



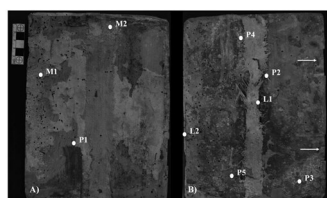
# ESRARC 2019

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## SCIENTIFIC INVESTIGATION OF THE WOODEN BOARD FROM THE 1802 BOOK OF PSALMS

The critical observation of the object by the working group was an effective operation that supplied useful information on executive techniques of the book and allowed to choose the appropriate analyses with the aim of minimum intervention [2, 13, 14]. The wooden board (20.3x17.7 cm) (Figure 2) is made of a single piece divided into two parts by a fissure. The integrity of the board was probably reestablished in the past by a flax fabric strip that held together the two parts and by blue-beige cotton strips to preserve other smaller cracks [7]. Along the main side of the board, in the outer surface, traces of possible catch plates (3.3 cm) are clearly visible (see arrows in Figure 2B). These plates served as attaching points for the straps that fastened the tome [15]. The board thickness, measured by a calliper, varies from 5.01 mm (in correspondence of the board side with the traces of catch plates) and 4.01 mm (in the opposite

side). The board corners appear rounded and moreover three sides, apart from that containing the traces of catch plates, appear thinned. Observation of wood macroscopic characteristics shows a heteroxylous wood, i.e. wood from a broadleaf tree, with diffuse porosity and large rays. The



**Figure 2.** Photographs of the board with the sampling points. (A) inner side, (B) outer side. The two arrows indicate the traces of possible catch plates used for closing the volume. P, L and M indicate

board was cut in radial direction. The shrinking and swelling behaviour of the wood is a key factor in many uses. It is important to note that the radial cut makes the board less

susceptible to deformations caused by the environmental thermo-hygro-metric changes.

The careful examination allowed for highlighting that wood was infested by xylophage insects, deduced by the presence of exit holes and galleries appearing sometimes on the longitudinal surface. Some insects were found and they were collected for species identification.

The analysis of wood thin sections under optical microscope, allowed for revealing the anatomical characteristics typical of beech (*Fagus sylvatica* L.). The identification features are indicated in Figure 3. Physical and mechanical properties of beech wood make it an appreciated species in Europe [16]. The identification of the botanical species provides relevant information on the technological characteristics of the wood and its natural durability [17] allowing a better approach to the conservation of the artefact [18].

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<a href="#">RELIGIOUS-ETHICAL VALUES IN THE CONTEXT OF 'THE SECRET HISTORY OF THE MONGOLS'</a>	1	<a href="#">RELIGION, SCIENCE AND 'RELIGIOUS EDUCATION' IN RUSSIA: SIX REGIONAL PROJECTS</a>	137
<a href="#">THE DEER, THE SNAKE AND THE WATER: JEWISH MEDIEVAL INTERPRETATIONS OF PSALM 24.1</a>	9	<a href="#">FIRST FINDINGS OF RAMAN MICROSCOPY CONDUCTED ON EARLY CHRISTIAN MURALS IN EGYPT</a>	157
<a href="#">INTER MIRIFICA: A STILL RELEVANT DOCUMENT</a>	23	<a href="#">SCIENTIFIC INVESTIGATION OF THE WOODEN BOARD FROM THE 1802 BOOK OF PSALMS</a>	163
<a href="#">CONTINUITY OF DEISM: EPICUREAN THEMES IN VOLTAIRE'S THINKING</a>	33	<a href="#">NEOPAGANISM IN ART AND SOCIAL PROCESSES OF MODERN SOCIETY</a>	173
<a href="#">A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF ISMĀ'ĪLĪ AND TWELVER SHĪĀ' METHODOLOGY IN TA'WĪL BASED ON THE TWO BOOKS 'MIRĀT AL-ANWĀR WA MISHKĀT AL-ASRĀR' AND 'AL-KASHF'</a>	47	<a href="#">ARCHITECTURAL FEATURES OF A CHRISTIAN CAVE MONASTERY AT THE BEGINNING OF THE 20TH CENTURY (ALTAI KRAI, RUSSIA)</a>	185
<a href="#">RELIGIOUS FUNDAMENTALISM: SALVATION OR A THREAT TO THE MODERN WORLD?</a>	61		
<a href="#">TESTING AGNEW'S GENERAL STRAIN THEORY ON DRUG USE AMONG COLLEGE STUDENTS IN JORDAN</a>	71		
<a href="#">ASPECTS OF THE PSYCHOLOGY OF RELIGIOUS LIFE</a>	87		
<a href="#">INFLUENCE OF MASS MEDIA ON THE CURRENT POSITION OF CATHOLIC CHURCH IN SLOVAKIA</a>	103		
<a href="#">A SOCIOLOGICAL-RELIGIOUS PROBE INTO CONTEMPORARY GLOBAL SALAFI JIHADISM</a>	113		
<a href="#">THE DON COSSACKS AND ORTHODOXY: RELIGIOUS AND MORAL TRADITIONS IN THE FRAMEWORK OF MODERN EDUCATION</a>	127		

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## RELIGIOUS-ETHICAL VALUES IN THE CONTEXT OF 'THE SECRET HISTORY OF THE MONGOLS'

**Abstract:** „The Secret History of the Mongols” is a remarkable artefact of culture of nomadic Mongols, which narrates about the ancestors of Genghis Khan, starting from the middle of the 6th century until the middle of the 13<sup>th</sup> century, as well as about the formation and development of the Khanate. This ancient manuscript is an invaluable source about the history of creation of Genghis Khan’s Empire, politics, customs, traditions, religious and political consciousness, the world outlook in general, the spiritual life of the Mongols. The purpose of the article is the cultural and philosophical analysis of axiological roots of the traditional social life of nomads, the spiritual values of the people in the context of „The Secret History of the Mongols”, humanistic rules, religious-ethical rules formed during the reign of Genghis Khan. The continuity of certain ideological, religious-ethical and plot lines dating back to the time of the existence of the ancient Turkic empires, a religious-cultural reform initiated by Genghis Khan, and a new direction based on the ancient traditions and religious beliefs followed by Genghis Khan have been determined in the study of the topic. Along with it, on the basis of numerous historical works and studies of many scientists, such values as unity, harmony, stability, persistence, religious toleration, tolerance, as well as the conception „Tengri – in the sky, Khagan – on the Earth”, exalted by Genghis Khan, have been analysed. In this conception, the two concepts „Tengri” and „Khagan” form two main components of the Higher Freedom in the world.

## THE DEER, THE SNAKE AND THE WATER JEWISH MEDIEVAL INTERPRETATIONS OF PSALM 24.1

**Abstract:** In Psalm 42.1 the poet compares his craving for God to a deer that yearns for water sources. Medieval Jewish commentators offered various explanations for the poet’s choice of a deer as a metaphor for longing for God. According to one commentary the deer hunt snakes as food, which make them very thirsty, whereby they run fast to „streams of water”, i.e., the snake’s venom has the effect of heating the deer’s body. According to another commentary the deer desires to reach deep streams in order to save itself from hunting dogs. The concept of the interaction between deer and snakes first appeared in classical literature. According to the Roman scholars the deer seek out snakes and extract them from their dens. The motif of the deer that attack snakes was retained from the classical sources until the Middle Ages and its impressions are evident in compilations of a zoological nature in European countries and in the Arab world.

## INTER MIRIFICA A STILL RELEVANT DOCUMENT

**Abstract:** This article presents an issue raised in the discussion on the validity of the teaching of the Roman Catholic Church in the context of the means of social communication (the mass media). The authors would like at first to remind the attendant circumstances of creating the „Inter mirifica” decree in relation to the whole Catholic doctrine concerning the media. Furthermore, they discuss the document itself – the history of its origin, its main assumptions and its purport. The last part of this text aims at indicating the significance and validity of this decree.

## CONTINUITY OF DEISM EPICUREAN THEMES IN VOLTAIRE’S THINKING

**Abstract:** Academician Gheorghe Vlăduțescu wisely noted that a „filiationist” perspective cannot explain completely and consistently the logical and historical common denominators of specific thinking systems. Moreover, he pointed out that in philosophy chronology becomes somewhat marginal in relation to the concept and mechanisms of reason, which, taking lead, triggers similarities and identities, with the impact of „returns” to the historical scales as Hegel said. Therefore, we believe that the similarities - quite significant, at times – evinced by a series of philosophical theses (and/or theological connotations) professed over the centuries by Voltaire and Epicurus, shall not be explained unilaterally, by attending by the young François-Marie Arouet of the Epicurian society of Duke Philippe de Bourbon-Vendome – the aristocratic „Cerc de la Temple”. Instead, a more appropriate perspective is the one in which the two envisaged the trinity: divinity-Cosmos-man, an approach completely distant from the norms accepted and consecrated by our own contemporaries.

## A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF ISMĀ‘ĪLĪ AND TWELVER SHĪA’ METHODOLOGY IN TA’WĪL BASED ON THE TWO BOOKS ‘MIRĀT AL-ANWĀR WA MISHKĀT AL-ASRĀR’ AND ‘AL-KASHF’

**Abstract:** Sacred places accompany humanity all over its history as an essential component of religious life. In the contemporary context, new religions and religious movements that appeared on the scene in the last century also need to claim or invent traditions to legitimize them. Among doctrines, rituals and priesthood, frequently these traditions include sacred places. Following a similar recipe, contemporary Druidism and Zalmoxianism invented their own sacred sites. Druidism reclaims Stonehenge, abusively assigning it with a Celtic origin and esoteric functions, while Zalmoxianism identifies the legendary Kogaionon in Bucegi or Ceahlău Mountains. In this context, two new sacred sites are brought to existence on the religious map of the world. Despite the multitude of arguments against their claims, hundreds and thousands of devotees does not experience a cognitive dissonance in this respect. It is to be seen if these places will pass the test of time and belief.

## RELIGIOUS FUNDAMENTALISM SALVATION OR A THREAT TO THE MODERN WORLD?

**Abstract:** The aim of the article is to provide a philosophical analysis of the conceptual features of the ideology of religious fundamentalism and its functioning mechanism in the modern world. The methodological basis of the study sought to analyse fundamentalism as a scientific concept on the one hand and as a means of analysing a certain reality on the other hand. The authors exploit two groups of methods: those related to the development of the theoretical concept of religious fundamentalism and the ones used to collect empirical knowledge. All methods were used in the context of the principle of historicism. Based on the analysis that has been carried out, it was concluded that religious fundamentalism as an exclusion doctrine, a political program, and a cultural setting represents a special ideology that legitimizes the existing order. Fundamentalism is unjustly likened to traditionalism or conservatism. For some, fundamentalism is a positive sociocultural phenomenon that bears a strong spiritual message. It is a call for spiritual awakening and rebirth, caused by the rapid process of secularization of culture, the loss of traditional forms of lifestyle and values, the decline of interest in faith and religious lifestyle, and moral meltdown. Indeed, this kind of fundamentalism emerges primarily in societies that are on the verge of losing their own identity. For others, this is the so-called „Western democracy”, which has prevailed over the totalitarian ideologies and consigned them to the past, though in the modern globalizing world we still observe confrontations, fierce disputes, and armed clashes related to these ideologies.

## TESTING AGNEW’S GENERAL STRAIN THEORY ON DRUG USE AMONG COLLEGE STUDENTS IN JORDAN

**Abstract:** Logistic regression was performed to assert the effects of the core assumption of Agnew’s General Strain Theory (GST) on the likelihood of college students using drugs. It aims to identify the level of strains such as failure in



achieving the goals of positive value, negative emotions, loss of positive emotions, and/or negative feelings among students of Jordan University. A social survey was conducted, and a questionnaire, developed by Al-Badayneh (2012), was used in this study. A sample of (965) students from the University of Jordan was selected. Logistic regression analysis supported Agnew's GST core assumptions. The logistic regression model was statistically significant due to the fact that the model demonstrates 100% accuracy when the non-significant (Hosmer and Lemeshow test  $\chi^2 = 8.435$   $\alpha = 0.392$ ) is applied. The model explained 35% (Nagelkerke R Square) of variance on the drug use, and correctly classified 95.5% overall prediction of the cases. A significant relationship was found between general stain and drug use ( $-0.113$ ,  $\alpha = 0.000$ ), negative emotions ( $-0.311$ ,  $\alpha = 0.000$ ) and frequency of drug use ( $0.110$ ). Moreover, negative emotions are significantly correlated with drug use ( $-0.067$ ,  $\alpha = 0.000$ ) and drug frequency ( $0.149$ ).

#### ASPECTS OF THE PSYCHOLOGY OF RELIGIOUS LIFE

**Abstract:** The human person has a multidimensional existence, and his relationship with reality takes place not only via pragmatic rationality or intentionality but also through contemplation and feeling. Religion gives man the chance to project within a horizon of validity that transcends any factual data. Religious experience is consubstantial to the human being. However, the association of psychology with the human soul (the term originally comes from the Greek words psyche or soul and logos or study) implies also a focus on the internal life of the person. The present paper attempts to bring to light a new perspective on religion and religious experience – the psychological one, consequent to which it will also emphasize the possibility of dialogue between religion and Psychology and highlight the reciprocal advantages that result from the collaboration of the two. While religious traditions are being exploited as a potential source of therapeutic techniques, other aspects of their reasoning, although relatively neglected, may provide valuable insights. For instance, religious theories of psychopathology offer fascinating perspectives on important problems like depression, anxiety, or addictions. Moreover, this dialogue between Psychology and religion is poised to explore the importance of community and relational context for spirituality.

#### INFLUENCE OF MASS MEDIA ON THE CURRENT POSITION OF CATHOLIC CHURCH IN SLOVAKIA

**Abstract:** The presented paper deals with the relationship between the mass media and the Catholic Church, which has the largest representation and number of members in Slovakia. The first part is an overview of the mass media in Slovakia, their goals, tools and fields of influence related to Christian Church. The second part of the article deals with the dimensional definition of Christian media, their most known representatives and the impact on the overall media space in Slovakia. Based on the research, I conclude that Slovakia is still more conservative than liberal country and the Church plays an essential role in the political and social system.

#### A SOCIOLOGICAL-RELIGIOUS PROBE INTO CONTEMPORARY GLOBAL SALAFI JIHADISM

**Abstract:** A relatively recent historical phenomenon, Global Salafi Jihadism (GSJ) constitutes a threat to both, the modern secular societies as well as to traditional Muslim communities. Threatened by the havoc of imminent terrorist attacks, analysts and politicians alike tend to overlook the true causes behind the rise of Global Salafi Jihadism and misread the religious and socio-economic determinants that foster it today. After carefully revealing the historical roots and development of this radical phenomenon, this study will offer a unique probe into the situation of GSJ in France, present a socio-religious analysis of GSJ members detained in recent decades (in select countries), and suggest more adequate ways of dealing with GSJ by local and national governments.

#### THE DON COSSACKS AND ORTHODOXY RELIGIOUS AND MORAL TRADITIONS IN THE FRAMEWORK OF MODERN EDUCATION

**Abstract:** Being a distinctive social group of the Russian population (based on the oath given to Tsar Alexey Mikhailovich in 1671), the Don Cossacks formed a military estate of the Russian Empire between the 18<sup>th</sup> and the early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Orthodoxy has always been a basic element of the Cossack spiritual life, a significant factor in the integration of the Don Cossacks into the Russian society since they became a part of it at the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century, and Orthodoxy as a unified faith was, thus, the factor of integration. Moreover, Orthodoxy has been a powerful means of social regulation, the preservation of life patterns and traditions. This article is concerned with a number of issues that should be clarified to justify the model of religious education in the system of the Cossack education. While studying the influence of religion on the formation of the Cossacks as a social group, the authors have understood historical Cossack traditions, as well as peculiarities of the spiritual and moral education of the Cossack youth. Thus, the article aims to determine the role of Orthodoxy in the spiritual life of the Don Cossacks and the Cossack education.

#### RELIGION, SCIENCE AND 'RELIGIOUS EDUCATION' IN RUSSIA SIX REGIONAL PROJECTS

**Abstract:** The research is carried out in the framework of the project „Philosophical Religious Studies as a „Glocal” Project: Youth of Germany and Russia in Dialogue on Religion”, which received grant support from the Russian Foundation for Basic Research (18-011-00935 A, 2018-2020). It focuses on the issues of formation of local identities, combining „religion”, „science” and „education”, which are being formed in the regions after the collapse of the USSR (1991), and on the adoption of the standards of freedom of conscience in modern Russia (Constitution, 1993). We represent the regions in order of their historical integration as part of the modern Russian Federation: Vladimir (990), Moscow (1147), Kazan (1552), Oryol (1566), Arkhangelsk (1584) and Ulan-Ude (1666). These cities act as urban centres, where political, economic, educational and religious elites are concentrated, and support and reproduce the „collective memory” of „Pax Christiana”, „Pax Islamica”, „Pax Buddhica”, „Pax Khazarica”, „Pax Tatarica” and „Pax Sovietica”, in global, local and „glocal” forms of their construction in the system of public school education (since 2012 - the course „Basics of religious cultures and secular ethics”).

#### FIRST FINDINGS OF RAMAN MICROSCOPY CONDUCTED ON EARLY CHRISTIAN MURALS IN EGYPT

**Abstract:** This short report presents the first findings obtained through the application of Raman microscopy to analyse early Christian murals in Egypt. The samples were studied by a micro-Raman instrument, while the scanning electron microscope (ESEM-EDX) was applied to allow the accessing to the chemical composition of the samples. The identified pigments were red ochre (with different hues), yellow ochre and carbon black (from vegetable origin). A high quantity of TiO<sub>2</sub> anatase polymorph was detected in the red pigment samples. The analyses showed that calcium carbonate (calcite) was used to build up the underlying layers. Further analyses on multi-chromatic layers are in progress.

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# Newsletter 15.4

## SCIENTIFIC INVESTIGATION OF THE WOODEN BOARD FROM THE 1802 BOOK OF PSALMS

**Abstract:** This paper presents some investigations on the wooden board of the religious Book of Psalms, dated back to 1802, which was published at the typography of the Moldavian Metropolitan Church in Romania. The visual observation was performed to assess the conservation state and to choose the most appropriate diagnostic analyses to provide useful information for book restoration. Wood species and textile fibres has been characterised by optical microscopy; biological analysis was performed to identify fungi and bacteria, as well as insect species; superimposed materials, such as glue, were analysed by Fourier transform infrared spectroscopy. The analysis revealed the use of beech for the board, flax and cotton for the strips, original glue and a synthetic material, probably used in restoration works. Microbiological contamination was due to fungal attack ('Trichoderma viride, Aspergillus flavus'); the insect species was 'Anobium punctatum'. The critical observation of board made by the working group was an effective operation as it supplied useful information on original techniques of the book and allowed to choose the appropriate analyses with the aim of minimum intervention.

## NEOPAGANISM IN ART AND SOCIAL PROCESSES OF MODERN SOCIETY

**Abstract:** In modern culture and art one can find many signs of ancient beliefs and mythological concepts. The authors reveal these phenomena and study their role in modern spirituality and their mental and psychological influence. The article is aimed at uncovering the causes and consequences of the archaic world awareness and ancient pagan beliefs renewal in modern art. The authors analyse the phenomena of neopaganism in art and reveal two aspects. The first aspect is the ancient ideological concept associated with people's deep spiritual sources and forms of beliefs. This phenomenon is associated with the collective memory and ethno-psychological characteristics of every nation. The second aspect is the use of belief in ancient myths and practices in order to manipulate people for social and commercial purposes. The research results show that the experience of reclaiming the natural and social environment of the ancient man has been accumulated for thousands of years in myths and legends. Modern people, due to the internal and external reasons, address this experience when trying to solve their problems with the help of neopagan practices or the formation of quasi-religious movements.

## ARCHITECTURAL FEATURES OF A CHRISTIAN CAVE MONASTERY AT THE BEGINNING OF THE 20<sup>th</sup> CENTURY (ALTAI KRAI, RUSSIA)

**Abstract:** The article presents the results of the survey of Christian sketes – cave monasteries near the village of Sredne-Krasilovo (Zarinsky District, Altai Krai, Russia). The authors of the article have studied the layout and main architectural features of the underground structures and reconstructed their history. The conducted research allows the authors to conclude that there is a possible correlation between the studied objects and the cave complexes of Kiev Pechersk Lavra. Cave monasteries are unique historical sites and indispensable sources for the reconstruction of cultural and historical processes in Altai. At the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the integrity of the underground structures was compromised. The article presents the main problems of preservation of the studied historic site. The chronological framework of the research is determined as the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Cave monasteries in the territory of the Altai Krai were constructed exactly at this time. The geographical framework of the research is determined by the concentration of the aforementioned sites in this territory, as well as the degree of archaeological knowledge about the cave structures.