Introduction

Purple textile fragment is a part of a Burse (Fig. 1) which was one of 68 textile objects found in church Gospa od Šunja on the Island of Lopud in August 2015. All the objects were transported to the textile restoration workshop at the University of Dubrovnik. The conservation-restoration project of this object began in the October 2016. Detailed technical and fiber analysis of the textile material was undertaken, as well as historical and stylistic comparative analysis with similar historical fabrics of other liturgical objects from within this region, which are documented in professional literature. The research results lead us to conclusion that this particular textile fragment was once part of a bigger textile object.

Preliminary Diagnostic Analysis and Conversation-Restoration Procedures

In order to treat and analyze each textile material separately, a full decomposition of all the elements and layers of the Burse ad to be done, followed by detailed graphical and photo documentation of the original techniques and methods of construction. The dirty and worn surface of textile materials was then carefully mechanically cleaned, using a specialized micro-vacuum cleaner with controlled suction. Fibre samples of very small amount were taken from loose or already damaged edges of the historical material. Technical analysis showed that this fragment is a classic Damask fabric, a fabric in which ground and figures are formed by warp and weft satin. Warrps and wefts are woven in 5-end satin weave (Tab. 1). It was then established that the damask material was used incorrectly, placing the fabric face down.

Comparative and Stylistic Analysis of the Damask Pattern

The conducted analyses were crucial for determining the period of time in which the material was made. Researching the available literature on similar textile materials found in Croatia [4], [5] showed the existence of several examples, all made in Italy in the period between the beginning of the 16th and middle of the 17th century (Fig. 3, 4, 5, 6, 7).

Future Conservation-Restoration Procedures

At the moment, new support silk fabric is being prepared. Support fabric is being dyed in the suitable shade of color to match the original damask. It will be placed underneath the damask fragment, serving as a support for consolidation with conservation-restoration sewing techniques. The same procedure will be done on all the other materials found on the burse. After that, all the layers of the Burse will be joined back together, following the original techniques and methods. The object will be returned to the owner (church Gospa od Šunja) with all the other restored objects.

Table 1 — Technical Documentation of Damask fragment

![Figure 1 — Burse before conservation-restoration treatment](image1)

![Figure 2 — Burse after decomposition](image2)

![Figure 3](image3)

![Figure 4](image4)

![Figure 5](image5)

![Figure 6](image6)

![Figure 7](image7)