Call for articles

The 60th issue of Technè will be devoted to “Conservation-Restoration of Embroidered Textiles from the Renaissance to the 19th Century”. It will be guest-edited by Agnès Bos and Anne Labourdette (Musée du Louvre), together with Nadège François and Antoinette Villa (conservators-restorers).

Technè is edited by the Centre de Recherche et de Restauration des Musées de France. It was founded in 1994 as a biannual interdisciplinary scientific publication focused on both the study and the preservation of Tangible Cultural Heritage (excluding the field of architecture). It aims to disseminate new and original research in well-illustrated articles written either in French or English. Italian, German, and Spanish are also accepted.

Each issue has both a print (https://www.lcdpu.fr/revues/techne/) and an online version (https://journals.openedition.org/techne/). The online version becomes openly accessible after a 12-month embargo.

Call for contributions:

The study of embroidered textiles presents several points of interest: research may focus on the embroidery itself (materials, techniques, patterns), its supporting medium (nature, composition of materials, type of weaving), as well as the relationships between these two fields.

Although several scientific publications have recently provided an overview of the current state of research on ancient textiles (archaeological, classical and medieval), no extensive work has yet addressed the study, conservation and restoration of textiles embroidered in Europe or for the European market since the Renaissance (an era which saw the spread of printed patterns for embroidery, via, in particular, ornamenters’ pattern books) until the beginning of the 19th century (before the invention of the mechanical embroidery loom).

The extensive conservation work performed between 2020 and 2023 by the Department of Decorative Arts of the Musée du Louvre on the textiles of the Order of the Holy Spirit revealed little-known fields for research which inspired the project of a thematic dossier in the journal Technè.

We aim to identify topics of discussion by juxtaposing ancient texts with materials analysis; to present examples of the conservation of embroidered textiles with an emphasis on the choice of technical protocols; and to consider the difficult problem of exhibiting these rare and precious textiles.

Proposals should belong to the following thematic areas:
- Defining current methods of analysing embroidered textiles from the Renaissance to the 19th century, both technical and physico-chemical;
- Documenting the production of embroidered textiles from the Renaissance to the 19th century;
- Documenting the restoration of embroidered textiles from the Renaissance to the 19th century;
- Comparing ancient texts on and ancient practices of embroidery with recent analyses;
- Presenting examples of recent restorations of embroidered textiles from this period, if possible juxtaposing different approaches according to a typology of objects (embroidery on book bindings, embroidery on leather saddles and embroidery on cloth) or according to the type of supporting medium (embroidery on extremely fine, fragile cloth, as can be found in certain textiles from the early 19th century, and embroidery on thick upholstery cloth);
- Exploring the exhibition of these embroidered textiles in public settings, particularly when it generates innovative arrangements and practices for preventive conservation.

**Editorial process:**

Please send the guest-editors your title, list of authors, keywords and abstract as soon as possible, and no later than October, 4th 2024. You will be notified of the acceptance or rejection of your proposal before October 17th 2024.

The deadline for submission of your article (at the following address: c2rmf_techne@culture.gouv.fr) is March 13th 2024. It will be submitted to a double-blind peer review process.

The authors of selected papers will then be kindly requested to provide a revised version of their article that includes, if any, the modifications suggested by the reviewers. The deadline for this final version will be communicated to the authors by the editorial team.

The expected length of papers is 10.000-25.000 characters (space, abstract, footnotes, and bibliography included). The articles may include up to 7 illustrations (color or black and white photographs, diagrams, graphs). They must comply with the Technè editorial rules described hereafter.

The papers will be selected according to the following criteria:
- the originality of the research: the author must inform the editorial board if the results presented in the paper were already published or will be published elsewhere. By submitting a paper, the author declares that they are rightfully authorized to publish its results,
- inter- or cross-disciplinarity: we welcome papers submitted by teams associating all the partners involved in the work (historians, curators, chemists, conservators, etc.),
- the innovative character of the methodology,
- the presentation of the research questions in relation to their broader context (historical, technical, etc.), and
- the quality of writing and illustrations.

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Please contact the journal's editorial staff if you need further information: c2rmf_techne@culture.gouv.fr