

BIEDERMEIER STYLE SOFA

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TECHNICAL CONDITION OF THE ITEM PRIOR TO RESTORATION

The item's construction was stable, but it was covered with dust and a layer of dirt. Minor mechanical defects. The backrest of the sofa was upholstered; the armrests and seat were dirty and had lost their initial form. There were cracks in the body with deformations in the veneer and losses. Penetrating cracks had developed in the dolphin-form woodcut arm supports. There were losses of wood in the ends of the curved armrests and the legs. During the process of restoration, it was established that repairs had previously been made to the item and that unsuitable materials had been used in the upholstery. After the removal of the upholstery, damage to the wood in the areas of fastening were revealed with the front edge having been cut off. Four types of more recent surface fabrics have been preserved on the backrest, but the original has been lost.

DESCRIPTION OF THE RESTORATION PROCESS

Documentation and photo fixation of the damage to the item was undertaken. Cleaning of the surfaces of the body of the sofa was done by polishing with fine polishing felt. After this procedure, it was wiped with a cottonwool tampon moistened with ethyl spirit. New wood or corresponding thin veneer inserts were placed in areas where there were losses of wood or veneer. Glutin glue was used for gluing, and polyvinyl acetate (PVA) glue in the construction. Mechanical damage, small losses of veneer and cracks were filled with BORMA WACHS acrylic putty with a water base. The body of the sofa was lacquered with shellac. After the application of the lacquer, the areas that had been filled in with putty were toned with an ethyl spirit-based stain. New upholstery, using suitable materials, was created for the backrest, armrests and the seat: jute bands, linen fabric, jute fabric, twisted springs, seaweed, sheet wadding, cotton and silk fabric.



1. fig. Sofa after restoration

KEYWORDS: SOFA, VENEER, UPHOLSTER
DATED: 1840S
MATERIALS: BIRCHWOOD, BIRCH PLYWOOD SHEET, PINE, SHELLAC, FABRIC
EXECUTION METHOD: CUT, VENEERED, LACQUERED, UPHOLSTERED
SIZE: 103 CM X 220 CM X 70 CM
OWNER: RUNDĀLE PALACE MUSEUM



2. fig. Sofa before restoration. Upholstery is dirty, has lost its original shape. The body of the sofa has veneer and wood losses



3. fig. Part of the sofa body before restoration. The entire surface of the body is covered with a thick layer of dirt



13. fig. Sofa under restoration, upholstered backrest and seat



4. fig. In the process of restoration, the top layer of the upholstery is removed. The upholstery was put on at a later date. Materials used: cotton batting, linden hatches, tow, wood shavings, hay. Materials for padding have been used also for the second time: damaged springs have been repaired, fabrics have been sewn together from pieces of different fabric, old surface fabrics have been used as technical fabrics



5. fig. A fragment from the body of sofa after removing the upholstery. After the upholstery was taken off, large damage to the wood in the places of fastening of the upholstery was revealed. When the upholstery was replaced, the front edge of the seat was cut off



12. fig. Sofa body under restoration, the upholstered part of seat sewn



6. fig. A fragment of backrest during restoration process, taking of upholstery



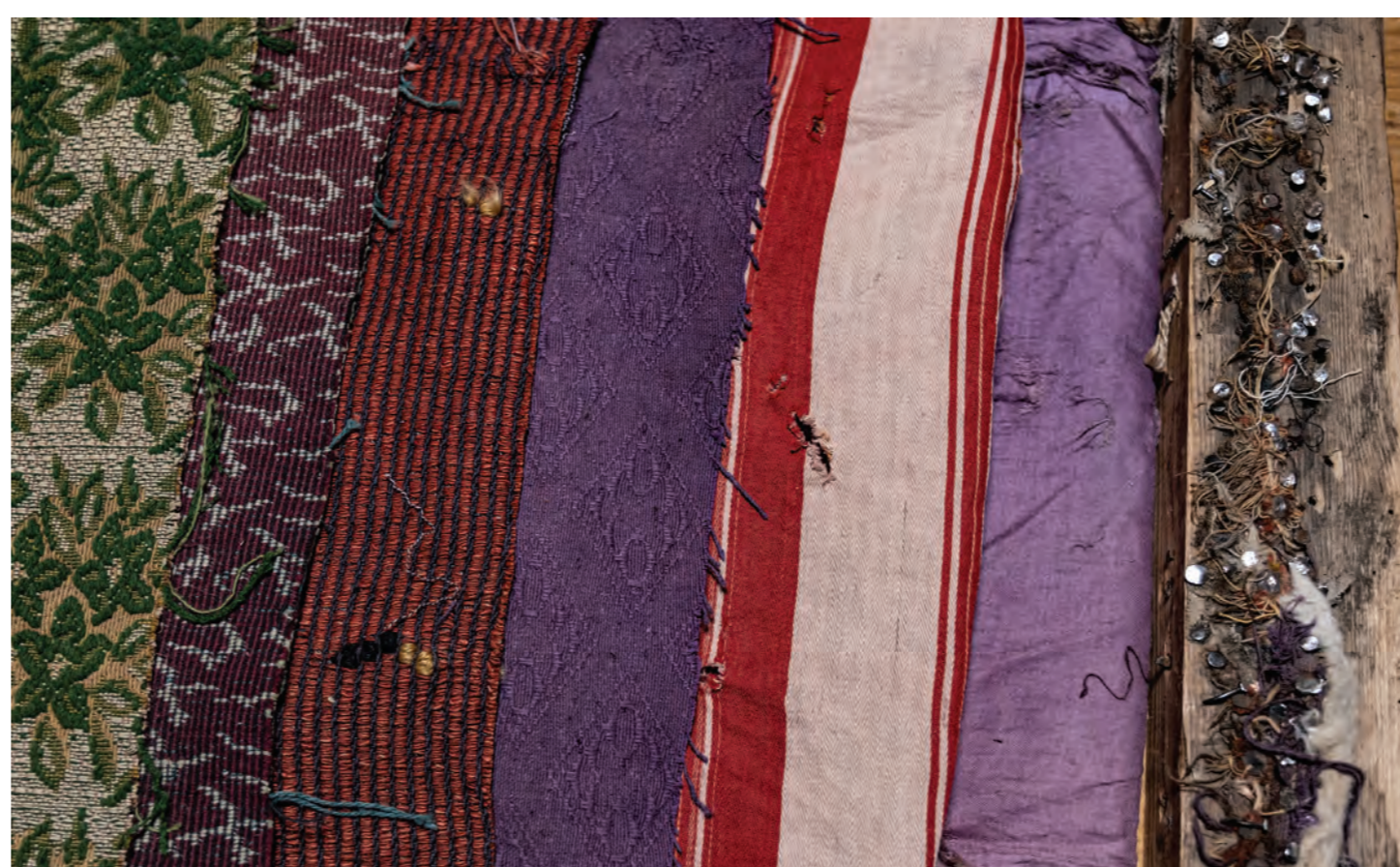
7. fig. A fragment of the backrest. The upholstery of the backrest is made with springs and they are from different periods of time - the more recent ones are copper plated but the older ones inserted already corroded. Stylistically backrests of this type are made without springs using only seaweed



11. fig. The body of sofa in the process of restoration, the upholstery is renovated, the springs are tied to the seat



8. fig. Coarsely woven paper-fiber canvas with the Nazi German symbol - the eagle over swastika. This atypical material which covers springs allows us to date the approximate time of the previous restoration and upholstery



9. fig. The backrest upholstery has retained all the more recent times upper fabrics. The original surface fabric is gone



10. fig. Sofa body after restoration of wooden parts