LASERS IN THE CONSERVATION OF ARTWORKS

8th international Congress on the Conservation of Lasers in Artworks

Book of Abstracts

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Optimization of laser cleaning parameters for the removal of biological black crusts in granites.



LACONA VIII Chair

Roxana Radvan National Institute of Research and Development for Optoelectronics from Bucharest, Romania

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STRATEGIES FOR LASER CLEANING OF ENVIRONMENTAL DEPOSITS ON HERITAGE BUILDINGS

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The purpose of the present work was to establish an appropriate way for laser cleaning of stones covered by crusts and deposits due to atmospheric pollution. Specimens investigated correspond to fragments of several Monuments located in Seville (South Spain) and exhibit surface weathering with deposits, black crusts and biocrusts of thickness around 100-2000 µm.

Prior to the laser removal, the elemental composition was determined by LIBS and XRF methods whereas SEM-EDX observations carried out on surfaces and cross-sections allowed to provide information about morphology and distribution of species not well detected by LIBS such as sulphur.

Due to its ability to perform rapid analysis, LIBS can be applied on multiple locations of the sample surface without preparation.

Spectra obtained on deposits layer showed the presence of several elements not detected in the stone and their indepth variation, therefore allowing monitoring the pollutant species lines during the laser cleaning process.

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