

DECORATIVE TECHNIQUES IN METALS I.

The publication includes separate papers concerning arts-and-crafts processing of objects from metal and its alloys including the methods of their conservation-restoration. Selected objects from the collection of precious and general metals are introduced that belong to the Moravian Gallery in Brno. They represent a whole range of brilliantly performed decorative techniques such as hammering, engraving, chasing, enamelling, inlaying or filigree. Goldsmiths' and silversmiths methods are also documented on the decorations of the Torahs from the Jewish Museum in Prague. These highly valued liturgical texts are wound onto a metal attachment bearing a crown, shields and a pointer. Their production processes are described; hammering, casting, metal spinning, and other surface treatment techniques such as gilding and decoration with stones. Specific treatment of these museum objects is shown on the examples of the unique historical Bulgarian jewellery in the National Museum (Prague). The treatment involves typological determination, material investigation and conservation-restoration focusing on cleaning of the green copper corrosion products. Similarly, detailed procedures and restoration of the jewellery from the Waldes Collection of the Museum of Glass and Jewellery in Jablonec nad Nisou (Czech Republic).

An overview of the niello technology production possibilities and its potential applications in the course of history is the object of the next chapter. There is an analysis of the chemical composition and the principles of correct cleaning of metal surfaces that are decorated using the niello decorative technique. Also, attention is paid to the possibilities and conservation methods for the uncovering of engraved and punched decoration of archaeological objects on the examples of La Tène artefacts. Chapters on weapon decoration are also part of the publication. Among them is the technique of pattern welding of sword blades, knives, and other objects of the armourer's trade. There is a summary of well-known blacksmith's manufacturing practices and methods of accentuation of inlaid patterns on the metal surface by mechanical means or by acid etching. Many of those decoration techniques are also documented on oriental weapons from the Krásna Hôrka castle (Slovakia) which was hit by fire in 2012; the castle is administered by the Slovak National Museum. The paper disseminates the identification of manufacturing processes and metal materials damaged by high temperature including the methods of their conservation. The final part of the publication includes an extensive characterization of metal decoration techniques on historical Japanese swords. Various modifications of decoration techniques are introduced along with examples of precise work of Japanese craft schools. That chapter is enriched with overall historical context of the Japanese history and accompanied by detailed terminology concerning parts of the sword and rich visual documentation.