**PTUJ *GRATAE POSTERITATI*, 1560: MATERIALS, STRUCTURE AND DAMAGES**

Jedert Vodopivec Tomažič

Arhives of The Republic of Slovenia

Jedert.Vodopivec@gov.si

The paper presents materials, structure and damages of a the Ptuj copy of Sigismund Herberstein’s book Gratae Posteritati, written in latin and printed in Wienna in 1560. The book is an important contribution to the diplomatic and political history of the 16th century Europe. The paper offers a review of the colouring materials used in the 16th century in the printing and the hand-colouring of prints, structure of the Ptuj copy, reasons for damages, corrosive action of metal ions used in black and green colouring materials, and the results of the analysis of the structure and materials used. Conservation treatment is presented elswere.

The Ptuj copy shows mechanical damage that results from frequent use, exposure to humidity, trimming of the textblock made on rebinding and very prominent decay of paper in parts due to the corrosive action of iron- and copper-based colouring materials used for hand-colouring of the prints. The Ptuj copy is colourful, therefore visually appealing, whereas from the conservation viewpoint it is a professional challenge demanding strong restrictions of use, due to black and green pigment corrosion, inappropriate storage and frequent use in the past.