

Sylwia Popławska, Izabela Zając, Władysław Sobucki  
Faculty of Conservation and Restoration of Works of Art  
Academy of Fine Arts in Warsaw, Poland.  
Kościuszkowskie Wybrzeże 37, 00-379 Warsaw  
[sylwia\\_poplawska@o2.pl](mailto:sylwia_poplawska@o2.pl)  
[izabela.zajac@asp.waw.pl](mailto:izabela.zajac@asp.waw.pl)  
[w.sobucki@upcpoczta.pl](mailto:w.sobucki@upcpoczta.pl)

**“The Conservation Problems  
in Eliza Orzeszkowa’s Artistic Herbarium  
as a New Research Direction”**

Eliza Orzeszkowa was a famous Polish novelist who lived in 19th century. In 1886 she started a botanical adventure while collecting information for her new book *Nad Niemnem*. She learned from the botanists how to collect and dry many different kinds of plants. After that she used the dried plants to decorate many things, such as stationery or the coffee tables. She also made pictures from dried flowers and leaves as well as a few albums (artistic herbariums) containing artistic compositions of dried plants. Her artistic herbariums are an example of the connection between botany and art. One of them, stored in the National Museum in Warsaw, has undergone restoration treatments as a part of Sylwia Popławska’s Master’s Thesis under the supervision of dr Izabela Zając of the Faculty of Conservation and Restoration of Works of Art at the Academy of Fine Arts in Warsaw.

The main problem was the fragility of the dried plants which could cause the loss of the quintessence of the artifact. It has been decided to investigate the effect of the strengthening substances on the dried plants’ structure. Four substances were selected: Aquasol 500, Paraloid B-72, Funori and Tylose MH-300. These substances were used in three different concentrations and were brushed on model samples. The preparation of the samples was based on the information provided by Orzeszkowa’s letters where she described her methods of drying and attaching the plants on the pages. The pH measurements and the optical properties (spectrophotometry) of the samples were analyzed before and after the acceleration aging test (in a controlled climate chamber and to the sun test).

Poster will present the results and conclusions of this research.

**CV:**

**Sylwia Popławska**- student at the Faculty of Conservation and Restoration of Works of Art, Department of Conservation and Restoration of Ancient Books and Graphics at the Academy of Fine Arts in Warsaw, Poland.

**Izabela Zając** (PhD) has been lecturer and researcher in the field of conservation science at the Faculty of Conservation and Restoration of Works of Art, Department of Conservation and Restoration of Ancient Books and Graphics at the Academy of Fine Arts in Warsaw, Poland. She held MA degree from the Academy of Fine Arts in Warsaw, Poland and PhD degree in Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw, Poland. She has been especially interested in photography and photo – album conservation. She has taken part in many conservation and research projects. Author and co-author of many articles.

**Władysław Sobucki** – chemist, Professor of Academy of Fine Arts in Warsaw. Since 30 years he has been involved in issues concerning preservation and conservation of Library and Archival Collections. Coordinator and co-author of the government-funded program entitled “Acid Paper. Mass-Scale Recovery of Endangered Polish Library and Archival Collections”. He was employed from 1989 to 2007 in National Library in Warsaw too. Study interests: verification of methods and materials used in conservation practice. Author of over one hundred articles.