

THE TEXTILE COLLECTION IN THE CONSERVATION CENTRE OF THE CROATIAN CONSERVATION INSTITUTE IN LUDBREG

Various textile artefacts that belonged to parish or monastic collections had been out of contemporary use or had been damaged and stored in very bad conditions inside churches or rectories exposed to a high range of humidity, dust, various insects and rodents. Unfortunately, a lot of them had already been destroyed in so called "holy fires" organized by parishes. In order to prevent further damaging and extermination of valuable historic textile - a source of useful information about past textile technologies as well as the traditional way of life - it was necessary to organize activities of systematic collecting and protection.

The Croatian Conservation Institute organized a conference titled "The most important activities for preserving and improving the state conditions of textile artefacts" in Zagreb in November 2008. During the conference the necessity of collecting, protecting and safe keeping of textile artefacts which are in very bad conditions within church collections all around Croatia was made clearly evident. The conservators proposed as a conclusion the organization of an official textile collection placed at the Conservation Centre of the Croatian Conservation Institute in Ludbreg where proper conditions for such an activity already exist, available space for the collection with good micro-climatic conditions for storage and professional staff trained for taking care of textile artefacts.

The Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Croatia has financially supported the project so all the necessary equipment could be ordered and adequate space prepared within the Conservation Centre. After providing all the necessary preconditions, intensive field visits started in 2010 in order to obtain full information about the number and state of textile artefacts, select the most valuable samples, carry out the preventive conservation of the collected textile and provide suitable storage.

During the period of three years some 300 samples of various textile artefacts have been collected and stored. These are mostly church vestments: chasubles, mantles, vellums, maniples, pillows, socks etc.; as well as other kinds of textile objects or fragments of historic fabrics.

The Centre provides the following activities for the collected artefacts:

- disinfestation by the an-oxy method in the chamber of the Centre;
- preventive conservation;
- preparation of fundamental conservation documents and
- storage in boxes made of acid-free boards, wooden chests or metal drawers.