

## Summary

### *Toruń gingerbread moulds collections.*

The gingerbread craft and industry have developed in Toruń in a unique way with a great impact on the identification of the city. This process was actively supported by gingerbread bakers, workshops and factories owners, city authorities, as well as museum institutions.

The aim of this work is to fill the research gap related to the perception of Toruń gingerbread moulds collections as an element developing the local identity of Toruń and its inhabitants. The study shows that the creating, collecting and presenting wooden blocks for making of gingerbread (Or gingerbread imprinted from them) in factories, museums, exhibitions – influenced and strengthened the perception of Toruń as a gingerbread centre. The attempt to create a research method supporting the work on museum and private collections in the field of gingerbread moulds was made as a part of this study. The interdisciplinarity of the issue causes that working on the presented problematic aspects often becomes a challenge.

Toruń collections of gingerbread moulds are a testimony to the process of consciously preserved and continued by next generations of Toruń citizens' customs related to gingerbread (baking figurative gingerbread, giving as a gift to guests, purchasing gingerbread from a visit to Toruń). Toruń gingerbread gained its identity among other gingerbread. Collecting gingerbread moulds, the process of craft artifacts museumizing in Toruń and making them available also became an impulse for a revival of interest in historical cultural heritage. An important assumption of the work is also an indication of the need to protect the cultural heritage associated with Toruń gingerbread craft.

It seems interesting to look from the perspective of art history at the durability of iconographic motifs occurring on gingerbread moulds collected in Toruń and their impact on the recognition and distinctiveness of Toruń gingerbread (e.g. katarzynka, carriage, coat of arms of Toruń) in the context of numerous centres in Poland and Europe. Historical forms became carriers of memory, including the customs of the Toruń community or traditional craft. In modern times, they have been an inspiration for artists, influencing popular culture, through the inception of new ways of an aesthetic expression.

Historical collections of gingerbread moulds from the District Museum in Toruń and the Confectionery Factory "Kopernik" SA were selected for the research. The contemporary collections from private Toruń gingerbread bakeries/workshops were also analyzed. They all were compared with other collections of gingerbread moulds in Poland.

The work consists of several parts. The characterization of Toruń gingerbread moulds collections, the history of Toruń gingerbread craft and industry are presented in the first one. Then the issue of gingerbread perception as an element of tangible and intangible culture is described. The following chapters are dedicated to gingerbread moulds, methods of their creation and usage, their iconography and the place of Toruń gingerbread making in the context of European cultural heritage. The illustrations and the list are presented in next volumes/chapters.