

Old Sideboard Shone in its Beauty

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Traditional Lithuanian folk furniture – one of the branches of applied art. Furniture had a close link with human environment and its way of life. Lithuanians live in similar geographic and historical conditions with their neighbors, Latvians, Poles, Germans, to create ware they all used similar materials, developed a similar creative cooperation and similar technical experience. In decoration of furniture early on emerged folk artists peculiarities. Most of the houses had sideboards, and they splendor look made them one of the best looking furniture at that time. Sideboards were decorated with painted motifs, ornaments. Most of attention and emphasis was on doors or the whole front part. In Lithuania vegetative decoration most common also birds and geometric patterns. One of the less common sideboards decorations – painted subject compositions, influenced by neighboring countries. An example could be sideboard from the country museum Zanavykai made in 1800. This sideboard is made of pine boards in one door, with metal lock. The front part and outer side and both sides of the door polychromed. On green background painted rural household image: domestic animals, shepherd, rural women, stork, crane and so on. Such motives are rarely found in Lithuania, painting done quite professionally.

Before restoration exhibit was in poor condition. Wood rusty, the bottom part heavily rotten, crumbled off. Sideboard's base was missing, bottom badly decayed. In some places wood clapped, crumbled off. Sideboards corners, doors connected with wooden pins. Some of the details (above the paneling, the door edge of the table and so on) nailed with large metal

nails. Doors attached with metal, rusted bushes, painted in green. Scutcheon made of copper alloy with zinc. Doors lock in encrusted with green patina. Sideboard's inside not polychromed, sallow, in places darkened. The sides and front of the sideboard polychromed with oil paint. Ground layer is white, chalky, applied unevenly. In places lifted from the base, crumbling. Polychrome layer crumbling as well, crumbly in places lifted from the base (mainly on the bottom). The entire sideboard's surface covered with uneven dirt layer, uncertain origin darkening, excrement residues (livestock manure), dust.



ill. 1. Before restoration.



ill. 2. Before restoration.



ill. 3. During restoration. Reconstruction of the sideboards.



ill. 4. During restoration. Reconstruction of a stylized cornice on the bottom of the sideboard.



ill. 7. During restoration. Cleaning of the surface.



ill. 8. During restoration. Priming with restoration ground.



ill. 5. During restoration. Consolidation of polychromy.

Before restoration, it was decided to do polychrome stratigraphic and chemical tests, consolidate wood, restore the missing base parts, to strengthen the crumbling polychrome layer, to clean a thick layer of dirt, to restore metal parts, prime losses with restorative ground, retouch and cover with protective coating.

After exhibit's restoration we reinforced decayed rotten wood, restored sideboards base; consolidated, glued crumbling polychrome layer heavily removed numerous dirt layers, polychrome losses primed with restorative ground, retouched with selected paint for exhibit. Finally, the sideboard is covered with a protective coating. Exhibit took exhibitional view, which can admire museum visitors.



ill. 9. After restoration.



ill. 10. After restoration.



ill. 11. After restoration.



ill. 6. During restoration. Cleaning of the surface.



ill. 12. After restoration.



ill. 13. After restoration.