

Foreword

Between 25th and 27th of May 2015 the first International Conference on Gilding Materials and Techniques in European Art – GILT-EnArt2015, was held at the University of Évora, being organized with the support of the Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT-MCTES). This conference was an output from the Gilt-Teller project (www.uevora.gilt-teller.pt) and represented a model of interaction and knowledge sharing among specialists of the Cultural Heritage community.

The ECR- Studies in Conservation and Restoration Journal, following up its purpose of disseminating the scientific knowledge produced in the conservation and restoration area in a multidisciplinary perspective, supported the Conference dedicating its number 7 to a Special Issue that includes some of the most relevant selected papers.

As a result, the present Special Issue proposes 5 papers delivered as oral or poster communications during the 6 sessions of the conference:

- 1) Historical and technical sources on gilding materials and techniques;
- 2) Conservation state assessment and conservation-restoration studies on gilded artifacts;
- 3) Multiscale and multidisciplinary analytical studies on gilded artifacts;
- 4) From the historical sources to the reproduction of gilding recipes in the laboratory;
- 5) Gilding materials and techniques between Europe and Overseas countries;
- 6) Outreach and dissemination strategies.

Thus, historical findings (Session 1) and the scientific analyses performed on baroque altarpieces (Session 3), a polychrome sculpture (Session 3) and one post-Byzantine icon (Sessions 3+5) from Portugal are presented in 3 papers (Mangucci *et al*, Dias *et al* and Oliveira *et al*). One paper deals with the conservation state assessment and evaluation of interventions using substitutes for gold leaf (*shlagmetal*) in Romanian icons (Budu *et al*, Sessions 2+4+5). Finally the last session (Session 6) is represented by a paper dealing with the multimedia tool accomplished during the GILT-Teller project for Outreach in Conservation and Heritage Science (Sandu ICA).

These papers and the topics they cover illustrate the trend of multidisciplinary and multinational cooperation in the cultural heritage field. They show how important is to gather information from different scientific areas when studying gilding/polychrome materials and techniques and discussing the options and solutions for their proper conservation and restoration. This holistic and interdisciplinary approach is a basic feature for the effort of preservation and promotion of the precious gilded heritage.

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