

Hexagonal Wooden Display of Pius IX

Location: Museo Sacro, Room of the Addresses of Pius IX
Date: XIX century
Materials: inlaid wood

STATE OF PRESERVATION:

Parts of the wood are separating and buckling. The wood of the upper part of the display is warped and there are large fissures which allow dust inside the display. Several of the brass titular letters are oxidized, while others are missing. The different items are made of various materials and each one has its own specific use: knives, jars, small bottles for perfumes, a pail, a marble relief, etc. The iron and bronze objects are in bad conditions due to natural oxidation. The pottery and glass items are, on the other hand, well preserved.

RESTORATION PROCESS INCLUDES:

- The restoration will take place in different restoration laboratories according to the class of material.
- Special analysis with XRF is required for metal and glass objects
- X-rays to determine the colors previously present on the marbles
- Restoration of the missing parts of the wooden display and attachment of the missing brass letters on the inscription will be realized by the Wood Restoration Laboratory
- Restoration of the iron and bronze objects, restoration of the of the glass and marble objects
- Photographic documentation

Total Cost € 15.500,00



► This hexagonal display, in the much visited Room of the Addresses to Pius IX, is a unique piece of history. In fact, this was a gift offered by the King Ferdinand II de Bourbon to Pope Pius IX. On October 22, 1849, Pope Pius IX was visiting the famous site of Pompei, in Southern Italy. This village was dramatically and unexpectedly buried due to the eruption of Mt. Vesuvius in 79 A.D. While the Pope was walking amidst the ancient ruins, some relics were found by the archaeologists with him. Thus, King Ferdinando II de Bourbon decided to present the Pope with the very same objects found in His presence on that occasion. The 26 items have been placed in this hexagonal display. A brass inscription, which celebrates and commemorates the event, is on the upper part of this beautiful display.



Votive relief with cavalier
Middle of 4th century B.C.