

A NON-DESTRUCTIVE SURVEY OF BRATISLAVA ANTIPHONARIES COLLECTION

Jozef Hanus¹, Michal Čeppan², Hana Paulusová³, Michal Ďurovič³

¹Slovak National Archives, Drotárska 42, 817 01 Bratislava, Slovakia, hanus.jozef@sna.vs.sk

²Faculty of Chemical and Food Technology, Slovak University of Technology,
Radlinského 9, 81237 Bratislava, Slovakia, michal.ceppan@stuba.sk

³National Archives, Archivní 4, Prague 4, Czech Republic

Historical library of the Bratislava chapter represents a unique phenomenon in the context of written cultural heritage of Slovakia by its extent (more than 3000 volumes), antiquity (books from the 12th to 19th century) as well as by the content of period secular and religious literature. At the same time this library contains the most extensive, historically and artistically the most precious collection of medieval manuscripts in Slovakia. Numerous illuminations in antiphonaries of Bratislava serve as the basic information source to knowledge of development of medieval book illumination in the region of the Central Europe. A series of five antiphonaries „Illuminated codices of the Bratislava Chapter Library“ was included into the UNESCO Memory of the World Register in 1997. Their digitization and publishing on CD-ROMs was completed in 2007. Despite their uniqueness no scientific and experimental search from material and preservation point of view was made.

This is the first attempt to analyse writing inks and materials in order to gain and provide information about their possible damage influence on parchment carrier. Writing inks were studied using FTIR and XRF spectroscopy as well as VIS-NIR Fibre Optics Reflectance Spectra.

Poster presentation provides spectral properties of inks and substrate on various position of document analysed by the aid of methods of multivariate factor analysis.