

# The Restoration of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century Antependium

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The 19<sup>th</sup> century antependium with the Saint Mary's monogram belongs to Kaunas Church Heritage Museum. The large size antependium is woven in glass beads. The artifact made in such unique technique in Lithuanian sanctuaries until now were unknown. P. Gudynas Restoration Center textile department encountered such type art work for the first time.

The antependium size is 70 x 159.5 cm. It is woven in glass beads which vary in their shapes, colors and sizes. The antependium was fastened to a metal stretcher and set in a carved wooden frame. The object was badly decayed, covered with a thick layer of dust and dirt, so it was difficult to see the antependium's drawing, beads colors and shapes. In the contact areas with the metal stretcher warp and weft were affected by rust. And heavy glass beads weight – 6 kg, in many places tore linen thread. As a result, appeared different size tears and a lot of beads crumbled away, some of them were cracked and damaged. In some areas were observable recent repairs.

The antependium was removed from the frame. The condition of art work was stated. Morphological and chemical analysis was carried out. It was found that warp and weft are linen, and beads are made from colorless and colored glass. Some of them on the inner side were covered with the various pigments. The glass beads and pigments analysis was carried out by SE – EDX, FTIR or XRF methods.

In order to restore the losses of colored glass beads, we searched for the most comparable glassware. The search results were unsuccessful. After several materials experiments, it was decided to cast new colored beads from the epoxy resin "Araldite 2020 A / B", which is used in the restoration of glass.

Before washing the antependium was unfixed from the stretcher, its edges, losses and damaged places were reinforced by cotton gauze and it was sewed to the fine polyamide net. After the antependium was carefully washed, its broken warp were consolidated by piercing new linen threads and looses were weaved with new made coloured beads.

The restored antependium is ready for exposition.



iii. 1. Antependium before restoration.



iii. 2. Antependium after restoration.



iii. 3. Fragment No. 1 of the antependium before restoration.



iii. 4. Fragment No. 1 of the antependium after restoration.



iii. 5. Fragment No. 2 of the antependium before restoration.



iii. 6. Fragment No. 2 of the antependium after restoration.



iii. 9. Antependium is prepared for drying.



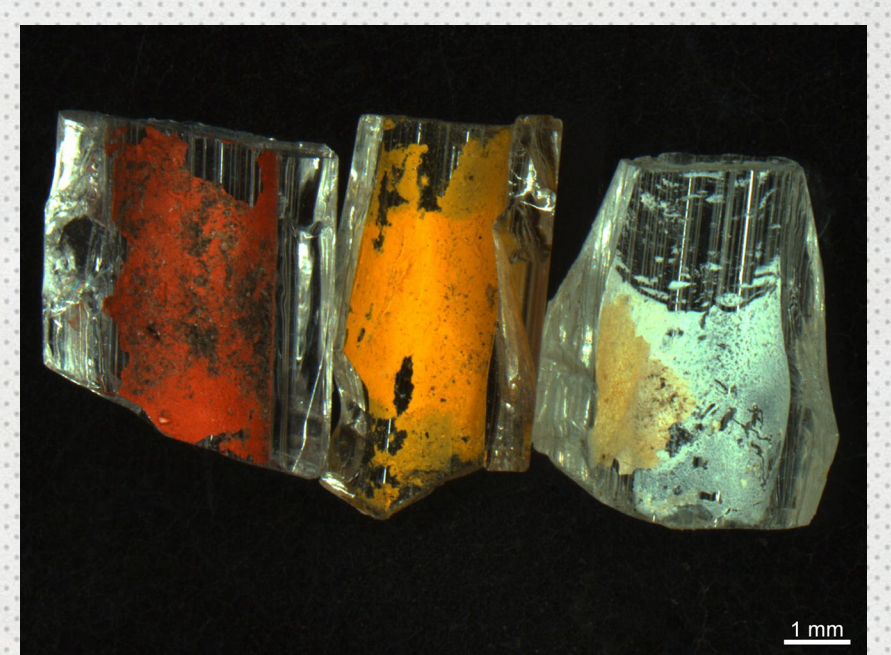
iii. 7. Wash of the antependium.



iii. 8. Rinse of the antependium.



iii. 10. Glass beads before restoration.



iii. 11. Inner side of some glass beads covered with pigments.



iii. 12. New beads moulded of epoxy resin colored with pigments.



iii. 13. Materials used in the restoration of the glass beads.