



Oil painting Meeting on 21.06.1940

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Object

Oil painting Meeting on 21.06.1940. A. Jedorov. Oil on canvas. 120 x 103 cm (painted in 1940(?))
Owner – the Estonian History Museum, AM 2339 G 8094

Condition before conservation

The painting that had been bought for the History Museum collection in 1978 was in a really bad condition. It had big damages in its canvas, the paint layer was loose, there were extensive over-paintings and it was stained all over. Due to its condition and earlier methods of conservation/restorations it was impossible to display the piece of art. The big horizontal cuts penetrating the canvas had been patched with rough canvas strips. The lower edge had decayed due to moisture damages and loose from the nails fixing it. The grounding layer was damaged due to moisture and deformations and its connection to the base was weak. The surface of the painting had crackled and the paint layer was flaking. Damages in the paint layer coincided with those in the grounding. The earlier corrective repairs had been done carelessly, as we say 'with a broad brush'.

Conservation/restoration

The aim of the conservation was to restore the museum piece so that it would be possible to display it. The biggest challenge was to remove the former rough repairs. After initial cleaning of the surface, fixing the paint layers and removing the earlier patches, the doubling was carried out with fish-glue. The painting was stretched on a frame and the paint losses were primed and shaded.



Fig. 1 The painting before conservation.



Fig. 2 The earlier rough patches of thick canvas on the reverse side of the painting.



Fig. 3 - 4 Tryouts for cleaning the surface. Beneath the soiled paint layer rough over-paintings became visible.

Summing up

The aim of conservation was to restore the piece of art, so was characteristic of its time, into condition that allowed it to be displayed in the museum that owned it. Up to the conservation the painting in very bad condition had been stored in the repository. Liquidation of the earlier conservation repairs became the greatest challenge. Replacement of the clumsy and even denigrating former repairs was a success.

Before the hands-on conservation, A. Jedorov's work had to be researched. Thanks to the research we found another painting depicting the same event but observed from the other side of the square. This second painting belongs to the Tallinn City Museum and was painted later than the first – in 1952. Also different from the first painting's impressionist style was the newer one's socialist realism.

Materials used

sturgeon glue (5%, 10%), micalent paper (Russia), tri-Ammonium citrate, MAIMER Ready-made colors, Kremer Pigmente, covering varnish (Gloss Picture Varnish, Lefranc&Bourgeois).



Fig. 5 After the surface had been cleaned and losses primed the canvas was strengthened by general doubling.



Fig. 6 A former tear in the painting after being mended.



Fig. 7 Painting Meeting on 21.06.1940 by A. Jedorov (painted in 1940?) after conservation.



Fig. 8 Doubling on the reverse side and format after conservation.

Fig. 9 A. Jedorov's painting on the same topic, painted in the style of socialist realism in 1952. Owned by the Tallinn City Museum.

