

EDITORIAL

Symposium on Religious Art Restoration and Conservation SRARC 2006

From 3rd to 5th of April 2006, the Faculty of Orthodox Theology ‘Dimitru Stăniloae’ from Iași, Romania, has organised the Symposium on Religious Art Restoration and Conservation (SRARC 2006). The symposium was the satellite of the XIth European Conference on Science and Theology (5-10 April, 2006, Iași) – the first ESSSAT conference organised in a predominant orthodox country.

This meeting also represented a debut for our faculty, being the first symposium organised in Romania by the Sacred Art sections. SRARC 2006 was attended by more than 40 participants coming from universities (University ‘Al. I. Cuza’, Technical University ‘Gh. Asachi’ and Agronomical University from Iași; Bucharest University, ‘Babeș Bolyai’ University from Cluj, ‘Ștefan cel Mare’ University from Suceava), research centres (Metropolitan Centre for Conservation and Restoration ‘Resurrectio’ from Iași, National Research Laboratory for Conservation and Restoration of National Movable Cultural Heritage from Bucharest) and museums (‘Brukenthal’ National Museum and ‘Astra’ National Museum’s Complex from Sibiu and ‘Moldova’ Museum’s Complex from Iași).

At the opening ceremony, speeches were given by the Vice-rector of ‘Al. I. Cuza’ University – Professor Gheorghe Popa, the Dean of the Faculty of Orthodox Theology – Professor Viorel Sava, Professor Wim Drees – President of ESSSAT and Dr. Iulian Rusu – Vice-president of ESSSAT, underlining the importance of co-operation between Science and Theology in this applied field of restoration and conservation. We also have to mention here that all the members from the Organising Committee of ECST XI were present at the ceremony, ESSSAT granting logistic and financial support for the symposium.

After the opening ceremony, the guests were invited to the varnishing of the religious art exhibition prepared by students, the church paintings, the graphic arts, the icon and book restoration being well appreciated by the participants. The varnishing was followed by a visit to the Metropolitan Centre for Conservation and Restoration - ‘Resurrectio’ and to the old orthodox cathedral.

The symposium works were held on three separate sections: Church Art, Conservation and restoration of books and documents, and Icons conservation and restoration. The high academic level was the fruit of research activities developed in different research centres with preoccupations in the domain. In order to support the symposium the June number of the European Journal of

Science and Theology is mainly dedicated to a selection of the papers presented here, while other works will make the object of further issues.

During the last day of the symposium, the Metropolitan Pilgrimage Centre has organised an excursion to the main monasteries and churches from Iași.

In order to prove that SRARC 2006 was a real satellite of ECST XI, on the 9th of April, a mostly appreciated religious art exhibition was also prepared at 'Providența' Centre in conjunction with other activities of ESSSAT conference.

We consider that the aims of this manifestation were achieved, i.e.: the establishing of new contacts with scientific and artistic personalities from the field of Sacred Arts, the enlargement of the research sphere of our department, the foundation of links with the ESSSAT members and of other professional associations and not on the last line the promotion of the Faculty of Orthodox Theology from Iași. On the other hand, we hope that starting with the XIth European Conference on Science and Theology the organising of such satellite symposiums will become a tradition for the further ECST editions.

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