

Conservation issue of heavily over dried silk fabric on the example of spatial object from Muzeum Narodowe Ziemi Przemyskiej. Sunshade; inventory number MPH-253.

Author: Magdalena Żmuda

Thesis supervisor: Monika Stachurska PhD

Department of Conservation and Restoration of Textiles

The Sunshade was purchased by Muzeum Narodowe Ziemi Przemyskiej in 1956 from Maria Heydowa (28 July 1876 - 1 April 1958).



The sunshade canopy is single-layered. Due to the lack of lining less aesthetic, moving parts of frame were covered with textile elements made of silk fabric.

On the handles of sunshades were often hung textile ornaments. In this case the decoration is a braided hoop.

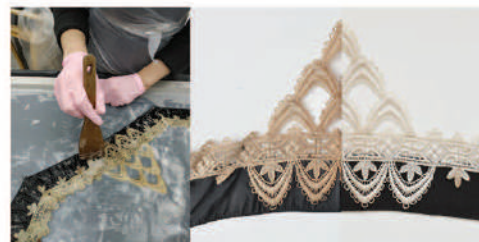
The handle cap is made of plastic, which imitates ivory. The plastic is most likely Galalith, invented in 1897 (photos: M. Żmuda, archive WkiRDS)

Before conservation the sunshade was destructed. The silk fabrics of the canopy were exceptionally highly desiccated and brittle, which made opening the sunshade impossible.



The upper part of the sunshade frame with a silk canopy. The most decorative element is cotton guipure lace an Art Nouveau motif. Summary of the condition of the sunshade before and after conservation (photos: M. Żmuda, archive WkiRDS)

As a result of conducted conservation and restoration work, sunshade regained opening capability thus fashion accessory function was restored. The length of the sunshade is 108 cm (photo: M. Żmuda, archive WkiRDS)



The task of the cleaning would be to eliminate harmful substances degrading the matter of the object. Dust and dirt were removed and contact with water moisturized overdried fibers (photos: M. Żmuda, archive WkiRDS)



The worst preserved part of the frame were steel wires from which the layers corrosion was removed mechanically (photo: E. Przybyszewska, archive WkiRDS)

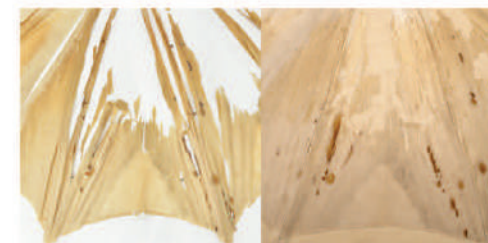
The fabric elements not removed from the frame were also subjected to conservation and restoration runner, this element has been reconstructed (photos: M. Żmuda, archive WkiRDS)



Summary of the state of preservation of the dismantled sunshade canopy before and after conservation treatments. As result of conducted conservation the canopy was consolidated (photos: M. Żmuda, archive WkiRDS)



The most damaged fabrics of the sunshade were cleaned with an alternative method using physical properties of the agar-agar gel. Comparison of compresses of agar-agar gel before and after cleansing (photos: M. Żmuda, archive WkiRDS)



Comparison of the two gore of the canopy, the state before and after cleaning and conservation (photos: M. Żmuda, archive WkiRDS)

In case of such damaged silk, the best method for its strengthening was lining. The fragments of original textile are consolidated by adhering its surface in to a lining fabric using adhesive film consisting of a mixture of two acrylic resins.

