- 9. No one suggested a total reconstruction of the paint layer. While, in some cases, total reconstruction with retouches might be acceptable for liturgical reasons, in this particular case a more moderate and discreet approach was adopted. The questions of where to stop with the retouches, or to what extent to continue with reintegration interventions, have always been the subject of debate among conservators (as well as with other stakeholders).
- 10. The Department of Conservation at the National Academy of Art in Sofia was established in 1973. The course is five years long and students graduate with an MA in Conservation. It is the only officially accredited full five-year university programme on conservation in Bulgaria to date. This course focuses on painting and wall painting conservation. The Department plans to start two new programmes: on paper, book and photograph conservation; and on stone and ceramics conservation.
- 11. The Crypt of the Alexander Nevsky Cathedral in Sofia is used as an exhibition hall for the Medieval Department of the National Art Gallery. Its permanent exhibition features more than 200 icons and ecclesiastical objects.

Reference

Leonard, M., ed. 2003. Personal viewpoints. Thoughts about paintings conservation. A seminar organized by the J. Paul Getty Museum, the Getty Conservation Institute, and the Getty Research Institute at the Getty Center, Los Angeles, June 21-22 2001, 136 pp. Los Angeles, Getty Publications.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank the conservators involved in the project for allowing me to present their work before they have published it. I also wish to thank them for the permission to publish the photographs. Without the deep involvement of the representative of the A.G. Leventis Foundation in Bulgaria and the partners' willingness to cooperate, the successful implementation of this project would have been impossible.