RADIOCARBON DATING OF AHDNAMA AND ARMORIAL FROM THE FOJNIKA FRANCISCAN MONASTERY, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

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INTRODUCTION

The dating of cultural heritage/artistic objects is essential for the valuation of original objects, as well as for the recognition of optimal methods for their repair and restoration. In this work we present the results of radiocarbon dating of three historically important objects from the museum collection of the Franciscan Monastery in Fojnica, Bosnia and Herzegovina: 1) paper from the Ahdnama document (Fojnička ahdnama); 2) textile of the mantel which belonged to Fra Andelko Zvizdović; 3) paper from the book Fojnica Armorial (Fojnički grbovnik). During the past it was possible that some of the objects were damaged or even completely destroyed by fire. Radiocarbon dating was used to determine the originality of these 3 important historical objects.

DATED HISTORICAL OBJECTS FROM THE MUSEUM COLLECTION IN THE FOJNIKA MONASTERY

AHDNAMA

It is assumed that the Ahdnama document (Fojnička ahdnama) was given in 1463 by Sultan Mehmed II, Ottoman Empire, to Catholic monks of the recently conquered Bosnia, granting them full religious freedom and protection.

AHDNAMA DOCUMENT

MANTEL

It is assumed that the dated mantel belonged to Fra Andelko Zvizdović who took over the Ahdnama in 1463 AD.

MANTEL OF FRA A. ZVIZDOVIĆ

ARMORIAL

The book Fojnica Armorial is an important source of the classical heraldry of the Balkan peninsula. The estimated age varied from 14th to the 18th century. The book was composed of two types of paper, both of which were dated.

BOOK FOJNIKA ARMORIAL

The results of the 14C dating of the three historically important documents/objects from the museum collection of the Franciscan Monastery in Fojnica, Bosnia and Herzegovina, showed the following:

- The Ahdnama document: the lower part of the Ahdnama corresponds to the original document from 1463 AD (1433 - 1466 calAD), the upper part of Ahdnama is younger than the original (1663 - 1806 calAD), indicating that part of the document has been repaired afterwards.
- The mantel which was assumed to have belonged to Fra Andelko Zvizdović, who had received the Ahdnama in 1463 AD, is younger than expected (1488 - 1638 calAD), i.e. it does not correspond to the original.
- The book Fojnica Armorial is composed of two types of paper of different ages: 1530 - 1667 calAD (thick paper), and 1695 - 1917 calAD (thin paper). This indicates that parts of the Book have been repaired afterwards.

CONCLUSION

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Reference