

THE  
PRE  
SER  
VAT  
ION  
AND  
RES  
TOR  
ATI  
ON O  
F CI  
ESZ  
YN'S  
WRI  
TTE  
N HE  
RIT  
AGE



Supported by a grant from  
Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway  
through the EEA Financial Mechanism



Zrealizowano  
ze środków  
Ministra Kultury  
i Dziedzictwa  
Narodowego

THE PRESERVATION AND RESTORATION OF CIESZYN'S WRITTEN HERITAGE

© Książnica Cieszyńska

Written by  
Krzysztof Szelong

With the help of  
Marcin Gabryś, Maksymilian Kapalski, Maksymilian Kuśka and Anna Machej

Translation  
David French

Photographs  
Łucja Brzeżycka, Anna Fedrizzi-Szostok, Marcin Gabryś,  
Agnieszka Łuczakowska and Krzysztof Szelong

Layout and typesetting  
Marian Siedlaczek

Twenty-first publication of Książnica Cieszyńska

1<sup>st</sup> edition



Published by  
Książnica Cieszyńska  
ul. Mennicza 46, 43 400 Cieszyn  
tel. +48 33 851 38 41, fax: +48 33 851 38 45  
e-mail: [ksiaznica@kc-cieszyn.pl](mailto:ksiaznica@kc-cieszyn.pl)  
[www.kc-cieszyn.pl](http://www.kc-cieszyn.pl)

Printed by  
Oficyna Drukarsko-Wydawnicza Akant s.c.  
ul. Kraszewskiego 9, 43 400 Cieszyn  
tel. +48 33 852 26 50 • [druk@akant.cieszyn.pl](mailto:druk@akant.cieszyn.pl)  
[www.akant.cieszyn.pl](http://www.akant.cieszyn.pl)

Cieszyn 2010

ISBN 978-83-927052-8-4

Copper-plate engraving based on a drawing by Friedrich Bernhard Werner, showing Cieszyn midway through the 18<sup>th</sup> century, published in *Scenographia Urbium Silesiae*, Nuremberg 1735.

The building, which belonged to Gottllieba von Manteuffel and now houses Książnica Cieszyńska, is marked with a figure 4., the monastery of the Brothers Hospitallers of St. John of God with a figure 8., and the Church of Jesus, where the Tschammer Library was put, with a figure 16.



Cieszyn is the only Upper Silesian town where archival resources and library collections of public and private provenance, collected over centuries, have survived almost entirely intact.

Comprising more than ten distinct historical collections, they contain over 900 linear metres of archive records, 18 000 inventory items of library manuscripts, 24 000 volumes of pre-1801 imprints and 150 000 volumes of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>-century printed works. They include archival primary sources, library manuscripts and printed works from the region, as well as publications which, from the Middle Ages onward, found their way to Cieszyn Silesia from the whole of Europe, influencing the development of the region's culture and shaping its character. They include works written in most European languages, linked to various national and religious groups, and representative of all ideological trends current in European culture.

In terms of their provenance, their history as determined by centuries-old links to the region, and their contents, the collections – taken both as a group of collections and as an assemblage of individual items, often of universal value and uniqueness – not only represent the most important heritage of written culture in the region (on both sides of the Polish–Czech border) and the chief pool of primary sources for historical research, but are also an important element of European cultural heritage.

In addition, the collections give Cieszyn a special position in comparison with the rest of Upper Silesia, where either the continuity in the amassing of archive and library collections was interrupted, or collections of a similar kind were lost, or – as in the case of Katowice, the capital of the region – the collections only began to be created in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, by combining collections amassed in other regions.

## THE HISTORY OF THE PROJECT

The idea behind the project *The Preservation and Restoration of Cieszyn's Written Heritage* came into being in Cieszyn, in response to news of the planned availability of funding awarded to Poland and other new EU members states from the Financial Mechanism of the EEA and Norway Grants, as a consequence of the signing of an agreement extending the EEA on 14 October 2003. On the initiative of deputy mayor, Jan Matuszek, a decision was made in late autumn 2004 to create a project which, applied to the priority sector of the EEA Financial Mechanism entitled *The Protection of European Cultural Heritage*, was aimed on one hand at the comprehensive safeguarding of Cieszyn's library and archive collections against destruction, and on the other of making them widely available.

The conversations between the Cieszyn commune (in Polish: *gmina*) and Książnica Cieszyńska, the Cieszyn Branch of the State Archives in Katowice, the Museum of Cieszyn Silesia, the Cieszyn Lutheran Parish and the Order of the Brothers Hospitallers in Cieszyn led to the approval, at the beginning of 2005, of the above initiative. It was decided that the task of coordinating the measures needed to work out the detailed targets of the project and the documentation needed for the application process would be taken on by Książnica Cieszyńska, supported in issues of procedure by the Department of Strategy and Urban Development of Cieszyn Town Council.

Simultaneously, the task of drawing up a feasibility study and completing the application form itself was commissioned to Hills, a Częstochowa consulting company. The preparation of application documents lasted until autumn 2005 and was

**UMOWA FINANSOWA Nr 39/PL0028/EOG/2007**

**o dofinansowanie Projektu *Ochrona i konserwacja cieszyńskiego dziedzictwa piśmienniczego ze środków Mechanizmu Finansowego EOG i/lub Norweskiego Mechanizmu Finansowego*, zwanego dalej „Projektem”**

zawarta dnia **21 marca 2007 r.** w Warszawie pomiędzy

**Ministrem Kultury i Dziedzictwa Narodowego, pełniącym funkcję Instytucji Pośredniczącej dla Priorytetu 3 – Ochrona kulturowego dziedzictwa europejskiego, w tym transport publiczny i odnowa miast** reprezentowanym przez: **Wojciecha A. Kwiatkowskiego** – Dyrektora Departamentu Ekonomicznego, na podstawie pełnomocnictwa Nr 234 z dnia **9.03.2007 roku**, stanowiącego załącznik Nr 1 do niniejszej umowy, zwanym dalej „Instytucją Pośredniczącą”, a

**Książnicą Cieszyńską** ul. Mennicza 46 43-400 Cieszyn, województwo dolnośląskie Nr w rejestrze instytucji kultury Urzędu Miejskiego w Cieszynie: UM-OKT 6/1/1994, NIP: 5481064564, REGON: 070431470 reprezentowaną przez: **Krzysztofa Szelongę** – Dyrektora, na podstawie pełnomocnictwa Nr OR.L0113-22/2007 z dnia **15.03.2007 roku** - stanowiącego załącznik Nr 2 do niniejszej umowy, zwaną dalej „beneficjentem”, zwanymi łącznie dalej „Stronami”.

**Preambula**

Niniejsza umowa finansowa zawierana jest na podstawie umowy finansowej o numerze **PL0028-SCE-00131-E-V2-EEA FM**, podpisanej dnia **16.02.2007 r.**, pomiędzy Ministerstwem Rozwoju Regionalnego, pełniącym funkcję Krajowego Punktu Kontaktowego (KPK) a Komitetem Mechanizmu Finansowego EOG i/lub Norweskim Ministerstwem Spraw Zagranicznych, przyznajającej dofinansowanie na rzecz Projektu.

**Artykuł 1**  
**Zakres**

Przedmiotem niniejszej umowy jest uregulowanie wzajemnych praw i obowiązków Stron, w związku z realizacją Projektu w zakresie warunków refundacji, sprawozdawczości, kontroli i audytu oraz w zakresie zarządzania Projektem, w tym zarządzania finansowego.

**Artykuł 2**  
**Ramy prawne**

1. Umowa finansowa winna być stosowana łącznie z następującymi dokumentami:

- 1) Zasadami i procedurami wdrażania Mechanizmu Finansowego EOG 2004-2009 i/lub Zasadami i procedurami wdrażania Norweskiego Mechanizmu Finansowego 2004-2009 z póź. zm., a także przyjętymi na ich podstawie szczegółowymi wytycznymi państw-darczyńców;
- 2) Memorandum of Understanding wdrażania Mechanizmu Finansowego EOG 2004-2009, i/lub Memorandum of Understanding wdrażania Norweskiego Mechanizmu Finansowego 2004-2009.
2. Ogólne warunki, instytucje oraz dokumenty, o których mowa w niniejszej umowie finansowej, powinny być rozumiane zgodnie z postanowieniami dokumentów wymienionych w ust. 1.
3. Beneficjent oświadcza, że znana jest mu treść dokumentów wymienionych w ust. 1, oraz że przyjmuje do wiadomości wynikające z nich warunki realizacji Projektu.

**Artykuł 3**  
**Opis Projektu**

Celem Projektu jest ochrona całości zbiorów archiwalnych oraz bibliotecznych Cieszyna oraz wprowadzenie ich do obiegu naukowego i kulturalnego, przy założeniu, że celem ogólnym jest zachowanie europejskiego

1

**The project funding agreement for the project *The Preservation and Restoration of Cieszyn's Written Heritage*, signed on 21 March 2007.**

**Artykuł 24**  
**Postanowienia końcowe**

1. Niniejsza umowa finansowa wchodzi w życie w dniu podpisania przez ostatnią ze Stron.
2. Niniejsza umowa finansowa pozostaje w mocy do dnia upływu **10 lat** od daty przyjęcia sprawozdania końcowego z realizacji Projektu.
3. Umowa finansowa została sporządzona w dwóch jednobrzmiących egzemplarzach, po jednym dla każdej ze Stron.
4. Z zastrzeżeniem postanowień artykułu 14, wszelkie zmiany niniejszej umowy finansowej wymagają sporządzenia aneksu w formie pisemnej pod rygorem nieważności.
5. W sprawach nieuregulowanych w umowie zastosowanie mają właściwe przepisy prawa krajowego, w tym zwłaszcza ustawy z dnia 30 czerwca 2005 r. o finansach publicznych (Dz. U. z 2005 r. Nr 249, poz. 2104, z późn. zm.).

**W imieniu Instytucji Pośredniczącej:**

z up. MINISTRA KULTURY  
I DZIEDZICTWA NARODOWEGO  
**DYREKTOR**  
Departamentu Ekonomicznego  
**Wojciech A. Kwiatkowski**  
[imię, nazwisko, funkcja]

**W imieniu beneficjenta:**

KSIĄZNICA CIESZYŃSKA  
43-400 CIESZYN  
ul. Mennicza 46  
Tel. 851-38-90-47, fax 851-38-27  
**DYREKTOR**  
**Krzysztof Szelong**  
[imię, nazwisko, funkcja]

**MINISTERSTWO KULTURY  
I DZIEDZICTWA NARODOWEGO  
DEPARTAMENT EKONOMICZNY**  
ul. Krakowskie Przedmieście 15/17  
00-471 Warszawa  
tel. 42-10-357, 167, fax: 42-63-03-42

**Lista załączników:**

1. Pełnomocnictwo Nr 234 z dnia 9 marca 2007 r.
2. Pełnomocnictwo Nr OR.L0113-22/2007 z dnia 15 marca 2007 r.
3. Plan Wdrażania Projektu
4. Wzór sprawozdania kwartalnego
5. Wzór sprawozdania rocznego
6. Wzór sprawozdania końcowego

10

his proposal for an increase in funds to be made available for the funding of initiatives applied for in the above priority, three further projects would receive funding, including the one submitted by Książnica. This decision opened the next phase of the Cieszyn project's evaluation, when it was audited by Czech-Cross, a Prague consulting company.

Work on the evaluation of the application submitted by Książnica to the Minister of Culture's *Promesa* programme was going on in parallel, as a result of which an agreement for the funding of the project from Ministry funds was signed on 21 June 2006.

Finally, on 10 November 2006, the Financial Mechanism Committee in Brussels made the decision to fund the Cieszyn project. The project agreement was signed on 21 March 2007, and the project was begun in earnest ten days later, on 1 April 2007.

completed on 28 November 2005 with the submission of the application. Książnica submitted an additional application seeking support for the project to the *Promesa* programme of the Minister of Culture and National Heritage on 10 November 2005.

The first decisions were announced in March of the following year, on the basis of which 11 out of the 111 projects which had applied to the Financial Mechanisms concerning the project *The Protection of European Cultural Heritage* were recommended after the first stage of selection.

The project *The Preservation and Restoration of Cieszyn's Written Heritage* was included on a reserve list. On 30 March 2006, the Minister of Culture announced that as a result of

## PROJECT PARTICIPANTS

The project is being carried out by five Cieszyn institutions, working collaboratively on the basis of an agreement drawn up on 28 November 2005. The participants of the agreement are as follows:

### PROJECT LEADER:

#### **KSIĄŻNICA CIESZYŃSKA**

ul. Mennicza 46, 43-400 Cieszyn, [www.kc-cieszyn.pl](http://www.kc-cieszyn.pl)

Książnica Cieszyńska is a municipal cultural institution and a legal entity.

It was established on the basis of a resolution of the Town Council on 25 November 1993, beginning its statutory operation on 1 January 1994. On 24 November 1998, the Minister of Culture, acting according to the amended act concerning libraries, included Książnica Cieszyńska's collection in the National Library Holdings and on 21 March 2001 awarded it the status of a scientific library. The collection of Książnica Cieszyńska includes book collections which were either created or housed in Cieszyn over a period of more than two centuries. They are; the library of Father Leopold Jan Szersznik (1747–1814), the collection of the People's Library (Czytelnia Ludowa) (1849/1861–1922), the library of Józef Ignacy Kraszewski (1812–1887), the library of the Polish Anthropological Society (Polskie Towarzystwo Ludoznawcze) (1901–1939), the collection of Tadeusz Reger (1872–1939), the so-called “ex-museum” collection (1901–1945), and the archives and library of the Cieszyn Deanery and Parish of St. Mary Magdalene in Cieszyn in the form of a deposit.

In addition, they include many fragments of now defunct private and institutional Cieszyn libraries, mainly from the 19<sup>th</sup> and first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, and also a contemporary collection that is constantly being enlarged.

In all, they number over 130 000 volumes of printed works, including 18 500 pre-1801 imprints and 17 000 archival items in the form of manuscripts. Apart from the collecting, protection and conservation of the region's literary heritage, Książnica is also responsible for creating a modern facility for regional and bibliographic research, and for inspiring, organising and conducting academic research on the written culture of Cieszyn Silesia.



### **The Leopold Jan Szersznik Library in Książnica Cieszyńska**

Leopold Jan Szersznik's Library was opened in 1802 and soon after was awarded with the privilege of using the title “imperial and royal”. It became the first public library in Upper Silesia. The photographs show the library in the Książnica Cieszyńska, where the collection is kept in a dedicated, glass-walled repository.

Its role is also popularising knowledge about the region's history and culture.

Since 2000, Książnica has occupied a renewed historical building in the centre of Cieszyn, which has been adapted to its needs, with a new wing specially built on to it.

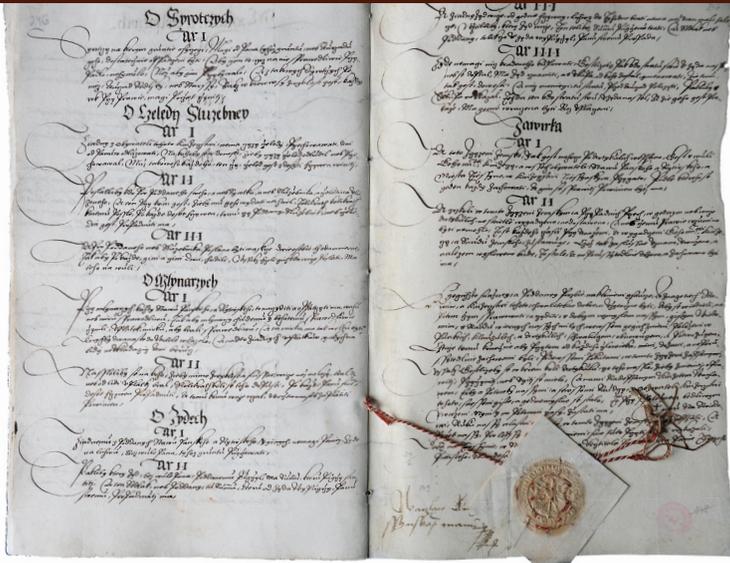
### PROJECT PARTNERS:

#### **STATE ARCHIVES IN KATOWICE (CIESZYN BRANCH)**

ul. Józefowska 104, 40-145 Katowice, [www.katowice.ap.gov.pl](http://www.katowice.ap.gov.pl)

In 1950, the State Archives in Katowice began to create a network of district (in Polish: *powiat*) archives, mainly based on existing municipal archives. After the 1951 decree concerning state archives came into force, steps were taken to establish an institution of this type in Cieszyn.

The measures were based on resolution no. 9 of the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of 14 January 1952, concerning the



**Zrzyzeni Zemske kniezczstwi tiessynskeho, 1573**

The property statute of the Duchy of Cieszyn, written in 1573, on the order of Prince Wenceslas III, was intended to regulate the legal relationship between the prince and the local nobility. Held in question for many years by the Cieszyn people, it was only finally confirmed in 1591. It remained the fundamental legal statute for the regulation of the lives of the people of the Duchy of Cieszyn until the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century.

network of archives, and establishing the State District Archives. Formerly, the State District Archives in Cieszyn, subordinate to the Voivodeship (in Polish: *województwo*) State Archives in Katowice were established on the basis of a directive of the Principal Director of the State Archives on 28 July, 1952.

The Cieszyn Branch of the State Archives in Katowice currently functions in the districts of Cieszyn and Wodzisław, and in Jastrzębie Zdrój, a town with the status of a district, supervising the growing resource of records and safekeeping the legacy of records generated in the historical Duchy of Cieszyn and the partially-autonomous territory of Wodzisław (in Latin: *status minor*).

As a department of the State Archives in Katowice, the Cieszyn Branch is financed from the national budget. Around 370 archival subdivisions and collections, numbering 75 000 archive units, equivalent to 850 linear metres of records and a library collection of around 9 000 volumes comprise the total resource.

The collections represent the main primary resources for research into the history of Cieszyn Silesia. The most valuable include an extensive collection of parchment documents from 1388–1872, records produced in the office of the Cieszyn Princes from 1438 and records of towns and districts. The records of the National Council of the Duchy of Cieszyn and the National Government of the Duchy of Cieszyn bear witness to the founding in 1918 and activities of the first Polish government following independence. The Cieszyn Archives were located in various places until they found a home in Książnica Cieszyńska, where the archives could finally enjoy facilities appropriate to their status.

**LUTHERAN PARISH IN CIESZYN**

pl. Kościelny 6, 43-400 Cieszyn, <http://cieszyn.org.pl>

The library and archive collections belonging to the Lutheran Parish in Cieszyn function as an institution bearing the name the Tschammer Library and Archives, financed from parish funds and governed by a statute. In its care is also a museum collection, kept in the Museum of Protestantism in Cieszyn Silesia, and founded as part of this project.

The origins of the Tschammer Library extend back to the middle of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, when the Cieszyn Lutheran Parish received a donation in the form of a book collection numbering several dozen specimens created by Baron Jerzy Fryderyk Bludowski (1655–1730). At the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, the library gained a collection of several hundred books which were bequeathed by the Cieszyn lawyer and long-serving treasurer of Cieszyn's Lutheran Parish,

Bogumił Rudolf Tschammer (1711–1787). Since Tschammer had decreed that the parish would not only receive his books but also a sum of money for their upkeep, the library was named in his honour. The parish collection continued to grow in subsequent years owing to donations, mainly received from local pastors and teachers. The library, which today numbers around 22 000 volumes, including around 5 000 pre-1801 imprints, is not only the largest and most important historical Lutheran library in Poland, but has also functioned the longest uninterruptedly. Also important are the archives, which function and are evolving in parallel with the library and consist of more than 60 linear metres, made up of various types of materials. They represent a primary source of fundamental importance for research into the history of Cieszyn Lutherans, the largest Protestant community in Poland. Since their founding, the library and archives have occupied aisles in the Church of Jesus, where the Museum of Protestantism is also housed.



**Holy Bible, Nuremberg 1483**

This two-volume Bible, published by Anton Koberger in 1483 in Nuremberg, is one of the oldest printed works in the Tschammer Library and Archives. It is decorated with numerous hand-painted, wood-engraved illustrations.

## ORDER OF THE BROTHERS HOSPITALLERS IN CIESZYN

pl. J. Londzina 1, 43-400 Cieszyn, [www.bonifratrzy.pl/cieszyn](http://www.bonifratrzy.pl/cieszyn)

The Brothers Hospitallers' library functions within the Cieszyn order as an institution named the Archives and Library of the Brothers Hospitallers in Cieszyn, regulated by a statute and financed by the orders' funds. It is the oldest Cieszyn library.

Its history is directly linked to the fate of the Monastery of the Brothers Hospitallers of St. John of God, founded in Cieszyn at the turn of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Efforts were made at once to create their own library. The religious life of the order demanded this - as did the service rendered by the monks in the hospital and the pharmacy. Those needs determined both the functional character of the monastery library and the subject matter of the books contained within it. According to the catalogue compiled in the 1930s, the library of the Brothers Hospitallers contained 1 539 works, of which 5 were published in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, 11 in the 17<sup>th</sup>, and 110 in the 18<sup>th</sup>. The remaining books were either not dated or originated in the 19<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Today, the library of the Brothers Hospitallers numbers over 3 000 volumes (of which 194 are pre-1801 imprints and around 1 700 are antique books, published until the middle of the 20<sup>th</sup> century). There are also around 200 manuscripts in the archive. The library has been housed in the monastery since its founding. It is constantly expanding, and is becoming one of Cieszyn's important institutions, offering readers works mainly in the fields of religion, medicine and church history.

## MUSEUM OF CIESZYN SILESIA

ul. T. Regera 6, 43-400 Cieszyn, [www.muzeumcieszyn.pl](http://www.muzeumcieszyn.pl)

The Scientific Library of the Museum of Cieszyn Silesia was founded as a museum library along with the Cieszyn Municipal Museum in 1901.

Apart from other objects, books were also donated to the library, some of which were antique and treated as artefacts, while others had functional value and could be used in processing the collection. The museum library, which numbered several thousand volumes, remained a separate unit after 1935, when the museum took over the independent Cieszyn historical book collection.

**Antonio de Gouveia, Leben, Tod und Wunder-Werck deß heiligen Joannis Dei, Prag 1711**

This book, a classic example of a hagiography, is dedicated to St. John of God (1495-1550), the founder of the Order of the Brothers Hospitallers.



**Antiphony, 15<sup>th</sup> century**

This antiphony, an artefact of the Cieszyn Museum, originates in southern Italy or Spain. Made of parchment, bound in wood and leather, with metal clasps, it contains three excellent miniatures by Giovanni Battista da Rossa.



After the museum's library collection was separated from the museum in 1960, and the Historical Book Department of the Silesian Library (now Książnica Cieszyńska) established, a significant quantity of the museum's former book collection remained in the Cieszyn museum. It continues to function as a separate library, and has increased in size thanks to purchases and donations from private individuals. The most important acquisitions - containing valuable incunabula and pre-1801 imprints - represent part of the library of Bruno Konczakowski (1881-1959) and the library of Wincenty Zajac (1903-1975), a teacher and local community activist. The museum's library serves the function of a reference library, including books which support the work of the museum's various departments, namely, Archaeology, History, Technical Objects, History of Art and Photography, as well as research into the history of Silesia and Cieszyn Silesia. The museum library collection also contains several hundred periodicals. In total, there are over 24 000 inventory items. The separate pre-1801 imprint inventory comprises 370 inventory items, including 21 incunabula.



## OPENING PHASE

Before the project's implementation, only Książnica and the State Archives had the institutional, organisational and technical expertise and experience to safeguard, conserve, catalogue and make accessible their holdings. The two institutions were both housed in premises guaranteeing adequate storage conditions, including alarm and fire protection systems and air conditioned repositories, and accessibility.

In addition, right from the start, Książnica has implemented a programme for the safeguarding and conservation of its collections, focussing not only on prophylactics and the wellbeing of the entire resource, but also on the restoration of selected items. Książnica was the only institution with a professional conservation workshop. The Cieszyn Branch of the State Archives only made very limited use of the services of the conservation workshop in the Archive's Katowice headquarters.

The collections in the other institutions were lacking appropriate care. No formal regulations even existed to define their organisational status. Storage conditions did not fulfil elementary standards of air-conditioning, and their premises did not possess fire protection or security systems, as well as lacking basic equipment.

Taken as a whole, the collections belong-

ing to the other institutions were extremely soiled, significantly afflicted by various types of physicochemical damage and infected by microorganisms. This was all causing their continuing deterioration and - bearing in mind the poor storage conditions and the presence of a considerable quantity of defective items - could rapidly have led to their total destruction in a short time. In actual fact, a significant degree of damage was actually typical for all the Cieszyn archive and library collections, which was a consequence of their lengthy storage in inappropriate conditions, accidents (the water damage in 1987 of around 1000 books currently belonging to Książnica), frequent changes of location and the particular susceptibility of certain types of items to physicochemical damage.

In most of the other institutions, the standards of processing and cataloguing the collections, which directly influence their safety and their accessibility, were significantly at odds with the requirements defined in the relevant regulations. The inventories and catalogues were incomplete, did not correspond to contemporary norms and were rife with numerous errors and inconsistencies.

Systematic work to correct, modernise and make available the documentation was only being carried out in Książnica, and in the State Archives on the manuscript collection. In the remaining institutions inventoring and cataloguing work was only being done selectively, on a limited scale - or not at all. Only Książnica, the State Archives and - to a limited extent - the Tschammer Library made their collections available to all visitors, through their reading rooms. Access to the collections in the other institutions was sporadic, generally carried out informally and required specific permission on each occasion.

## PROJECT AIMS

The extent and scale of the needs resulting from the situation the library and archival collections of Cieszyn found themselves at the beginning of the present decade, naturally influenced the choice of project aims and targets. It was decided that the project, focussed on the comprehensive protection of the collections against deterioration, ought, in addition, to facilitate their accessibility to wider scientific and cultural circulation.

It was also decided that the project's implementation would be carried out in keeping with the following principles:

**1** Every measure implemented in the project should be characterized by comprehensiveness, coherence and longevity.

**2** The work of all the participating partners should be coordinated and confirm to a unified system of specifications.

**3** Measures taken to improve the collections' safety ought to be combined with efforts to increase their availability.

Thoroughness became a fundamental characteristic of the project, including measures aimed at the optimisation of the collections' storage conditions, but also increase the effectiveness of their physical and organisational protection, through re-evaluating their state of repair, and also measures taken to ensure maximum availability.

These principles were enshrined in detailed action plans, at various stages of implementation by the various partners and covering:

**1** Ensuring that all the Cieszyn collections would have suitable storage conditions by renovating and adapting their library and archival premises and modernising the technical infrastructure concerned with the collections' storage and protection.

**2** Comprehensive protection of the library and archival collections by:

**a.** Disinfection, cleaning and bookbinding repairs of all the collections of the State Archives, the Museum of Cieszyn Silesia, Tschammer Library and Archives, and the Library and Archives of the Brothers Hospitallers (43 000 volumes and 900 linear metres of archival records),

**b.** Complete restoration of the 133 most valuable and most damaged items (pre-1801 imprints, manuscript codexes, archive materials and maps),

**c.** Enlargement and improvements to Książnica Cieszyńska's conservation workshop.

**3** Improving the safeguarding of the collections and simultaneously increasing their availability by:

**a.** Processing and inventoring 34 000 printed works in all the Cieszyn libraries and the archives of the Lutheran Parish and Order of the Brothers Hospitallers (around 60 linear metres of records),

**b.** Digitising several hundred of the most important but also most at risk and most often used library and archive items, in particular manuscripts and historical Cieszyn periodicals (in total around 580 000 pages).

**4** Making available information about the contents of the Cieszyn library and archive collections and their potential use in scientific and cultural activities.

## BUDGET AND SOURCES OF FUNDING

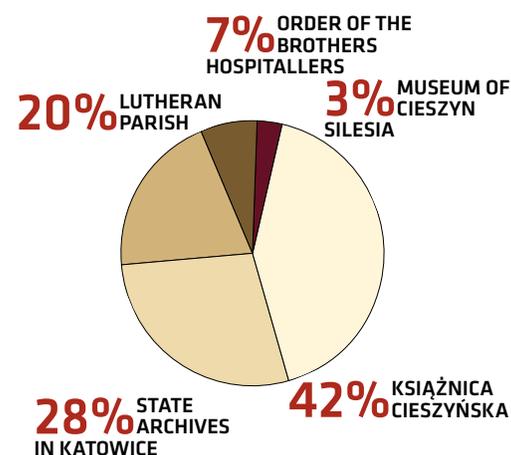
### PROJECT BUDGET

According to the plans accepted by the Financial Mechanism Office in Brussels, the cost of the project came to EUR 2 027 185, of which funding from the Financial Mechanism of the EEA amounted to EUR 1 657 832 (81.78%).

The remaining portion of the costs had to be met by the project partners from their own finances, although it was possible to pay part of one's own contribution using material resources.

Only Książnica Cieszyńska received additional funding in the form of the sum of 334 000 zlotys, from the *Promesa* programme of the Minister of Culture and National Heritage. The combined funding of the project from external sources amounted to 85% of its total value.

The participation of the various project partners in the budget was defined in an agreement drawn up on 28 November 2005. The largest share of the funding, equivalent to 42% of the project's entire value, was to be managed by Książnica Cieszyńska. In 2<sup>nd</sup>

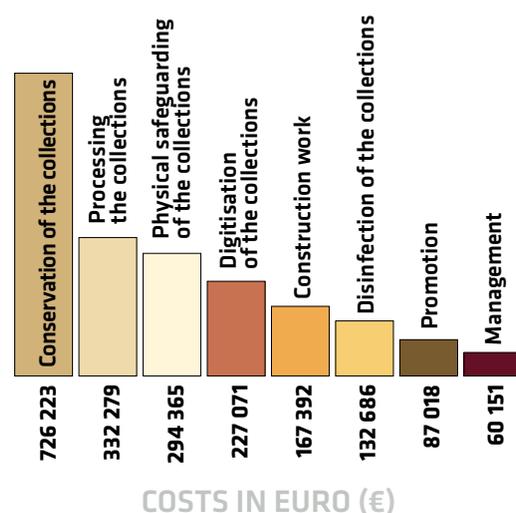


DISTRIBUTION OF PROJECT PARTNERS' SHARE OF THE BUDGET

and 3<sup>rd</sup> place, with 28% and 20%, were respectively the State Archives in Katowice and the Lutheran Parish in Cieszyn. The smallest slices of funding, of 7% and 3%, were to be managed respectively by the Order of the Brothers Hospitallars in Cieszyn and the Museum of Cieszyn Silesia.

Among the project's planned activities, the largest proportion of the funding was allocated to the restoration of the collections and equipping Książnica Cieszyńska's conservation workshop, amounting to EUR 726 223.

Other costly tasks were: processing the collections - EUR 332 279, their physical protection - EUR 294 365 and digitisation - EUR 227 071. Lower levels of funding were required for construction and installation work - EUR 167 392, disinfecting the collections - EUR 132 686, promotion - EUR 87 018 and managing the project - EUR 60 151.



### THE EEA FINANCIAL MECHANISM

Non-returnable funding for Poland in the form of two instruments, called: the EEA Financial Mechanism and Norwegian Financial Mechanism (usually - Norway Grants), originate from the three countries of the EFTA (European Free Trade Association),

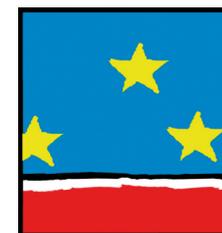


which are also members of the EEA (European Economic Area), i.e. Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein.

These financial mechanisms are linked to Poland's entry into the European Union and its simultaneous entry to the EEA.

On the strength of international agreements, the countries of EFTA - EEA granted beneficiary states (members of the EEA that entered the European Union in 2004 and Spain, Greece and Portugal) support during the years 2004-2009, in the form of two financial instruments called the EEA Financial Mechanism and Norway Grants with a combined value of EUR 1.170 billion.

### PROMESA OF THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND NATIONAL HERITAGE



This programme, whose aim is to increase the effectiveness of making use of European funding for the development of culture. The

programme is based on the funding of the national contribution of selected cultural projects financed by European funding by the Minister of Culture and National Heritage.

A meeting of the coordinating team, consisting of the project managers from the partner institutions, the project manager's representatives and the project coordinator.



### MANAGING THE PROJECT:

The principles of the management of the project *The Preservation and Restoration of Cieszyn's Written Heritage* were defined in an agreement reached on 28 November 2005 between Książnica Cieszyńska, the State Archives in Katowice, the Museum of Cieszyn Silesia, the Lutheran Parish in Cieszyn and the Cieszyn Monastery of the Brothers Hospitallars' Order.

The director of Książnica Cieszyńska - the institution which led the consortium implementing the project - was responsible for the coordination of all the steps implemented in the project.

Książnica's director, directly responsible for managing the project in the institution he manages, coordinated the project's implementation in all the partner institutions with the help of project leaders appointed in those institutions, and additionally supervised the work of the manager commissioned to take responsibility of the project's administrative and financial aspects.

Książnica's chief accountant was responsible for the proper management of expenditure within the project.

## IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT

### STORAGE CONDITIONS

The safety of historical library and archive collections depends above all on the conditions in which they are kept.

The Tschammer Library and Archives were in need of the greatest investment. Their collections had been stored for almost three hundred years in the aisles of the Church of Jesus, on the second and third storeys, in conditions which diverged significantly from any recognised standards of storage. As part of the project, these stores were divided by building partitions



walls and internal double glazed windows, equipped with reinforced doors and external double glazed windows, and CCTV monitored fire and security systems.

Heating, water and sewage systems were installed in the rooms, the lighting was replaced, the floor was repaired and the walls freshly painted. Metal display cases were installed in the modernised rooms, as were thermohygrographs, and mobile air conditioning equipment, namely air dryers, desiccant dehumidifiers, coolers and air filters.

Finally, furniture for the librarians and readers were bought, as well as display cases for the Museum of Protestantism in Cieszyn Silesia, which was opened during the implementation of the project.

The Library and Archives of the Brothers Hospitallers needed less work. Owing to the renovation of the entire monastery complex during the previous decade, all that was left to do in the rooms occupied by the library, archives and library workshop was to fit additional internal windows, renovate the parquet floor, install an alarm system and paint the walls – but above all to provide thermohygrographs and mobile air conditioning equipment.

As in the Lutheran church, the historical nature of the building precluded the installation of a central air conditioning, or even wall-mounted air conditioning.

**Premises of the Museum of Protestantism in Cieszyn Silesia opened in March 2009. Their condition before...**



**...and after restoration and decorating.**

During the project, the monastery's library and archives were supplied with new library furniture, constructed of solid wood, based on a design by an interior decorator, giving the library and archives a suitably representative character.

In addition, the recent renovation of the Museum of Cieszyn Silesia meant that the rooms where the museum's library are kept needed only a minor investment, limited to replacing the windows and doors, the installation of a fire and security system, the walls being painted and the equipping of mobile shelving.

The Cieszyn Branch of the State Archives, housed in Książnica Cieszyńska, needed the least work. As part of the project, the archives' rooms were equipped with an installation for controlling entry and CCTV, as well as an electronic system for monitoring temperature and humidity.

While the archives' collection was at the Katowice headquarters in order to be cleaned and disinfected, the Cieszyn premises were disinfected and repainted.

In the case of Książnica Cieszyńska itself, the project allowed the completion of the modernisations – mainly concerning equipment – which were planned for the new premises after its opening in 2000, but which could not be carried out owing to cost-cutting at the beginning of the decade. Książnica finalised the installation of an electronic system

of temperature and moisture monitoring, replacement of portable dehumidifiers, air dryers and air filters, the purchase of mobile shelving in one of the repositories and display cases - all financed from the project budget. Construction work was also important, involving the insulation and drying-out of the cellars located in the historical part of Książnica Cieszyńska. Owing to these investments, it will prove possible to use the rooms for exhibition purposes, which was planned in the project for the use of the building, but had hitherto been impossible, owing to the high level of humidity.

### PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION

The unsuitable storage conditions which the various Cieszyn library and archive collections were kept in for many decades is clearly reflected in their state of repair. The deformed book



**Rooms of the Archives and Library of the Order of the Brothers Hospitallers. Their condition before and after restoration and decorating.**



text blocks, covered in a thick layer of dust, torn covers and deformed fascicles, in conditions of constant fluctuations of temperature and humidity, became a food source for micro-organisms.

Apart from improvements to the library and archive stores, the implementation of measures aimed at the comprehensive safeguarding and repair of the collections - in particular their disinfection - became a priority.

To this end a mobile fumigator chamber was brought to Cieszyn, which was used to disinfect the books and archive materials belonging to the Lutheran Parish, the Museum of Cieszyn Silesia and the Monastery of the Brothers Hospitallers'

Order. The resources of the Cieszyn Branch of the State Archives, which were also suggesting the presence of mould and bacteria, were disinfected in the fumigator chamber belonging to the State Archives after being transported to Katowice.

The Cieszyn archive materials were also cleaned, and subsequently given conservation treatments, consisting of straightening out and flattening de-



**Fumigator chamber installed at Książnica Cieszyńska**

formed documents, minor repairs and storing them in dust jackets made of acid-free paper and acid-free cardboard boxes. The collections of the Lutheran Parish, the Order of the Brothers Hospitallers and the Museum of Cieszyn Silesia were all given similar treatment. Gradually, the books and periodicals were cleaned, straightened, glued or supplied with dust jackets of acid-free paper. The archive materials, in turn, were stored in cardboard boxes after cleaning and flattening.

The funding was not only used to purchase the materials and agents essential for carrying out those measures, but also in order to employ experienced bookbinders and book restorers, specialised in working with historical collections. These interventions were carried out under the supervision of restorers from Książnica Cieszyńska, where similar work, done over a decade earlier, meant most of the historical book collection had been safeguarded before the project was begun. The expe-



rience gained then, but particularly the standards of care achieved in Książnica Cieszyńska, became the basis for the programme of care carried out in Cieszyn's other historical libraries.

Książnica Cieszyńska's efforts regarding the comprehensive care and safeguarding of the collections were focussed on the enlargement and modernisation of the technical infrastructure which would help increase the range of measures carried out by the conservation workshop in the library. The workshop, opened when Książnica Cieszyńska was founded in 1994, was the first fully professional conservation workshop in Upper Silesia. Its equipment – at that time relatively modern and comprehensive – had depreciated over the course of more than a decade, necessitating its replacement by new equipment which met current requirements.



**Books from the Tschammer Library after bookbinding repairs. The photographs show conditions of the books before and after repairs.**

Participation in the project meant that rapid progress could be achieved in that regard. Above all, the worn-out fumigation chamber was replaced by a considerably more cost-efficient, computerised one with a catalytic oxidiser.

Other equipment purchased as part of the project were: a laminator; a laboratory rotary digester; a power paper cutter; a computerised mini-vacuum table and an underlit spotting table, both used in conjunction with an industrial vacuum cleaner; a drying rack and other small items of equipment, such as electronic laboratory scales, a deioniser, a laboratory agitator, a microscope, a light meter etc. The workshop also stocked up with reserves of materials and agents used in the conservation process. All the workshops were equipped with new, fitted furniture.

In keeping with the aims of the project, the modernisation that was carried out to the equipment was supposed to contribute in two ways. It was not only intended to improve the effectiveness of the work carried out by the workshop for the benefit of Książnica Cieszyńska, but also to increase support for the work the other Cieszyn historical libraries would undertake in the future with regard to safeguarding and restoring their collections.

The crowning moment of the process of safeguarding the collections was the complete restoration of the rarest and, simultaneously, the most severely damaged printed materials and manuscripts. Apart from in Książnica Cieszyńska, where

**Conservation work in the State Archives in Katowice**



over the previous two decades around 140 bound volumes and several hundred archival manuscript items had undergone complete restoration, none of the remaining institutions in the project had been able to carry out the renovation of their own collections. Thus, it comes as no surprise that among the total of 144 items whose renovation was financed from the project budget, some 112 belonged to Książnica's partners.

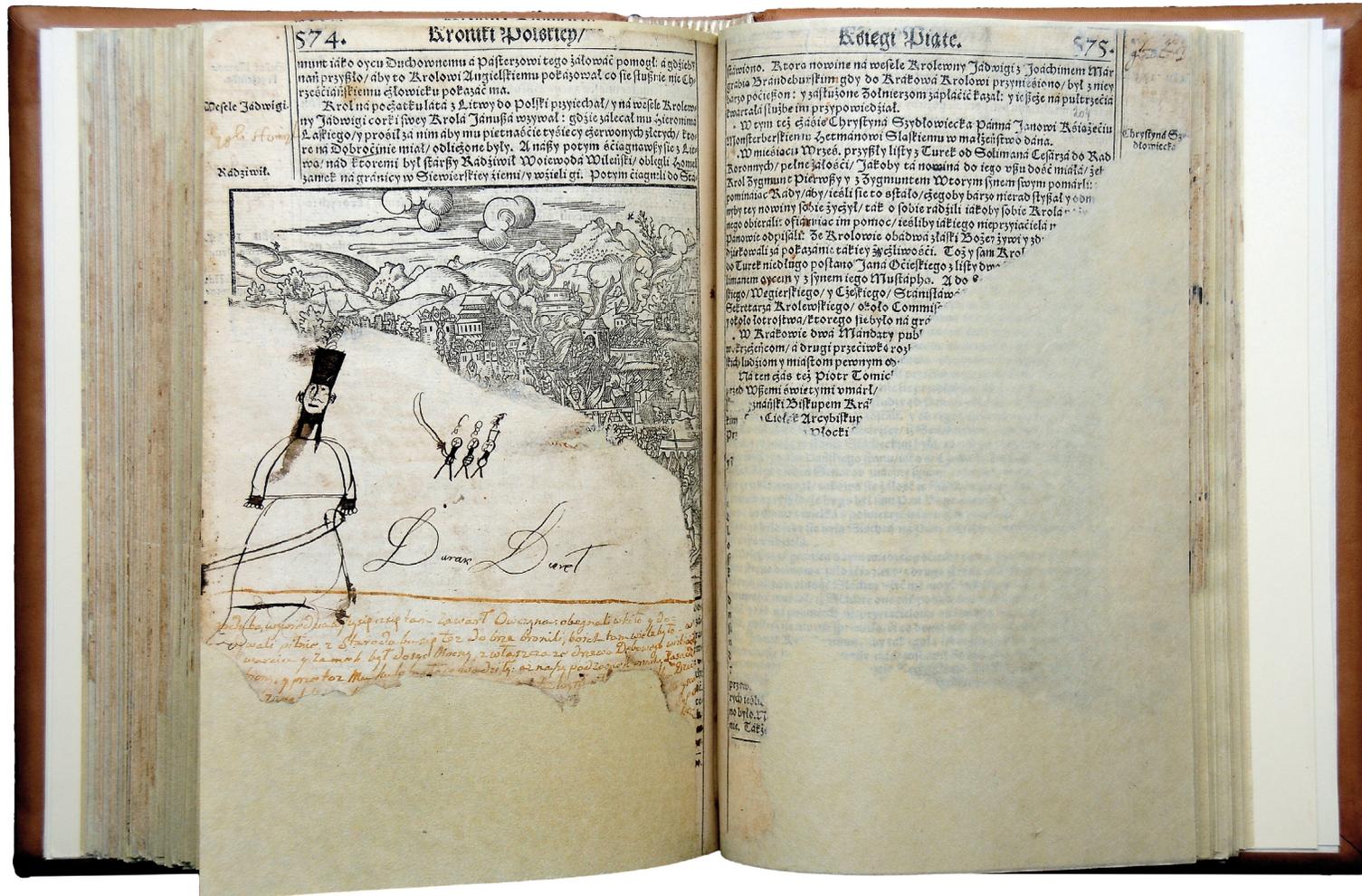
The largest number of items to undergo renovation, some 62, belonged to the collections of the Tschammer Library and Archives. 39 items were selected from the Cieszyn Branch of the State Archives, 8 from the Library and Archives of the Brothers Hospitallers and 3 from the Museum of Cieszyn Silesia. Książnica carried out the restoration of 10 of its printed works and manuscripts in its own workshop. The remaining 22 items were restored in specialist workshops, following outsourcing of the contracts. The restoration of printed works and manuscripts belonging to the Lutheran Parish, the Order of the Brothers Hospitallers and the Museum of Cieszyn Silesia were also outsourced. The State Archives benefited in this way from the work of restoration workshops operating in an archive network and employed by means of an auxiliary enterprise.

The items selected for restoration were all chosen by a committee, comprising restorers and librarians or archivists, who took into consideration both the historical value of the

works, their research significance and the nature of the damage, in particular its severity and the speed with decay was proceeding.

The use of these criteria meant that among the items selected for renovation, manuscripts linked to the history of Cieszyn Silesia were first in line, followed by pre-1801 imprints, which were either unique or published in exceptional editions. The renovation work itself proceeded according to detailed programmes put together by experts, and the inspection of each object following renovation was carried out by a committee of experts who evaluated the quality of the work.

Książnica Cieszyńska's copy of Marcin Bielski's *Kronika polska, Kraków 1597*. The photographs show the condition of the book before and after conservation.



## PROCESSING

One of the factors contributing to safeguarding collections against theft or loss is by equipping them with complete records, corresponding to contemporary standards. The other is a search system, enabling checks to be carried out on the contents of the collections, and also facilitating their entry into scientific and cultural circulation. Unfortunately, the overwhelming majority of the Cieszyn library collections and a significant proportion of the archive records possessed very imperfect, archaic catalogues and inventories, or worse, some of the collections lacked records of any kind. The existing search and record tools not only did not correspond to modern regulations, but, burdened as they were by numerous errors, gaps and inconsistencies, did not permit a full assessment of the collections' contents. This also put their safety at risk, seriously limiting the potential for carrying out preliminary surveys of holdings and the use of the Cieszyn collections in scientific research and cultural initiatives. The project *The Preservation and Restoration of Cieszyn's Written Heritage* also achieved a breakthrough in this field. The most valuable parts of the collections were included in the cataloguing process implemented in the project. A total of over 37 500 volumes were processed in the programme, above all pre-1801 imprints and manuscript codexes, and 60 linear metres of archive records.

**The cataloguing and inventorying of the collections is one of the most time-consuming and simultaneously least conspicuous responsibilities of all libraries.**



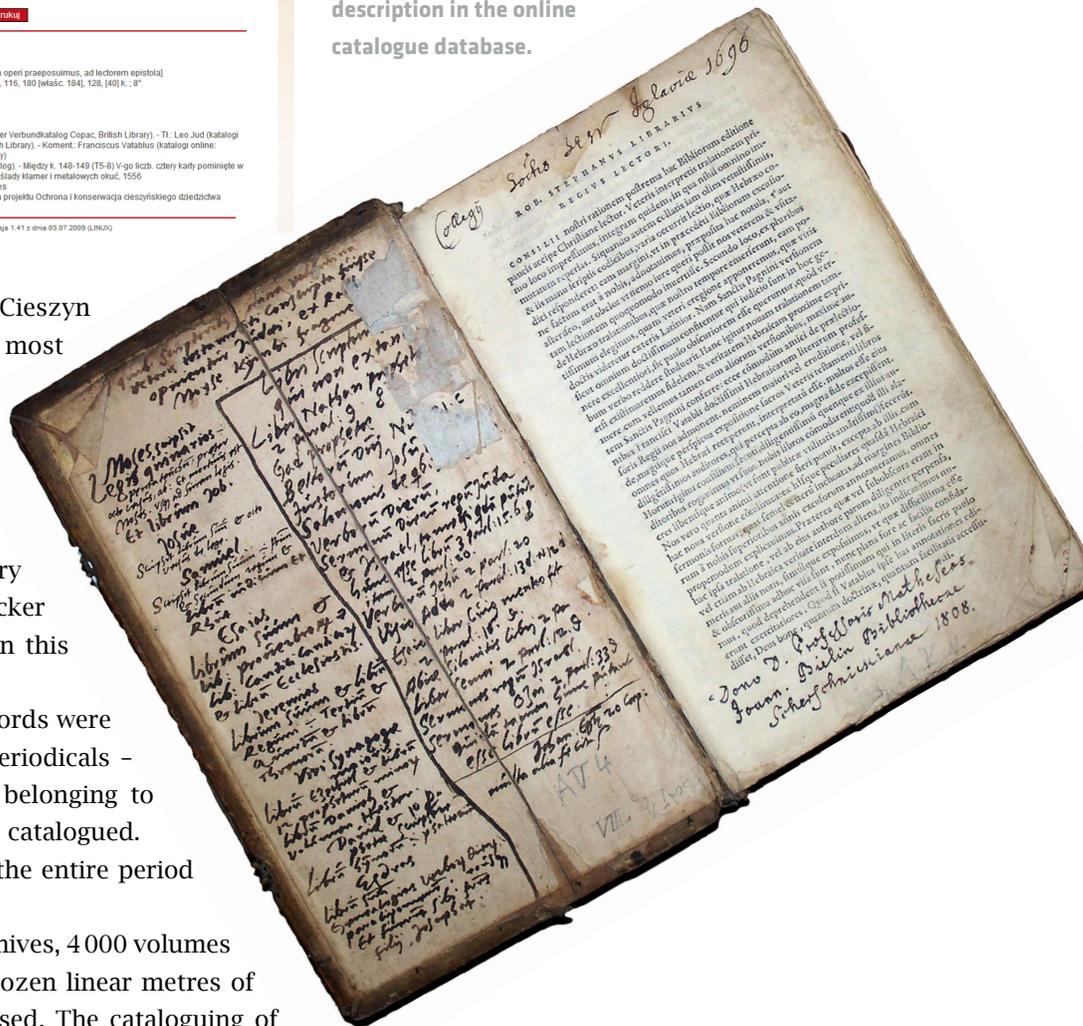
This process proceeded in accordance with the standards established in Książnica Cieszyńska, where, since the middle of the 1990s, a long-term, exhaustive programme of recording the collections has been carried out. Its principles, established on the basis of an analysis of current legislation, norms and procedures in scientific libraries, were codified in 1998 in a document entitled *The structure and principles for recording and processing the library collection of Książnica Cieszyńska (Struktura oraz zasady ewidencji i opracowania zbiorów bibliotecznych Książnicy Cieszyńskiej)*. The regulations included the procedures and norms defining the principles of processing and inventorying the collection using MAK software, which was implemented in Książnica in 1994. Owing to its adaptation to the special nature of the collection, it became possible to automate the procedure of processing all the categories of the collection, including pre-1801 imprints and manuscripts. Since 2007, the principles operating in Książnica Cieszyńska were implemented under supervision by Książnica staff by all the project's partners, thus standardising the process of cataloguing their collections. MAK software was implemented in all the participating institutions in the format used by Książnica. This permitted not only the possibility of sharing catalogue descriptions among all the project participants but also enabled them to integrate their databases and make them commonly available online.

In the case of Książnica Cieszyńska, 18100 volumes were included in the cataloguing process. This meant pre-1801 imprints from the book collections of the People's Library (Czytelnia Ludowa) and the Deanery Library (Biblioteka Dekanatu) held in deposit in Książnica, and the entire book collection of Leopold Jan Szersznik, i.e. pre-1801 imprints (around 14 400 volumes), imprints from 1801-1950 (3700 volumes) and 1 000 manuscripts items.

The job of processing these works was put out to tender, and finally awarded to the Zakłady Kórnickie Foundation in January 2008. The work, begun on 18 February 2008, lasted until January 2010. Part of the collections were processed in Cieszyn, where manuscripts, pre-1601 imprints, and other exceptionally valuable or rare items were catalogued. Moreover, multi-volume and large format works were also processed in Cieszyn. The remaining items were transported to Kórnik by a transport company with a concession for the care of objects of historical value.



The cataloguing of damaged works without title pages or other identifying features demands the most work. The photographs show an example of this kind of book along with its description in the online catalogue database.



Among the collection of the Cieszyn Branch of the State Archives, the most valuable documents from the period of Austrian rule were processed, i.e. those of the Teschener Kammer and Cieszyn municipal records. Records of individual elements in subgroups of the inventory were compiled, which facilitates quicker and safer accessibility of records, in this case of 5 000 separate documents.

Apart from that, 1 500 archive records were inventoried and 8 300 books and periodicals – representing the oldest specimens belonging to the archives' textbook library – were catalogued.

This work continued throughout the entire period of the project's implementation.

In the Tschammer Library and Archives, 4 000 volumes of pre-1801 imprints and several dozen linear metres of parish archive records were processed. The cataloguing of pre-1801 imprints by five outsourced contractors began in May 2008. A further two were responsible for processing the archive resources. The inventorying and cataloguing of the Archives and Library of the Brothers Hospitallers' collections (totalling 180 manuscript codexes and 2 900 volumes of imprints, including almost 200 pre-1801 imprints) and of the Library of the Museum of Cieszyn Silesia (almost 3 000 volumes, including 360 pre-1801 imprints) was carried out by the staff of those institutions.

## DIGITISATION

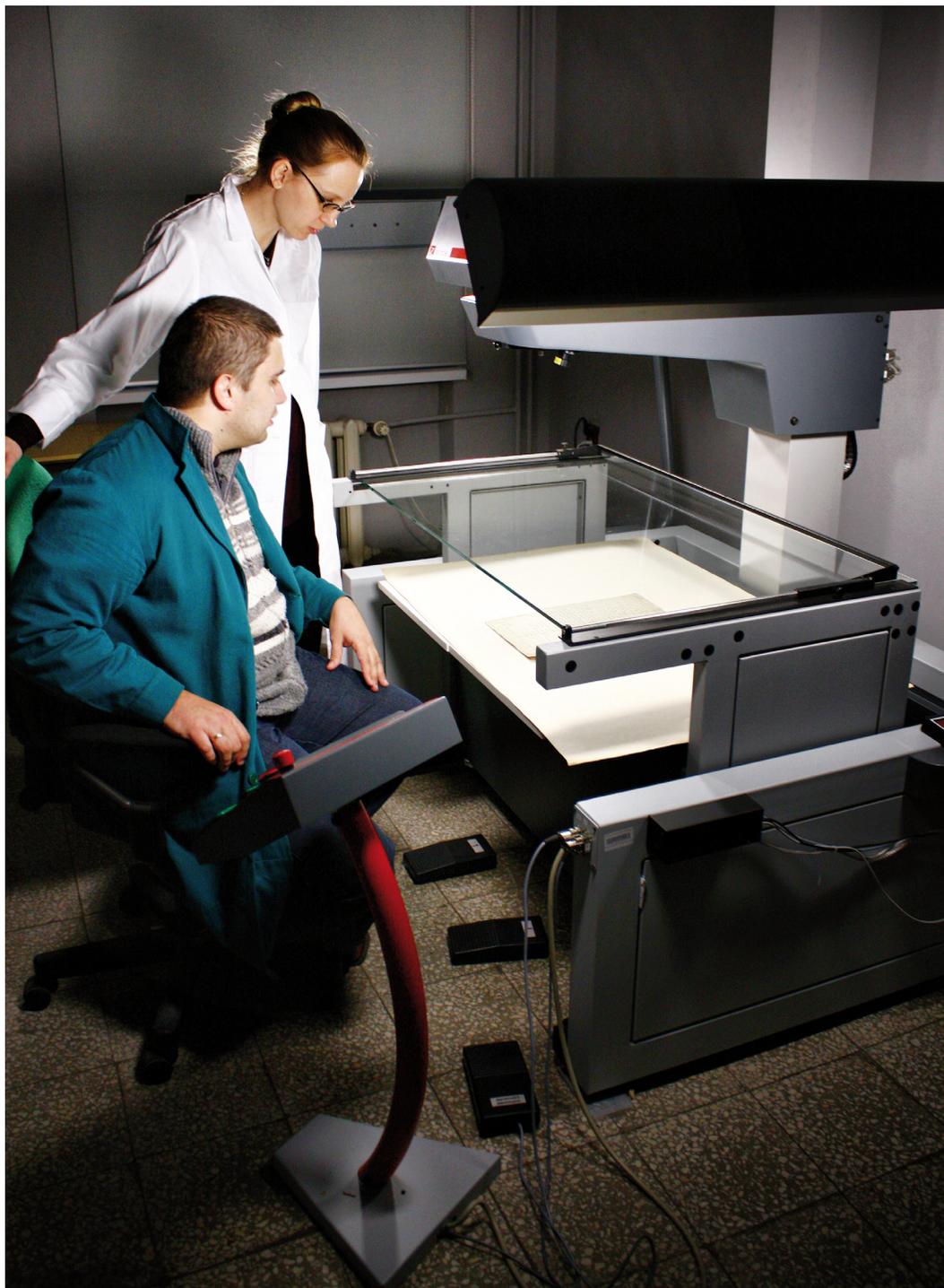
In incorporating this task in the project, the organisers could draw from the experiences of Książnica Cieszyńska, which had begun a long-term digitisation project of its collection in 2003. In its pilot phase, when use was made of the library's own resources and the simple informational tools at its disposal, all the historical collection catalogues underwent digitisation.

In 2003–2005, they were made available online, becoming – alongside the databases that were being compiled at the same time – a valuable element of Książnica Cieszyńska's search instruments. Parallel to this, work on the digitisation of the catalogue documentation, the construction of the Cieszyn Virtual Library (Cieszyńska Biblioteka Wirtualna) was begun, part of which included making electronic copies of around 100 works, comprising Cieszyn's historical literary canon.

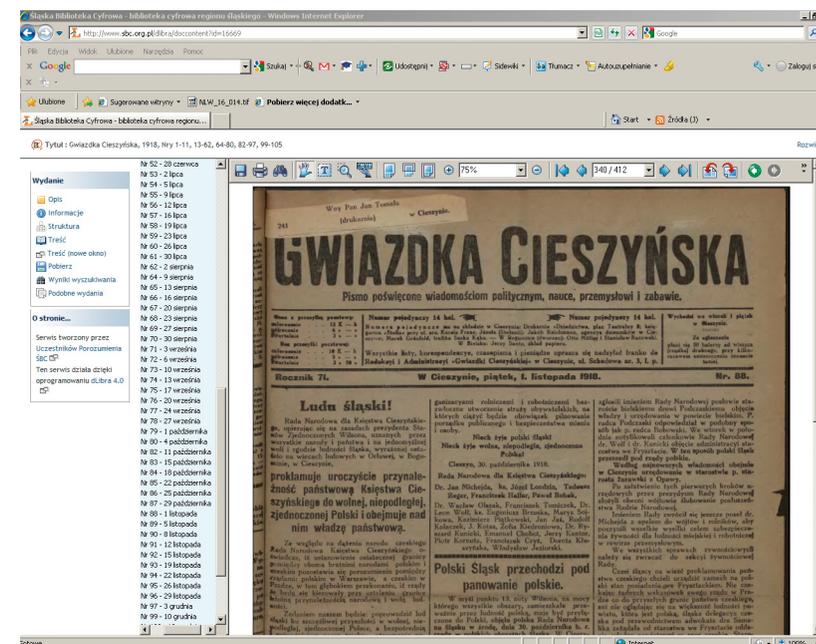
Despite the fact that the works were presented only as graphic files, precluding an effective search system, the Cieszyn Virtual Library met with considerable interest from internet users, measured systematically by the growing number of hits and numerous links on Polish and foreign web portals. Its functioning helped Książnica Cieszyńska to discover the needs concerning access to electronic versions of the written documents about Cieszyn Silesia, and also the organisational and technical potential of its digitisation and popularisation. These experiences proved to be extremely useful during the preparations for the project *The Preservation and Restoration of Cieszyn's Written Heritage*.

Initiating work on digitisation in 2003, Książnica Cieszyńska decided that digitisation should be carried out on those collections of strictly regional character, which had little chance of being included in digitisation projects carried out by other centres. Unlike many Polish libraries, where digitisation began with their incunabula and pre-1801 imprints, Książnica concentrated on writings which originated in or dealt with the region.

This principle, established right from when the Cieszyn Virtual Library was being created, found its application during the project *The Preservation and Restoration of Cieszyn's Written Heritage*. Here, digitisation was carried out on historical Cieszyn periodicals, which, since they enjoy huge popularity among readers, are more at risk of rapid destruction, owing to their paper's high degree of acidity.



The digitisation of the Cieszyn Archives' collection took place in the reprographic workshop of the State Archives in Katowice.



Among the periodicals kept in Książnica Cieszyńska, the *Gwiazdka Cieszyńska* enjoys the greatest popularity. The photographs show a digital copy of the newspaper in the form of a DjVu file with an OCR text layer, made accessible in 2010 within the Silesian Digital Library.

Other materials to undergo digitisation were primary sources in the form of manuscripts concerning the history of Cieszyn Silesia, including the collection of manuscripts from the Library of Leopold Jan Szersznik, the collection of historical records of the Lutheran Parish, a large proportion of the Cieszyn municipal records in the State Archives and important parts of the Cieszyn archives of the Order of the Brothers Hospitallers.

Around 570 000 pages were digitised during the project, of which close to 390 000 were digitised in Książnica, 120 000 in the State Archives, approximately 28 000 in the Tschammer Library and Archives, 30 000 in the Archives and Library of the Brothers Hospitallers and 1 000 pages in the Museum of Cieszyn Silesia. This task - with the exception of the State Archives in Katowice, where most of the work linked to the digitisation and microfilming was done in its own reprographic workshop - was carried out by two specialist companies, the Poznań Digital-Centre and Mikrofilm-Service from Raszyn, selected through the tendering process.

As a result of their work, apart from the source TIFF copies (full colour and resolution of 300 dpi) and functional publications in PDF and DjVu formats (which in the case of periodicals printed in a Latin font are supplied with an OCR text layer created using the FineReader programme) microfilm copies were also created, intended for permanent archival use.

In this way, the process of digitisation, a crucial element of the project, was carried out in full, where efforts to improve the collection's safety were to be linked to efforts to increase their accessibility. In this case it meant, on one hand, the withdrawal from circulation of certain parts of the collections, and on the other, their replacement with digital copies, ensuring the possibility of unlimited access to their content.

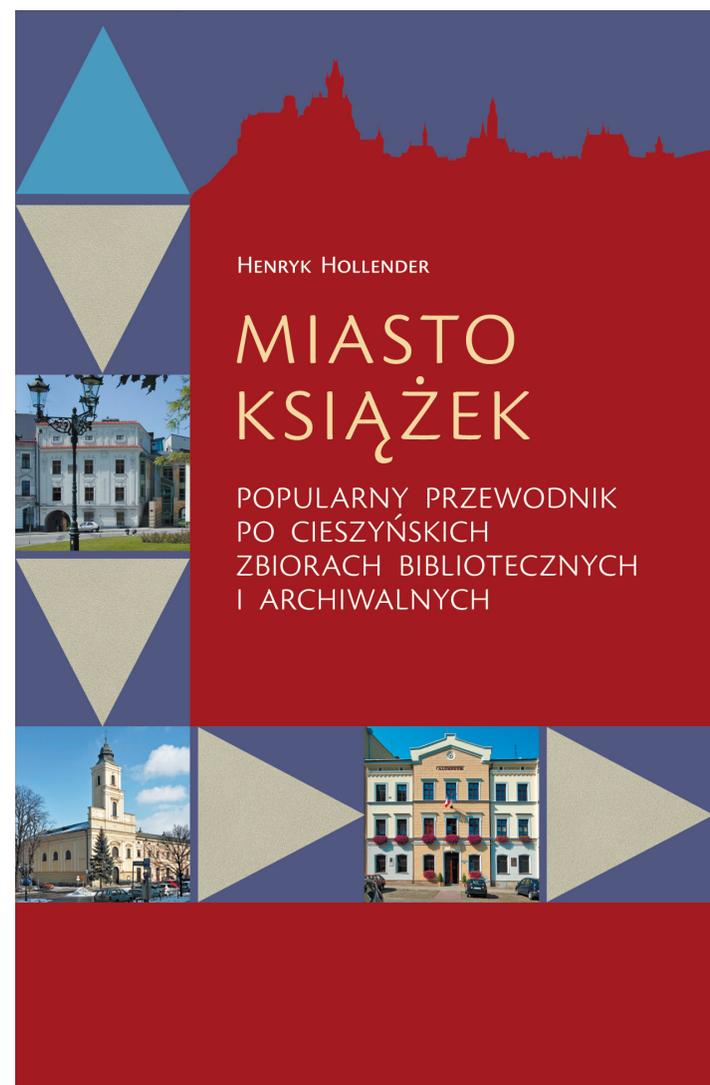
To see the results in practice, one may take advantage of the Silesian Digital Library, which Książnica Cieszyńska joined on 23 January 2009 - while the project was still being implemented - thus giving it the opportunity to make its digital resource available online. In the future, the remaining project participants are to join the Silesian Digital Library, and make available copies of their imprints and manuscripts.

### A TOWN OF BOOKS (MIASTO KSIĄŻEK)

During the implementation of the project *The Preservation and Restoration of Cieszyn's Written Heritage*, it was established that the promotional and informational campaign would not be limited simply to disseminating information about the project and sources of funding, but ought to be directed at popularising information about the results achieved in the project, and about their significance and potential applications. Such a promotional and informational strategy, directed at various types of end users and carried out using a wide range of methods and approaches, would result in more effective promotion of the Financial Mechanism of the EEA, owing to being illustrated and supported by concrete results. In this way, the effectiveness of the project itself would be increased, and the realisation of its strategic aim would be significantly enhanced, i.e. that of making available protected, restored and digitised collections for wide scientific and cultural circulation.

Without giving up on traditional informational and promotional means, such as information boards, brochures, leaflets, posters, exhibitions and websites, the project participants also carried out steps of wider scope, which ought to result in more meaningful and lasting results. One of them is an educational trail called *The Cieszyn Archives and Historical Libraries Trail*. This trail, which serves to disseminate information about the project, ought also to contribute to a more effective exploitation of the project.

The trail will consist of a range of regularly updated educational activities, such as exhibitions, presentations, workshops and library lessons, carried out by the various institutions



Henryk Hollender's *A popular guidebook to Cieszyn's library and archive collections*, published as part of the project.

taking part in the project, depending on the character of their collections. The culture of books - broadly understood - will be the subject of these activities, with a particular focus on the history of the libraries and regional literacy, and also the issue of protecting historical library and archive items. One of the most important tools the educational trail will be supplied with is a printed guidebook of Cieszyn's library and archival collections and a set of library lesson plans focussing on Cieszyn's literary heritage, and available online.

Information packs and materials presenting the collections of the libraries and archives taking part in the project will also accompany the lessons.

One of the most attractive stopping off points of the Cieszyn trail will be

the Museum of Protestantism in Cieszyn Silesia. Founded as part of the project in 2009, and since then functioning within the structure of the Tschammer Library and Archives, it creates additional opportunities to popularise past literary traditions.

Another enterprise forming part of the project's promotional strategy is an academic conference, entitled *Between Theory and Practice: The protection and conservation of collections in small libraries and archives*, which, offering yet another means of disseminating information about the unfolding and results of the project, is above all intended to become an opportunity to juxtapose the experience gained in Cieszyn with that of current theory in the fields of protection and conservation of library collections and the practices followed

# MIASTO KSIĄŻEK



Jednym z fundamentalnych składników cieszyńskiego dziedzictwa kultury jest istniejący w mieście unikalny zespół zabytkowych kolekcji archiwalnych i bibliotecznych. Zbiory te, gromadzone w Cieszynie od średniowiecza, obejmują zarówno źródła archiwalne, rękopisy biblioteczne oraz druki powstałe w regionie, jak i piśmiennictwo, które przez wieki docierało na Śląsk Cieszyński z obszaru całej Europy, inspirując rozwój kultury regionu i kształtując jej specyfikę. Współcześnie zabytkowe zbiory biblioteczne i archiwalne są własnością pięciu niezależnych względem siebie instytucji państwowych, samorządowych i kościelnych,



z których każda, sprawując pieczę nad powierzonymi sobie drukami i rękopisami, udostępnia je za pośrednictwem własnych czytelni oraz organizowanych cyklicznie wystaw, warsztatów i prezentacji.

„Szlak cieszyńskich archiwów i bibliotek zabytkowych”, powstały w ramach zrealizowanego w latach 2007–2010 projektu „Ochrona i konserwacja cieszyńskiego dziedzictwa piśmienniczego”, stanowi narzędzie koordynacji działań podejmowanych na rzecz upowszechnienia informacji na temat zawartości i historii przechowywanych w Cieszynie zabytkowych zbiorów bibliotecznych i archiwalnych, ich popularyzacji oraz ułatwienia do nich dostępu.

## SZLAK CIESZYŃSKICH ARCHIWÓW I BIBLIOTEK ZABYTKOWYCH

1200  
Cieszyn bez końca



1 Książnica Cieszyńska  
ul. Mennicza 46  
[www.kc-cieszyn.pl](http://www.kc-cieszyn.pl)

2 Archiwum Państwowe  
w Katowicach  
Oddział w Cieszynie  
ul. Mennicza 46  
[www.katowice.ap.gov.pl](http://www.katowice.ap.gov.pl)

3 Biblioteka i Archiwum  
im. Tschammera  
pl. Kościelny 6  
[www.biblioteka.cieszyn.org.pl](http://www.biblioteka.cieszyn.org.pl)

4 Archiwum i Biblioteka  
OO. Bonifratrów w Cieszynie  
pl. J. Londzina 1  
[www.bonifratrzy-archiwum.pl](http://www.bonifratrzy-archiwum.pl)

5 Biblioteka Muzeum  
Śląska Cieszyńskiego  
ul. T. Regera 6  
[www.muzeumcieszyn.pl](http://www.muzeumcieszyn.pl)

Wsparcie udzielone  
przez Islandię, Lichtenstein oraz Norwegię  
poprzez dofinansowanie ze środków Mechanizmu  
Finansowego Europejskiego Obszaru Gospodarczego



by other libraries of similar size and interests in those fields. The conviction seems to be well-founded that the experience of the participants in the project *The Preservation and Restoration of Cieszyn's Written Heritage*, in one sense having a pioneering character, may become not only an inspiration for institutions facing problems similar to the ones that until recently affected most of Cieszyn's libraries and archives, but may also turn out to be the source of very precise knowhow about the options and methods of counteracting those haz-

One of the information boards showing the route of the Cieszyn Archives and Historical Libraries Trail.

ards, but also about the difficulties and risks that accompany this initiative. The talks being prepared for the conference will be made available to interested parties in the form of an e-book.

In 2008, in a direct attempt to interest the scientific community in the Cieszyn collections and their research value, a competition was announced for an academic paper to be written in one of two fields. It could either concern the protection and preservation of library and archive collections or the history of literature, with the proviso that the papers in the second category had to include references to the history of writing in Cieszyn Silesia.

Notwithstanding the fact that of the ten papers initially entered in the competition, only five were finally submitted, their academic credentials were proof that the initiative was a success.

\* \* \*

Although it is too early for a complete assessment of the results of the project *The Preservation and Restoration of Cieszyn's Written Heritage*, it is already apparent that its implementation stopped the progressive deterioration of the Cieszyn library and archive collections. This concerns in particular the Order of the Brothers Hospitallers and the Lutheran Parish, which, not possessing the appropriate organisational instruments nor alternative financial resources, would probably not have been able independently to carry out the tasks framed in the aims of the project, which would have meant not only that their collections would have remained excluded from scientific circulation, but - in the long term - also the destruction and irreversible loss of a significant quantity of them.

Also, in the case of the remaining participants in the project, its implementation represented important changes, which permitted them to complete investments and programmes, which, although they had been initiated earlier, and even - in the case of Książnica Cieszyńska - in the previous decade, were still not finished, owing to lack of funds. What is more, it gave all Cieszyn's historical archives and libraries the opportunity to take up the challenges that technological progress offers, particularly in the area of digitisation.

The project *The Preservation and Restoration of Cieszyn's Written Heritage* could in no way have been limited merely to short-term interventions for holding back the destruction of the Cieszyn collections. On the contrary, its achievements have created the organisational and technical basis for a long-term programme for the protection, conservation, processing and making available of all the Cieszyn collections, which will simultaneously contribute to a strengthening of Cieszyn's position as a significant upper-Silesian centre of scientific and academic life and as a tourist attraction. In the long term, the project should result in the development of a wide variety of scientific and cultural initiatives.





**1** Książnica Cieszyńska  
ul. Mennicza 46  
[www.kc-cieszyn.pl](http://www.kc-cieszyn.pl)

**2** State Archives in Katowice  
(Cieszyn Branch)  
ul. Mennicza 46  
[www.katowice.ap.gov.pl](http://www.katowice.ap.gov.pl)

**3** Tschammer Library  
and Archives  
pl. Kościelny 6  
[www.biblioteka.cieszyn.org.pl](http://www.biblioteka.cieszyn.org.pl)

**4** Archives and Library  
of the Brothers Hospitallers  
pl. J. Londzina 1  
[www.bonifratrzy-archiwum.pl](http://www.bonifratrzy-archiwum.pl)

**5** Library of the Museum  
of Cieszyn Silesia  
ul. T. Regera 6  
[www.muzeumcieszyn.pl](http://www.muzeumcieszyn.pl)

#### PROJECT LEADER

**KSIĄŻNICA CIESZYŃSKA**



#### PROJECT MANAGER

**ASSOCIATION OF SUPPORTING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

**DELTA PARTNER**



#### PROJECT PARTNERS

**STATE ARCHIVES IN KATOWICE  
(CIESZYŃSKA BRANCH)**



**ARCHIVES AND LIBRARY  
OF THE BROTHERS HOSPITALERS**

**TSCHAMMER LIBRARY  
AND ARCHIVES**



**LIBRARY OF THE MUSEUM  
OF CIESZYŃ SILESIA**

The project *The Preservation and Restoration of Cieszyn's Written Heritage* was carried out in the years 2007-2010. Its aim was the complete safeguarding of the collections of five Cieszyn library and archive institutions, namely: Książnica Cieszyńska, the Cieszyn Branch of the State Archives in Katowice, the Tschammer Library and Archives in the Lutheran Parish, the Archives and Library of the Monastery of the Brothers Hospitallers' Order and the Library of the Museum of Cieszyn Silesia and their introduction to academic and cultural circulation.

The value of the project was worth EUR 2 027 185 in total, of which 81.78% (i.e. EUR 1 657 832) was funded from the EEA Financial Mechanism. The sum of PLN 334 000 was also received from the Polish Minister of Culture and National Heritage's *Promesa* programme.

The project achieved the following:

- the five libraries and archives were redecorated and reequipped
- the conservation workshop of Książnica Cieszyńska was modernised
- 43 000 volumes and 900 linear metres of archive records were disinfected, cleaned and restored
- 144 manuscripts and printed works underwent complete restoration
- over 37 500 volumes (including, in particular, pre-1801 imprints and manuscript codexes) and 60 linear metres of archive materials were catalogued
- approximately 570 000 pages of historical periodicals, manuscripts and pre-1801 imprints were digitised and microfilmed
- the Museum of Protestantism in Cieszyn Silesia was opened
- *The Cieszyn Archives and Historical Libraries Trail* was launched, accompanied by guidebooks and other printed information.



**PART OF THE CELEBRATIONS  
OF THE 1200<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
OF CIESZYN'S LEGENDARY FOUNDATION**