

Some microclimatic aspects related to polychrome wooden objects from Romanian museums

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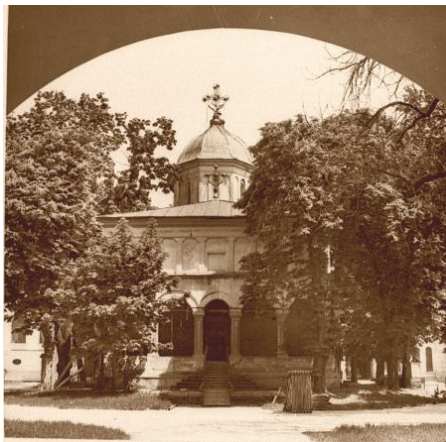
Relevant microclimatic related problems for painted wooden objects (icons – iconostases, religious sculptures, old furniture) are discussed:

- the problems caused by the transport from museums back to reconstructed churches – destroyed by dictator Nicolae Ceausescu's regime between 1977 and 1989 – of their original religious inventory (icons, iconostases, special furniture);
- the necessity to elaborate new procedures for microclimatic conditions in religious spaces realized with modern construction materials, considering both cultic and "museum" type or tourist activities
- the necessity of a synergetic treatment for wooden, metal, paper, leather, ritual objects and clothes, frescoes in churches and monasteries from microclimatic point of view
- the influence of Romanian temperate –continental climate and of possible strong earthquakes
- the financial aspect – economic crisis – of air conditioning in small museums and religious buildings
- the necessity of a strong professional co-ordination between restoration and conservation activities elaborating adequate guidelines and standards
- the necessity to install adequate heating systems for churches in relation with - the specific climatic environment from each geographic region (planes, mountains, forests, hills, big cities, villages, etc)
- the necessity of systematic studies of the environment effects on painted wood especially in small museums and churches
- the necessity of a special treatment for deposits, related to the insufficient exhibition space in Romanian museums

The microclimatic situation and some concrete results obtained in the last years in the biggest Art and History Museums in Romania are finally presented.



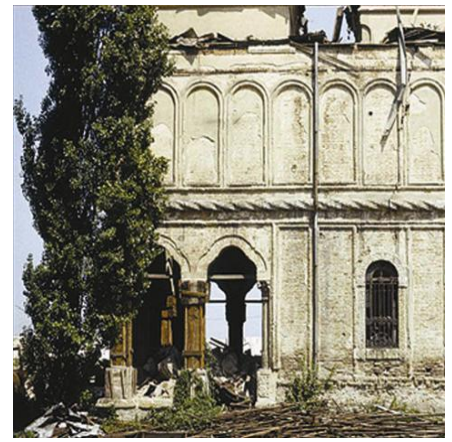
The case of Cotroceni Monastery – the church of former Royal Palace, 17 century, demolished by Ceausescu. The iconostasis and the liturgical objects transferred, restored and exhibited in the Romanian National Art Museum. Church reconstructed with modern materials (concrete, etc) in 2008. The problem of re-location of iconostasis in the new building: dismantling, transport, assembling, microclimatic conditions.



Cotroceni Monastery - 1900



Church interior (1940)



Ceausescu's Demolition - 1980



Cotroceni Monastery - restored 2009



Wood (oak) carved piece of iconostasis



The same problem with the frescoes of Vacaresti Monastery (17 century, painter Parvu Mutu), demolished by Ceausescu in 1982. Frescoes conserved in the Romanian National Art Museum.