ASSESSMENTS OF ANTIQUE LEATHER COVERS’ DEGRADATION THROUGH MODERN METHODS OF ANALYSIS

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ABSTRACT

Introduction

Within the Research and Restoration-Conservation Centre for Cultural Heritage at the "Moldova" National Complex of Museums, Iasi, Romania were researched, restored and preserved many manuscripts, rare books and printed works belonging to cultural heritage.

Experimental part

Knowledge of techniques and treatment of leathers, nature animal species, structural and thermal stability, evaluation of durability of antique leather covers was a research done through laborious methods non-destructive or micro-destructive analysis: XRF, FTIR, SEM(scanning electron microscopy), thermal analyses(TG, DTG, DSC), etc. Experimental part was realized on the antique leather covers from the 16th -19th centuries belonging to some Romanian or foreign books.

Conclusions

Values obtained through scientific investigations have proved to be adequate parameters in assessing durability antique leather covers and their damage extent.