

Conservation of a wall painting representing the *XL Martyrs of the Sebaste* and of a smaller fragment with 'two haloed heads', preserved on the south wall of the Church of St. Peter and Paul in Famagusta.

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The interior of the Church of St. Peter and Paul, built between 1358 and 1369, has lost all of its wall plaster over the years, the last fragments of which would have vanished when the gothic edifice was 'cleaned' during the British period and subsequently used for storage. There are only two small fragments of painting remaining in the 3rd bay of the right nave. The larger fragment, below the window, depicts the *XL Martyrs of Sebaste*. The smaller fragment features two haloed heads and part of a colored background. The plaster of both fragments shows problems of adhesion, especially along the edges. Fills applied during a former intervention detract from the work aesthetically and extend onto the original surface.

The conservation treatment involves: systematic stabilization of all painted and unpainted plasters through grouting with a pre-mixed hydraulic mortar, removal of dust deposits / stains, removal of old fills applied and replaced with new lime based fills similar in color and texture to the original plaster, and the reduction of visual disturbance created by losses through the application of fills, kept slightly below the original surface and/or water color glazes. For aesthetic reasons, the conservation treatment also includes a larger area of masonry surface around the paintings.

The presentation will finish with a summary of a preliminary condition survey carried out by the author on painted surfaces elsewhere in Famagusta in April 2010.