

## FOREWORD

The Archives of the Republic of Slovenia is Slovenia's largest and central state archival institution and is, as such, one of the most significant custodians of Slovenian written cultural heritage. Although primarily a keeper of millions of different written documents from the previous millennium, the Archives of the Republic of Slovenia is also proud to hold some of the items that fit into the broader definition of works of art on parchment and paper. It is perhaps because of this that it seemed self-evident for the Archives to co-organize the international symposium "Works of Art on Parchment and Paper", which took place between June 6 and 8, 2019 at the Faculty of Arts of the University of Ljubljana.

The symposium was excellently organized and rich and diverse in content. Words, faces, and memories fade away, but a book remains. If we review the titles of the published studies, we can see in the present publication a lasting reflection of a distinctly interdisciplinary scientific meeting. The book before us addresses experts, who, although coming from many different areas of work, still share a common interest in their concern for the well-being of cultural heritage and its research. Each from his own perspective, the authors manage to successfully shed light on the dynamic processes of the creation, preservation (conservation and restoration), and presentation of works of art on parchment and paper.

I believe that continual interaction and collaboration between the academic sphere and that of cultural heritage preservation is necessary and useful. It is this endless cycle of mutual encouragement and conceptual enrichment that enhances the quality of our cultural space. We often say that this space is rather small and that we basically all know each other. However, people only truly come to know one another when they collaborate. The project "Works of Art on Parchment and Paper" is the product of an exemplary collaboration between the Faculty of Arts and the Archives of the Republic of Slovenia.

I wish to express my sincere thanks to everyone involved in the organization of the symposium and especially in the compilation of the present publication. First, I would like to thank the Faculty of Arts and all its "subsystems" for their excellent cooperation and its dean, Prof. Roman Kuhar, for his dedicated support. Sincere thanks go to all of the authors of the contributions, members of scientific and organizing committee, peer reviewers, and colleagues at the Ljubljana University Press, Faculty of Arts. Finally, I wish to thank the two primary organizers of the symposium and the editors of the present volume, Prof. Jedert Vodopivec Tomažič from the Archives of the Republic of Slovenia and Professor Emerita Nataša Golob, who was a tireless *spiritus agens* of the entire project. Let me also take

this opportunity to congratulate the Faculty of Arts of the University of Ljubljana on its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. My wish is that this book finds a great number of attentive and supportive readers.

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of the Republic of Slovenia