
UDC: 39+7.06

DOI: 10.33876/2311-0546/2026-1/203-211

Original article

© Arina Smirnova

WATERMARKS IN THE ATTRIBUTION AND DATING OF GRAPHIC WORKS

The article focuses on the role of watermarks in attributing and dating of graphic artworks. Watermarks serve as an important tool for determining the time of creation and authenticity of artworks, as well as for establishing their authorship and geographical origin. The primary objective of the study is to explore the use of watermarks for dating and attributing graphic works, and to examine the symbolic meaning of these marks in artists' works. The article discusses the history of papermaking and the first watermarks in Europe and Russia, analyzing the technological aspects of their production and application. It examines the role of watermarks in art historical research and their use in dating and verifying the authenticity of artworks, using examples from the works of Albrecht Dürer, Konstantin Korovin, and Zinaida Serebriakova. Modern methods of visualizing watermarks are described, including rubbing techniques, infrared photography, radiography, beta-radiography, and soft X-ray radiography, which allow for more precise documentation of watermarks. The study emphasizes the importance of systematizing and cataloging watermarks as a key tool in art history and art authentication.

Keywords: watermarks, filigree, attribution, dating, graphics, paper production

Author Info: Smirnova, Arina S. — Postgraduate Student, A. N. Kosygin Russian State University (Technology. Design. Art) (Moscow, Russian Federation). E-mail: arinasmirnova39@gmail.com

For citation: Smirnova, A. S. 2026. Watermarks in the Attribution and Dating of Graphic Works. *Herald of Anthropology (Vestnik Antropologii)* 1: 203–211.

References

- Andrjushajtite, Yu. V. 2001. *I. P. Laptev: u istokov otechestvennogo filigranovedeniya* [I. P. Laptev: at the Origins of Russian Filigree Studies]. Moscow: URSS. 269 p.
- Balachenkova, A. P. 2011. *Istoriia bumagi i bumazhnogo proizvodstva: uchebnoe posobie i khrestomatiiia* [History of Paper and Papermaking: A Textbook and Anthology]. Saint Petersburg: SPb GTURP. 52 p.
- Bogdanov, A. P. 2019. *Filigranologiiia: nauka o bumage ruchnogo proizvodstva s vodianymi znakami: uchebnoe posobie* [Filigranology: The Science of Handmade Paper with Watermarks: A Textbook]. Moscow; Berlin: Direktmedia Publishing. 384 p.
- Dianova, T. V. 1975. Metod datirovki dokumentov s pomoshch'iu vodianykh znakov i printsipy publikatsii filigranei [A Method of Dating Documents by Watermarks and Principles for Publishing Them]. In *Arkheograficheskii ezhegodnik za 1974 god* [Archaeological Yearbook 1974], ed. by S. O. Shmidt. Moscow: Nauka. 56–61.
- Klepikov, S. A. 1978. *Filigrani na bumage russkogo proizvodstva XVIII — nachala XX veka* [Watermarks on Paper of Russian Production from the 18th to the Early 20th Century]. Moscow: Nauka. 236 p.
- Laroque, C., and M. Pierrard (eds.). 2020–2021. *Histoire du papier et de la papeterie: actualités de*

- la recherche II (13 octobre 2020 / 8 octobre 2021)*. Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, Centre de recherche HICSA. 215 p. https://hicsa.pantheonsorbonne.fr/sites/default/files/2023-09/livre_laroque_02-2.pdf
- Likhachev, N. P. 1899. *Palaeograficheskoe znachenie bumazhnykh vodiannykh znakov* [The Palaeographic Significance of Paper Watermarks]. Parts 1–3. Saint Petersburg: OLDP (V. S. Balashev i K°). Part 1: 510 p.; Part 2: 424 p., 248 p.; Part 3: 636 p.
- Rückert, P., S. Hodecek, and E. Wenger. 2009. *Bull's Head and Mermaid: The History of Paper and Watermarks from the Middle Ages to the Modern Period*. Stuttgart, Vienna. 128 p.
- Shchepkin, V. N. 1967. *Russkaia paleografiia* [Russian Palaeography]. Moscow: Nauka. 224 p.