

**RECONSTRUCTION OF THE MARY ALTAR AND THE MARY STATUE
OF THE TORNASZENTANDRÁS CHURCH**

(Abstract)

During the reconstruction of the Tornaszentandrás church the baroque side altar has been removed and the wooden statues were restored by the restorer group of the National Intendence of Historical Monuments.

The Mary altar is a baroque work of medium size from the 1760ies. Its height from the menza plate is 386 cms, its width is 220 cms.

It is of simple structure: the predella standing on the menza is divided into two fields by a pilaster ornamented with three volutes, closed by a series of profiles on the top and on the bottom. The backside leaning against the predella is actually a slightly pleated drapery curtain. The pairs of the curtain coming down on the sides are held by hovering puttos, showing the scene of Mary's coronation. Mary stands on a postament in the middle of the predella, the statue group of the Saint Trinity is above her, surrounded by clouds and heads of puttos. St. Ann's and St. Joachim's statues are to be seen on the two sides of the predella.

The original painting of the altar was made in tempera, which was later improved by oil paint, till the whole surface was re-painted. After having the oil paint removed, the original colours were reconstructed in egg-tempera.

The original painting of the statues was removed during the 18th c., thus only traces can be detected. We preserved only the second layer (tempera, gold, silver), the covering oil-paint was removed. The restoration was fulfilled with ready made tempera by means of drawing lines.

The disintection of the altar was made with prussic acid, then poisoned with pentachlorofenol. The body of the altar was filled with epaminic resin, while for the statues we used Monolith 5—30 synthetic resin. The plastic additions were made of lime-tree, the structural improvements were made of pine.

The demolished stipes was replaced by an altar table of modern form and natural colours planned by Ilona S. Pusztai designer engineer, The altar was moved to the northern wall, since murals from the Middle Ages had been found on its original place. A hole of 15 cms is between the wall and the altar for airing.

The restoration was finished in december of 1976.

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