



Organic Materials in the Wall Paintings

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Message from the Guest Editor

In order to obtain stable pictorial drafting, it was still necessary to have pigments and binders. As evidenced by the analytical studies carried out on ancient murals in different cultures (Egyptian, Maya, etc.), painting with plant tempera was among the first to be realized. It is obtained by 'softening' pigments, usually of mineral nature, into binders of a polysaccharide nature (plant gums mostly). From painting to plant tempera, the art moved to that of protein tempera. Protein binders consist of animal glue, egg and casein (skim milk). Glue, however, as a soluble binder or otherwise sensitive to water, has always been used minimally. Much more stable and commonly used are the other two: egg and milk.





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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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