

**LĪDZSVARU MEKLĒJOT:
SAGLABĀŠANA,
IZMANTOŠANA,
RESTAURĀCIJA**

10. BALTIJAS VALSTU RESTAURATORU TRIENNĀLES
STENDA REFERĀTU KRĀJUMS
RĪGA 2014

**SEEKING BALANCE:
PRESERVATION,
USE, CONSERVATION**

THE 10TH BALTIC STATES TRIENNIAL RESTORERS'
POSTERS RIGA 2014

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LU Academic Library, The Misiņa Library; Riga, Rūpniecības iela 10, LV-1235

HIERONYMUS BOCK'S KREUTER BUCH (THE BOOK OF MEDICAL HERBS): THE LIFE, PRESERVATION AND RESTORATION OF A BOOK.

Post abstract

H. Bock (1498 - 1554) was one of the founders of German botany. His "Book of Medicinal Herbs," completed, with colourful woodcut illustrations offered a wide insight into the world of European herbs of 16th century.

The book was printed in 1551 in Strasbourg (dimensions: 34 x 22, 5 x 9 cm; paper, typographic ink, watercolours, woodcuts, wood, pigskin). This is unique printed work was published during the life of H. Bock and now is the only such copy available in Latvia. Nevertheless, the book is 463 years old, and suffers a lot from frequent carriage and use; it remains an interesting source for information even in nowadays.

In 2011, the Latvian poet Astrīda Ivaska donated this unique printed work to the Misiņa Library. She had inherited the book from her father-in-law who had purchased the book in the 1950s in an American antique shop. The book was family property since this purchase.

The book is printed with black printing ink in German and Latin on vergé paper. The text is supplemented with 435 water coloured woodcut illustrations by David Kandel (1520 – 1590), including a portrait of Hieronymus Bock himself.

Preservation

The book has wooden covers coated with light pigskin. The edges of the wooden boards have been cut to a slanted angle and book covers decorated with renaissance ornaments.

The leather slightly separated from the board and was dirty and worn. On the back and sides of the book material was missing. The closure has been preserved. The book was full of dirt, pages torn, water damage was evident on the pages, rips have been taped, and parts of paper were missing.

Research

Visual examination of book showed possible presence of micro flora harmful to paper, but despite to this inspection, microbiological analyses did not release the presence of dangerous microorganisms. Changing colours of fibres during the cyto-chemical analysis with Herzberg reagent confirmed presence of linen and cotton - a characteristic sign of high quality, durable vergé paper. Printing, ink and watercolours showed good resistance.

The use of pigskin as the binding leather has been confirmed by microscopic analysis.

Restoration

Book wooden boards were cleaned from the dirt and grime, the tape has been removed and torn pages were restored. Ruptured and missing paper parts were restored or replaced and well pressed. The covers, has been cleaned and all missing parts of the cover were restored by adding material and later plasticized.



Fig. 1. Before conservation



Fig. 2. In conservation of process

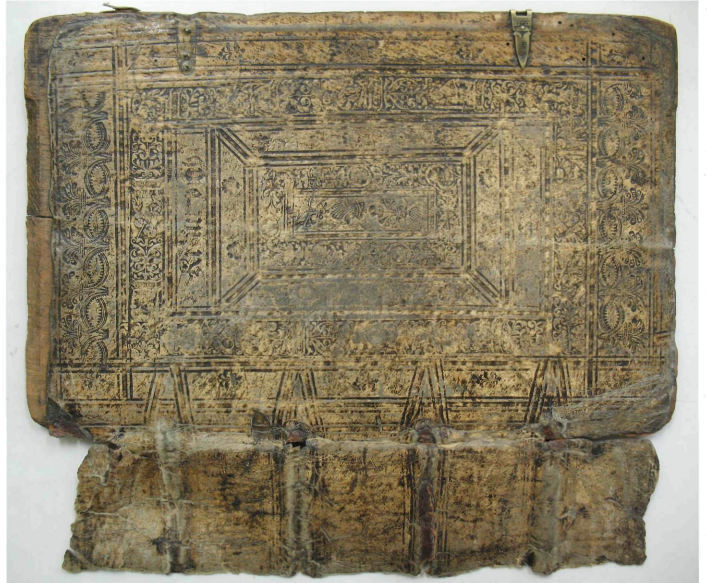


Fig. 3. Book cover before conservation