

Expression imposed or superposed. Reintegration of paper-based artifacts according to the custodian's needs

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the expression of the conservator expression that serves to enhance the meaning

what do contemporary theory of conservation
and contemporary conservation treatment methodology
say about

intervention that might affect the object's appearance and structure
secures the values of the artifacts' custodians
conservation ? interpretation

negotiatory
mediation
different articulations, one of which inevitably prevails,
because otherwise it would be impossible to complete
the treatment

NOW conservation is described with terms

value-led conservation
that were not used before
functional conservation
highly adaptive
social

conversation



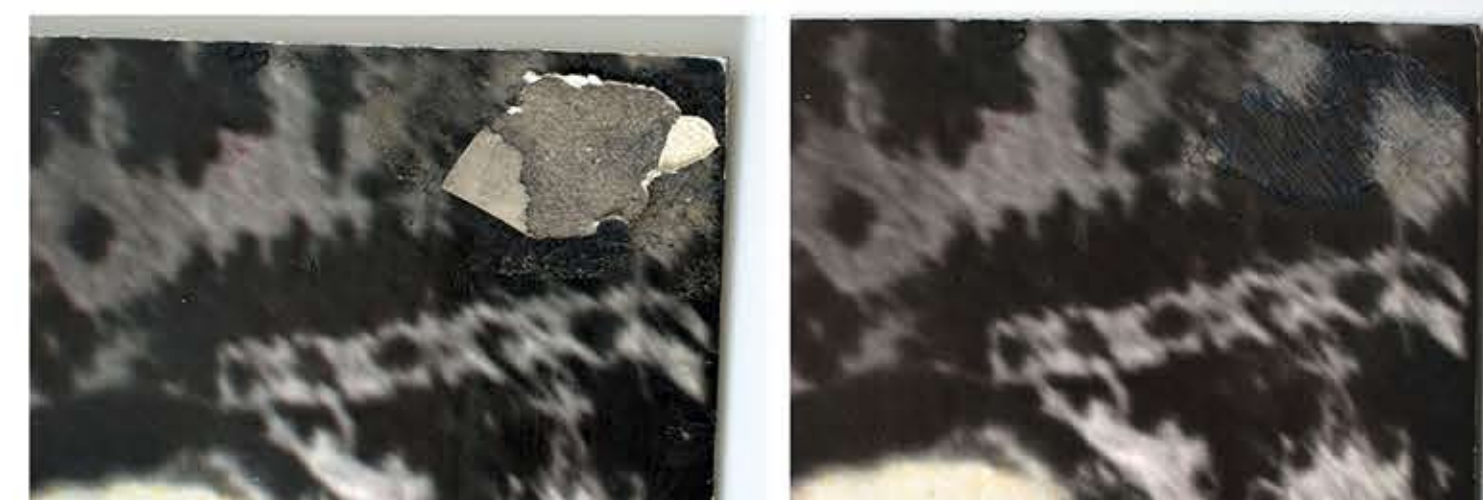
Anonymous photographs, not dated, private owner. Left: reconstruction by adding (retouching)
right: reintegration by reducing (removing the deposits)



The first Polish stamp, issued in 1860, private owner
The shape of the perforation was reconstructed
according to very detailed instructions of the owner



The photographs from the second half of 20th century,
the Rediscovered Music Foundation (private). The curators
requested minimal intervention which they understood as
securing irregular losses with „neutral” infills, with no retouching.



Work of Teresa Gierzyńska,
Czy takie były siostry?..., 1976
The work was prepared for the exhibition in a private
gallery, Pola Magnetyczne in Warsaw.
The *tratteggio* retouch was done according to artist's
request to reconstruct the damage in the upper right corner.



Stefan Norblin, film poster
Bezimienni bohaterowie
owner: Poster Museum
in Warsaw, 1932.
The poster was heavily
damaged. The conservator
negotiated with the owner
to use *tratteggio* as a
reintegration method
compromising the fact
of big losses and the
history of the object.
The object was
prepared to be exhibited.

Conclusions
satisfying different curators' needs implies
different treatment decisions. one object
can possibly be treated in several ways,
giving different outcomes.
contemporary theory of conservation
and conservation treatment methodology
entitle different solutions conforming
different approaches to the image
of the artifact, whether it is
a historic evidence or
an artwork.

Decision-making requires
flexibility and
understanding to the
complexity of values of
the object. The values
have to be fully
recognized
and appreciated before
initiating intervention of
a conservation treatment.

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