Lesson 5.

Filigranology

Learning tasks: by completing this unit of study, the student will be able to:

- Define Filigranology and to highlight the key moments in its evolution as science.
- Identify the research field of Filigranology.

I. Definition; The evolution of Filigranology as science

The term “filigranology” comes from the French neologism filigranologie, derived from Latin filium and granum and Greek -λογία, (-logia). Filigranology is the Auxiliary Science of History which studies watermarks.

In its evolution as science, Filigranology has passed through four major phases:

The first stage is represented by the achievement of the first collections of watermarks. Humphrey Wanley (1672-1726), librarian to the Earl of Oxford and a laborious worker in the field of antiquarianism, realized a collection of watermarks with 1000 sheets of old paper. Since 1699, this collection is kept at the British Museum. In the first half of the eighteenth-century occur studies due to Johann Herring (1736), John Levis (1737), Samuel Engel (1741) and Joseph Ames (1749). The second half of the eighteenth-century bring studies signed by Murray (1763), Rouget (1772), Cristofor Murr (1777), Breitkoph (1784), John Fen (1787), Schwartz (1793), Samuel Denne (1795), Camus and Sardini (1799). For the first two decades of the nineteenth century are works by Gotthelf Fischer (1801), M.C. De la Serra Santander (1803), Jansen (1808) and Koning (1816). In the fourth decade of the nineteenth century occured studies by Hassler (1844) and F. Gutermann (1845).

The second stage of the evolution of Filigranology starts with the publication in Moscow, in 1844, of the Tromonin’s watermark album, which includes the reproduction of 1493 watermarks. This album of Kornili Tromonin was followed, in the same year, by the work of Englishman S. Sotheby, which contain 265 watermarks. Is the period in which scholars from different countries (Germany, Italy, Poland, Romania) began to copy watermarks. They wrote studies which was published by science academies and specialized journals. In this stage starts the regional study of watermarks. In this area, important contributions brought J. Kemény, about paper mills and their watermarks in Hungary and Transylvania (1844).

The third stage of the evolution of Filigranology as science include the last two decades of the nineteenth century and the early years of the twentieth century. Is the period when Filigranology was constituted as a independent scientific discipline. This is due to studies published by Aurelio Zonghi and Ernest Kirchner (1893, 1896). One of the most valuable representants of
Filigranology is Charles Briquet. He elaborates the most famous watermark dictionary, Les Filigranes, published in four volumes in Geneva in 1907. Charles Briquet collected some 60,000 watermarks of an estimated 250,000 already in existence prior to 1600. Of these 60,000 he published approximately 16,000.

The last phase of the evolution of Filigranology as science is rich in research on the topics discussed in the third stage. Watermarks are studied under different aspects: technical, regional, chronological, typological and nowadays mostly aesthetic. Studies and albums of watermarks appeared in European countries (France, Italy, Germany, England, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, Poland, Czechoslovakia) and in North America. In 1935 was published an album which contained watermarks from the Netherlands, England and France (XVII-XVIII centuries), due to W. Churchill. It is a very valuable work, which includes 578 watermarks. In 1937 was created, in Mainz, Forschungstelle Papiergeschichte, with a collection of 20,000 watermarks. In 1950 was founded the international organization The Paper Publications Society, in Hilversum (the Netherlands), which aims to publish collections and specialized studies of watermarks. Between 1907 and 1952 were published 249 works of Filigranology. In 1955, the international organization from Hilversum published a brief bibliography of Filigranology. In 1962, in Leipzig, appeared the first manual of Filigranology, a posthumous work of Karl Theodor Weiss, entitled Handbuch der Wasserzeichenkunde. Since then and until today, Filigranology developed and become an indispensable tool of the scientific research.

II. The research field of Filigranology

Watermark is the English name for the French term “filigrane”, derived from Latin (filium and granum). This term has also entered in others Neo-Latin languages, such as filigrana (in Italian and Spanish) and filigran (in Romanian). The watermark is the deep imprint in the paper, produced by an ornament, better said by a linear drawing into metal wire, fixed in the mold of the paper manufacturing. The watermark is one of the most characteristic elements which distinguish a paper to another paper.

Most experts believe that the oldest watermark is a Greek cross, which was identified on paper made in Italy (Fabriano) in 1282. There are also researchers who showed that the oldest written text on paper with watermark is from 1271. First watermarks, of Italian origin, were made rudimentary. From Italy, watermarks were then lent to France, after the technique has improved. Watermarks were made mandatory in France by Louis de Tignonville, bailiff of Troyes, in 1398, and Charles VI in 1409.

There was a spirit of imitation. Italian watermarks have been imitated in Germany, and Dutch watermarks were imitated in Russia. Also the false, which endures from ancient times, was manifested in the field of watermarks. Italian watermarks were falsified in Germany and Poland, although this was clearly prohibited by law.

The watermarks significance was the object of numerous studies. Some specialists consider that watermarks would have an symbolic sense or these may be a blazon of religious communities. These assertions were false. The most prominent specialists have shown that the watermark was the best imprint to distinguish goods and to defense of counterfeit, was a label which protected the
firm interests, was the sign of the craftsman who manufacture the paper. Watermarks were useful for those who used them, for authorities or for consumers of paper. Because manufacturers names appear as watermarks can be regarded as watermarks were individual signs.

From the name of the producer of paper, the watermark expanded the significance to the format and the quality of the paper, to the name of the place of production of the paper and to the production year of the paper. For example, in the fourteenth century, each paper mill utilized different watermarks to express the paper quality. Thus, at the middle of the fifteenth century, the paper mill in Ravensburg (Germany) utilized three types of watermarks: tower - for a high quality paper; bull’s head without eyes with a rod between its horns; at the rod end is a cross- for a good quality paper; a hunting horn - for a low quality paper.

There was an impressive variety of watermarks. Almost everything can imagine the human mind appears as a watermark. The watermark depict the most diverse pictures, representing parts of the human body or political personalities, but also women. As a symbol of authority appears the crown, in the second decade of the fifteenth century. The same sense it has the scepter. Among oldest watermarks were the letters, first only the initial letter, then a group of two or four letters, as the words letters. IHS letters represents the monogram of Jesus Christ and these appear from the middle of the fifteenth century. Due to the strongly religious spirit of the Middle Ages, could not miss watermarks with religious symbols. Firstly the cross, the symbol of Christianity, which appears in the following types: Orthodox (Greek) Cross; Catholic (Latin) Cross; St. Andrew Cross; St. Anthony Cross; Cross of Lorraine; Maltese Cross.

The development of Heraldry led to utilization of the blazons as watermarks. For instance, the eagle was adopted as a watermark. Place names present in the watermarks are most interesting because these make us to know the origin of the paper manufacturers.

Watermarks proportions were right size, except the oldest watermarks composed of letters words that were so large that occupied all sheet of paper. Was tried a totalization of the number of watermarks. There seem to be approximately 40,000 watermarks.

At the end of the thirteenth century and the beginning of the fourteenth century, the watermark is placed arbitrarily, variable. Gradually, the watermark finds its a usually place, in the center of one of the two halves of the sheet of paper. Other watermarks are placed in the center of the sheet of paper, into one of the edges of the paper or in the corner of the sheet of paper.

The study of watermark is very important for historian, archivist, linguist, bibliologist in generally and incunabulist in particularly, archaeologist, iconographer, artisan, etc. Also, the watermark is of particular interest as the product of popular graphics creation.

**Homework**

Elaborate an essay with the title: *The paper mill in Fabriano (XIII-XVIII centuries)*
References:


Dear students, please send me your essay at e-mail address: daniel_flaut@yahoo.com

Bibliography

We need numbers. We use numbers to count things, like apples. Lesson 5: Text - Free tutorials on HTML, CSS and PHP - Build your own website. In this lesson you will be introduced to the amazing opportunities CSS gives you to add layout to text. The following properties will be described: text-indent. Leave a Comment / Lesson 5. Focus on Grammar. Leave a Comment / Lesson 5. Practical Conversations. Leave a Comment / Lesson 5. Lesson 5 – Talking about the Customers. Leave a Comment / Lesson 5. Lesson 5 - Talking about the Customers. Build your vocabulary. Lesson 5: Where Are You? share. See comments. Print. Download Lesson 5. Let's Learn English - Level 1 - Lesson 5. Speaking. Embed share. Speaking Practice - Let's Learn English Lesson 5. Embed share. The code has been copied to your clipboard.