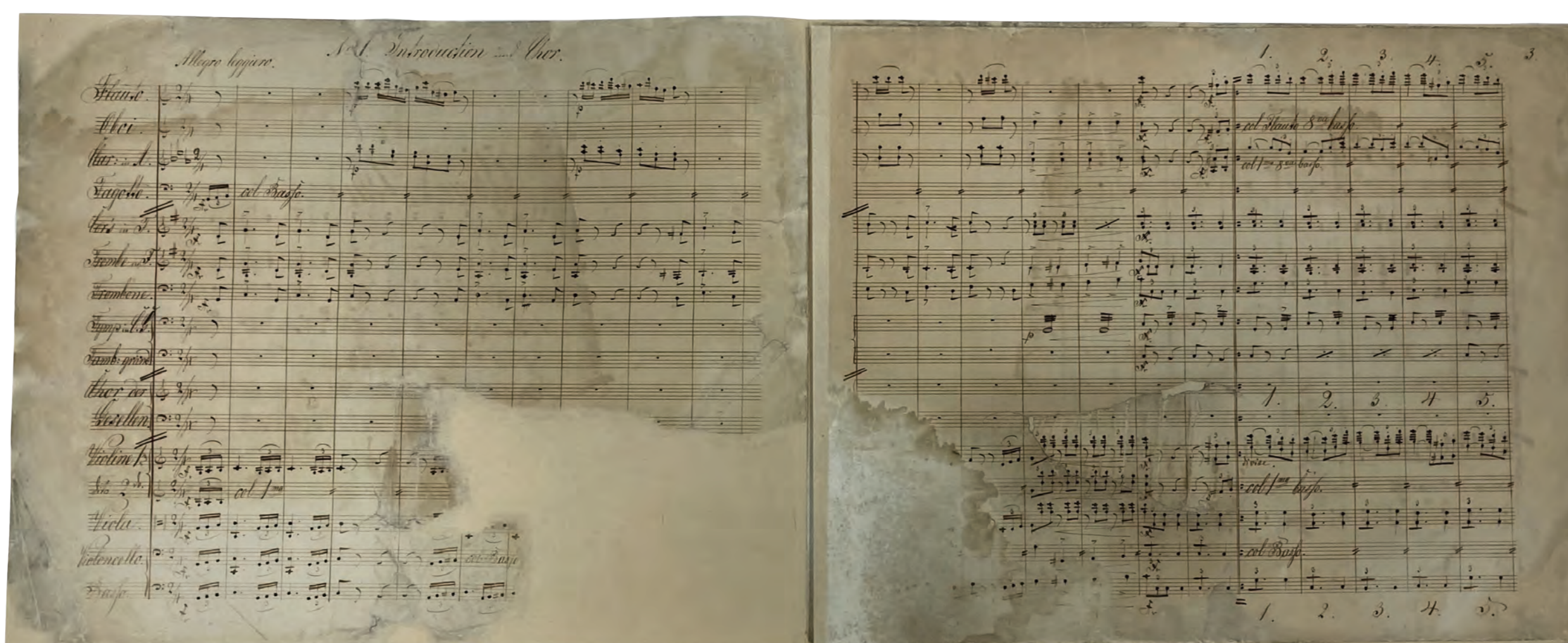
Before restoration



Ink and inflow stain under microscope before restoration



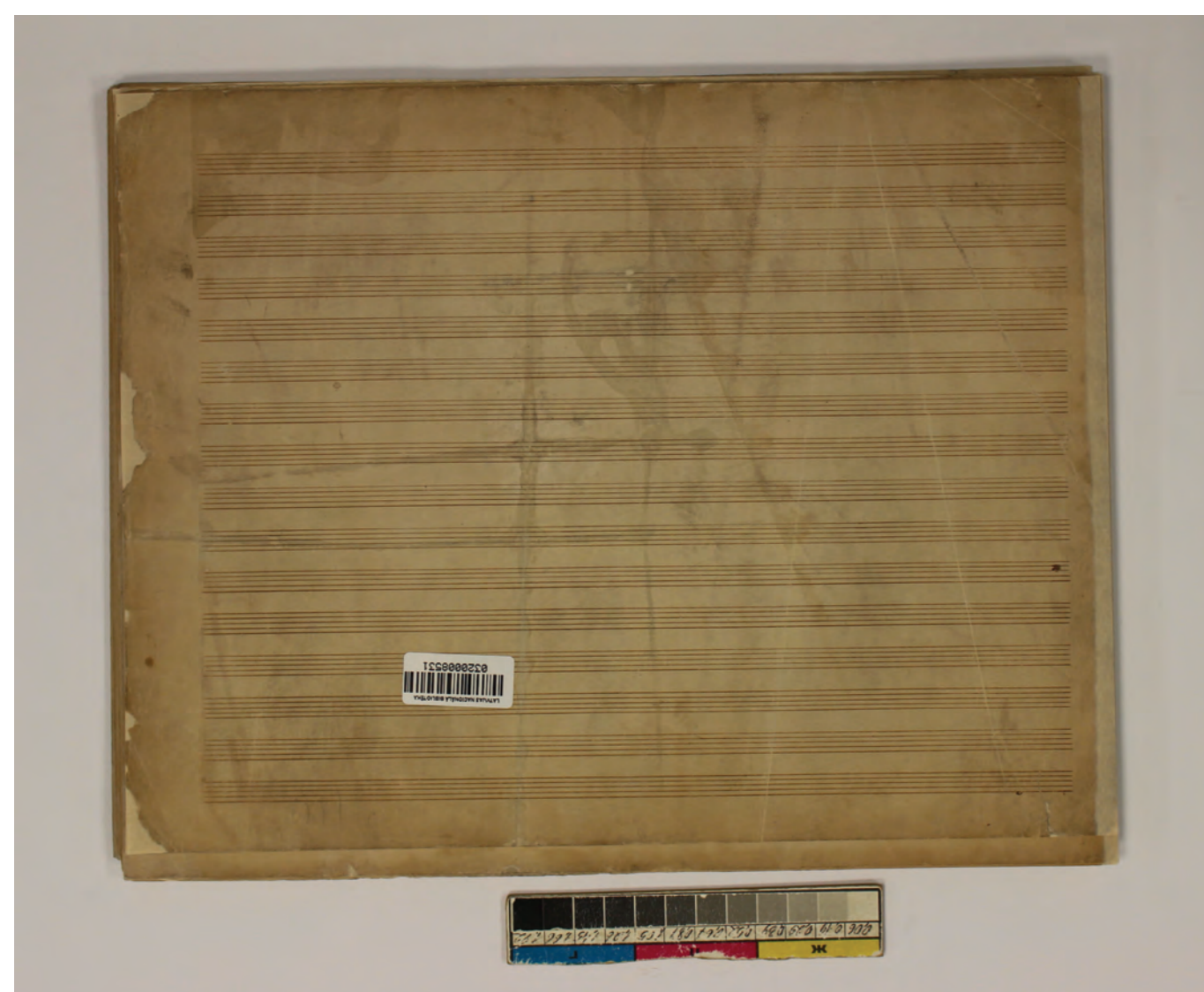
After restoration



After restoration



After restoration



After restoration

RESTORATION

The materials were disinfected with butanol in a C4H9OH steam chamber. Dry cleaning was carried out with eraser crumbs and a Wishab sponge (Akapad Sensitive White - Dray Cleaning Sponge, www.pel.eu). The durability of pigments was tested. They were stable. The pH level was determined with a pH meter (pH Meter Kit, www.pel.eu). Prior to rinsing, the page - pH 5.3; in the spots and stains - pH 4.38-4.6. After rinsing in demineralized water: the page - pH 6.3; in the spots and stains - pH 6.0-6.3. Paper losses and tears were mended with Japanese paper (Tonosawa natural 39 g/m² and Tosa Tengujo, antik, 100% Kozu 3.8 g/m² - Japico Feinpapiere). Pages were pressed in a mechanical press between cloth and planks. A pH neutral cardboard folder was made for their storage.