

## The History of the Painting and Sculpture Conservation Studio in the Sukiennice

### Summary

This paper describes the work of the oldest conservation studio in the National Museum in Krakow, which is housed in the Sukiennice.

It was written based on archival materials (museum documents and reports), taking into consideration the development of the conservation discipline since the establishment of the National Museum, i.e. the late 19<sup>th</sup> c. The beginnings of the Painting and Sculpture Conservation Studio in the Sukiennice date back to the early 20<sup>th</sup> c. Due to the expanding of the collection there was a growing demand for conservation services, which led to the establishment of the Museum's own painting and sculpture conservation studio in 1935. Over the last several decades, the team has consisted of certified conservators and their assistant renovators. The history of the conservation studio in the Sukiennice is also a process of changes in the methods and resources used in the restoration of artworks.

Conservators employed here have carried out hundreds of conservations. Their greatest achievements in recent years included the conservation of large-sized paintings exhibited in the Gallery of 19<sup>th</sup>-Century Polish Art in the Sukiennice, including the museum's most important work: *Nero's Torches* by Henryk Siemiradzki.

After the renovation and modernisation conducted between 2007 and 2010 the Painting and Sculpture Conservation Studio in the Sukiennice became one of the most modern studios of its kind in Poland.