

EDITORIAL

The 3rd European Symposium on Religious Art, Restoration and Conservation

Between 26 and 28 of May in 2010, the city of Iassy hosted the third edition of an almost traditional scientific event: the European Symposium on Religious Art Restoration and Conservation (ESRARC 2010).

Organised by the Faculty of Orthodox Theology 'Dumitru Stăniloae' from 'Al. I. Cuza' University of Iassy together with the Faculty of Chemical Engineering and Environmental Protection from 'Gheorghe Asachi' Technical University of Iassy, the symposium gathered a number of nearly 60 participants from UK (University of Sussex), Italy (CNR ICVBC Institute for the Conservation and Promotion of Cultural Heritage, Sesto Fiorentino and CNR IVALSIA Trees and Timber Institute, Sesto Fiorentino) and Romania ('Al. I. Cuza' University of Iassy - Faculty of Orthodox Theology and Faculty of Biology, University of Bucharest, Technical University of Iassy, 'G. Enescu' University of Iassy, University of Agriculture of Iassy, 'Babes-Bolyai' University of Cluj-Napoca, Institute of History of Art of Bucharest, National University of Arts of Bucharest, National Museum of Romanian History of Bucharest, National Complex of Museums 'Moldova' of Iassy and 'Bucovina' of Suceava, 'Oltenia' Museum of Craiova, the Research Institute 'P. Poni of Iassy).

The two plenary sessions were initiated on the significance of subjects like 'Conservation of exterior limestone religious statuary at the cathedrals of Wells, Salisbury, Exeter and Peterborough' and 'Traditional Writing Materials in Religious Manuscript Books'.

The presented papers were organized on the next four sections: Religious Arts, Conservation and restoration of books and documents, Conservation and restoration of icons, Influence of environmental factors on religious heritage. The audience was also entitled to examine the poster section.

The high academic level of the lectures has proved the priority given in many countries to a variety of practice concerning the religious art conservation, as part of the international heritage. At the same time, the scientifics expressed the necessity of a multidisciplinary approach in researches performed in this domain, and also the necessity of new contacts and cooperation between scientists having common area of study.

A significant number of papers underlined various aspects concerning Romanian medieval religious heritage: art and conservation state of some churches, icons, iconostasis and embroideries.

Contribution brought to the scientific investigation in area of painting, wood, stone, leather, book and document artefacts was significant, and improvements of several methods of conservation-restoration was by common consent fully appreciated.

The event also marked the opening of an exhibition on religious art (icons, graphic art, illumination).

Finally, it can be concluded that the aim of the symposium was accomplished consolidating a tradition in the field of art and scientific events promoted under the auspices of the European Journal of Science and Theology.

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