

LESS FUNDS FOR NDT, WHAT SHOULD WE DO NOW?

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In Romania, as probably in most developing countries, only limited funds are available for non-destructive analytical techniques. Still, the country has a rich, valuable cultural heritage, studied in a less extent by advanced analytical methods, somehow a dark spot in the knowledge on European cultural heritage. Most museums have no scientists or scientific research department, the major museums may have 1-2 scientists, but they are basically equipped just for microscopy at different levels. The National Research Institute for Mobil Cultural Heritage was established a few years ago, it has four employed scientists, its technical equipment is improving every year. Nevertheless, it is no way that it can serve the needs of a country having over 2000 museums and a huge heritage.

Looking to the work and results of western European colleagues one could fill a slight frustration. What should a Romanian conservation scientist do under these conditions?

The over 10 years experience of the author shows that some useful contribution can be offered to the conservator/ restorer colleagues in better knowing the objects, controlling conservation methods and preventive conservation measures.

The article presents the analysis performed on the pigments of some glass icons from ASTRA Museums collection with micro-chemical tests and some optical methods, and the comparison the results with the analysis of the same pigments made with XRD and IR spectroscopy. Accordingly presents how scientific study of heritage can be developed here and what should be the next steps in finding ways to complete the knowledge on the precious heritage of the country.