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

**ANNUAL REPORT 2014**  
**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 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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Web site: <http://www.cz-museums.cz/web/amg/organy-amg/komise/komise-konzervatoru-restauratoru>

#### Out-puts 2014:

- Survey of personnel development in the area of conservation-restoration during past ten years in Czech museums and galleries
- Instructions for rescue collections and cultural monuments in the cases of crisis - the aim of the "First aid" is to provide a simple and clear instructions on how to proceed in the context of rescue operations and immediate treatments.
- 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](http://www.konference-konzervatoru-restauratoru.cz)). The Conference 2014 was held in Ústí nad Labem and was attended by more than 250 participants. Contributions made at the conference were published in "Forum for conservators-restorers 2013".
- Elections to the Committee of Conservators-Restorers, held in September 9th 2014 in Ústí nad Labem - confirmed current members of the board.
- **Workshops and seminars**
  - Decorative Techniques in Metals I., May 2014, Technical Museum in Brno. Selected chapters were published in the publication *Decorative techniques in metals I.*, Technical Museum in Brno, 2013, ISBN 978-80-87896-10-5.

The publication includes separate papers concerning arts-and-crafts processing of objects from metal and its alloys including the methods of their conservation-restoration. Selected objects from the collection of precious and general metals are introduced that belong to the Moravian Gallery in Brno. They represent a whole range of brilliantly performed decorative techniques such as hammering, engraving, chasing, enamelling, inlaying or filigree. Goldsmiths' and silversmiths methods are also documented on the decorations of the Torahs from the Jewish Museum in Prague. These highly valued liturgical texts are wound onto a metal attachment bearing a crown, shields and a pointer. Their production processes are described; hammering, casting, metal spinning, and other surface treatment techniques such as gilding and decoration with stones. Specific treatment of these museum objects is shown on the examples of the unique historical Bulgarian jewellery in the National Museum (Prague). The treatment involves typological determination, material investigation and conservation-restoration focusing on cleaning of the green copper corrosion products. Similarly, detailed procedures and restoration of the jewellery from the Waldes Collection of the Museum of Glass and Jewellery in Jablonec nad Nisou (Czech Republic).

An overview of the niello technology production possibilities and its potential applications in the course of history is the subject of the next chapter. There is an analysis of the chemical composition and the principles of correct cleaning of metal surfaces that are decorated using the niello decorative technique. Also, attention is paid to the possibilities and conservation methods for the uncovering of engraved and punched decoration of archaeological objects on the examples of La Tène artefacts. Chapters on weapon decoration are also part of the publication. Among them is the technique of pattern welding of sword blades, knives, and other objects of the armourer's trade. There is a



summary of well-known blacksmith's manufacturing practices and methods of accentuation of inlaid patterns on the metal surface by mechanical means or by acid etching. Many of those decoration techniques are also documented on oriental weapons from the Krásna Hôrka castle (Slovakia) which was hit by fire in 2012; the castles administered by the Slovak National Museum. The paper disseminates the identification of manufacturing processes and metal materials damaged by high temperature including the methods of their conservation. The final part of the publication includes an extensive characterization of metal decoration techniques on historical Japanese swords. Various modifications of decoration techniques are introduced along with examples of precise work of Japanese craft schools. That chapter is enriched with overall historical context of the Japanese history and accompanied by detailed terminology concerning parts of the sword and rich visual documentation.

updated version from November, 2016

Alena Selucká

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