

A UNIQUE MARCH-GIFT

The Exhibition of Restoration at the Faculty of Wood Engineering 1st of March 2016

The restoration exhibition "*Items of the Antique IL collection*" marked in a specific and meaningful manner the celebration of the *Transilvania University Day* at the Faculty of Wood Engineering. The exhibition was organized by volunteer students, members of the Antique IL Restoration Club, built up within the frame of the project "My Faculty"- 2015. *Value awareness and conservation* represents not only the logo under which the project has been run, but actually a committed approach, continuously and steadily developed over the last 20 years by the team of the restoration laboratory at the Wood Engineering Faculty in Brasov. During this period of time, a collection of old wooden artefacts has been established.

In this spirit of respect for history, value and tradition, the exhibition opened on March 1, 2016 was established as a "March-gift" gladly offered to the university community and to all who had the pleasure to visit us. Manufacturing and offering a trinket on the first day of spring, as a symbol of new beginnings, health, accomplishments and good luck, is one of the oldest and most popular Romanian folk traditions. The origins of this tradition are lost in millennia of history, down to Thraco-Dacian civilization, but the custom was submitted in time with modifications and adaptations to date in Romania, Bulgaria and Moldova.

The traditional March-trinkets used to be woven in the house by the mothers and grandmothers for the children, as a small white and red (originally white and black) "rope of time" made of wool, symbolizing light and darkness, cold and heat, purity and blood / life. The idea of the traditional trinket resulted in an exhibition of items of the ethnographic heritage, associated to the ancient techniques for yarn preparation (combs for hemp, winders, spinning wheels, spools), which were interconnected by a long cord, manually twisted from red and white wool. The craft of woodworking was represented by an old refurbished carpenter's desk, and a collection of woodworking planes. Several pieces of furniture, ornamental frames and clock boxes completed the atmosphere, as an illustration of wood permanence in human life, bringing comfort, warmth and personality to our homes. The exhibition is an invitation to rediscover the tranquility of steadier times and to debug the beauty and stories of old wooden objects, whom we give through conservation and restoration a second chance.

Posters of the action "*My Brasov – Let's see the heritage next to us,*" performed by the master students of the programme *Furniture Eco-Design and Restoration*, complemented the exhibition with an attitude-message for urgent actions of conservation of the built heritage of Brasov.

Prof.dr.chim. Maria Cristina TIMAR



