MURAL PAINTING

SAMPLE ID:
MRA-ROU-Gur003

SAMPLE TYPE:
Mural painting
(Sub-Type: fragment)

DIMENSIONS:
4.7 cm L x 3.15 cm W x 5.48 cm H

WEIGHT:
5.48 g

GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION:
Country: Romania
Place: Gura Humorului

SITE/MONUMENT:
Gura Humorului

HISTORICAL NOTE ABOUT THE SITE/MONUMENT:
Humor Monastery is a monastery located in the outskirts of Gura Humorului, in northern Romania, and originally hosted nuns of the order of the Dormition of Mary, or Theotokos. The monastery was originally located in another position, 500 m dislocated from the current location and dated back to prior 1415. The first church was constructed by Judge Ivan (Oana) before that date. Judge Ivan was a wealthy boyar who held other possessions in the whereabouts, including another church in
Tulova. Soon, the monastery became one of the most important in the country, but it underwent destruction in the third decade of the 16th century. The cause for the destruction is unknown, probably was due to a natural disaster that stroke the region, for several building appear to have undergone reconstruction in the same period. Humor Monastery was reconstructed by Petru Rare?, or Peter IV (1483-1546), together with other monasteries. The same Petru Rare? built his burial place in Probota. Even if Rare? started the work, it was continued with a nobleman, the Great Chancellor Toafer, or Bubuiog. Vasile Lupu enlarged the area with additional walls and watchtower due to the frequent robberies occurred in the 16th century, although the improvement had no effect. When in 1775 Austria of Bucovina took control over the area, Humor Monastery was closed, and the annexed church of the Assumption of the Virgin was converted into a parish. In the last two decades of the 20th century the church was interested by a series of modifications: first a new parish church was erected in 1980 and in 1992, a new monastic community was restored. The Humor Monastery includes the two churches, the old one dedicated to the Assumption of the Holy Virgin, and the new one close to the other. The construction includes also the dormitory of the order, the 16th-century tower and external walls. Remarkable are the open exonarthex of the old church of Humor, that is the first of its kind in Bucovia. The east and the wall of this space are decorated with a single fresco representation of the Last Judgement covering the two walls. Even the external walls of the exonarthex are completely decorated with framed representations of saints and holy men.

**CHRONOLOGICAL PERIOD (SAMPLE):**
15th-16th century

**PHOTOS/DOCUMENTS (PROVENANCE):**

View to the apsis of the church of the Assumption of the
Holy Mary in Humor Monastery, with the fresco representations of the saints along all walls (Photo by Sinziana – CC-SA 3.0).

Overview of the watchtower on the north side of the area of Humor Monastery (Photo by Sinziana – CC-SA 3.0).