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E.C.C.O. - European Confederation
of Conservator-Restorers' Organisations A.I.S.B.L.

ANNUAL REPORT 2013
The Commission of Conservators-Restorers
of the Association of Museums and Galleries in the Czech Republic

The Commission of conservators-restorers (CCR) of the Association of museums and galleries (AMG) in the Czech Republic is the professional association of **245 members** (institutional-conservators-restorers of museums and galleries and individual-specialists in the area of protection of objects of cultural heritage), whose main objective is the promotion and development of conservation-restoration of the museums objects and the improvement of the general level of protection of the cultural heritage in the Czech Republic. Their members are organized in the form of the regional sections and working groups, with the aim to apply of scientific research in the context of the material investigation and technology treatment, to assess of conservation-restoration interventions, to disseminate of knowledge on the basis of presentation and educational activities, including increasing the credit profession among the professional and lay public.

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Out-puts 2013:

- One of the main activities of the CCR realized recently, was working on **the Recommendation for the procedure for the award of the conservation-restoration work in relation to the Document about the Profession of Conservator-Restorer**. It contains ethical principles associated with an intervention, the qualifying requirements for conservators, including the definition of the legal framework for the implementation of contracts in the field of protection of cultural objects. Specified are the individual steps of the process of conservation-restoration intervention from the processing of the tender documentation, material research, the intent of the conservation work, including its own intervention. The recommendation also contains requirements on the overall digital or other documentation of conservation process. This material was published in the journal Forum for conservators-restorers, 2013, Technical Museum in Brno, ISSN 1805-0050, ISBN 978-80-86413-98-3 <http://mck.technicalmuseum.cz/lang/en/journal-fcr>.

Presentation of the recommendation is available on the website <http://www.cz-museums.cz/web/amg/organy-amg/komise/komise-konzervatoru-restauratoru/dokumenty>

- Periodically, every year is organized in cooperation with the Methodological Centre of Conservation of the Technical Museum in Brno (<http://mck.technicalmuseum.cz/lang/en/>) **the Conference of Conservators-Restorers** (www.konference-konzervatoru-restauratoru.cz). The Conference 2013 was held in Hodonín and was attended by more than 250 participants. Contributions made at the conference were published in "Forum for conservators-restorers 2013".
- **Workshops and seminars**
 - Protection of coins and medals in museum collections, May 2013, Technical Museum in Brno. Selected chapters were published in the publication **Protection of coins and medals in museum collections**, Technical Museum in Brno, 2013, ISBN 978-80-87896-00-6.

The main part of this publication is devoted to the issue of determination of coin forgeries, the method of their identification, and their sensitive treatment. There is a detailed description of the technology of the silver look imitation in forged silver coins by means of tinning in terms of both the metal-graphical structure of the metal-plated material and the possibilities of their identification using simple and modern instrumental methods. Similarly, attention is paid to the specification of surface layers of silver-plated coins. The text includes some particular examples of plating of the forgeries and the applied technologies including a comparison of the results of the EDS (Energy Dispersive Spectrometry) analysis of the chemical composition of applied alloys. The next chapter focuses on the identification of the local corrosion defects in modern gold and silver coins and medals. These defects appear during technological operations in the production. The following part presents the process of material examination and conservation of a set of silver coins dated from the 17th to 18th centuries. The standard purity of alloys in coins is compared with the current results of the applied methods of spectroscopy (XRF, SEM-EDX). Equally, the method of electrolytic reduction of silver sulphides is presented as one of the finest methods of cleaning the silver surfaces. Another area of interest is the conservation of coins found in hoards on archaeological sites. The possibilities of non-invasive diagnostics are described including the methods of separating coins made from silver and copper alloys that had been joined together with corrosion



products. There is another chapter dedicated to this field that presents direct experience with the treatment of a find containing a hoard of silver coins from the mid-14th to the mid-15th centuries. Some pitfalls are mentioned too associated with the requirement for a quick identification of coins and the finder's reward payments on one side, and providing an adequate time-consuming conservation and restoration intervention on the other. The issue is closed by a chapter dedicated to the methods of producing copies of coins from various materials including epoxy resins with a metal-plated layer, ways of their stabilization against corrosion, and the possibilities of surface retouching.

- **Textile in museum**, June 2013, Technical Museum in Brno, ISSN 1804-1752

Textiles in the Museum is the only journal in the Czech Republic focused on the issue of the history of textile production and clothing making, identification of historical textiles, restoration and preservation of historical fabrics and on the issue of historic textile techniques and technological aids. The periodical is designed interdisciplinary, therefore, among the main contributions include chapters from the disciplines such as history, archaeology, ethnology, art, cultural heritage, conservation and restoration, and the natural sciences.

updated version from April 10, 2014

Alena Selucká

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