

**MINISTERUL CULTURII**  
*MINISTRY OF CULTURE*  
**INSTITUTUL PATRIMONIULUI CULTURAL**  
*INSTITUTE OF CULTURAL HERITAGE*

Conferința Științifică Internațională

**PATRIMONIUL CULTURAL:  
CERCETARE, VALORIFICARE, PROMOVARE**

*International Scientific Conference*

***CULTURAL HERITAGE: RESEARCH,  
VALORIZATION, PROMOTION***

Ediția a XVII-a  
*dedicată Zilelor Europene ale Patrimoniului*  
*dedicated to the European Heritage Days*

**Chișinău, 25-26 septembrie 2025**

Organizarea manifestării științifice și editarea culegerii de rezumate fac parte din acțiunile programate în cadrul Programului de cercetare **170101: Cercetarea și valorificarea patrimoniului cultural construit, etnografic, arheologic și artistic din Republica Moldova în contextul integrării europene (2024—2027)**.

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### **Redactare / Proof-reading:**

dr. Nina Ivanova (textele în limba engleză/ English),

dr. Ecaterina Cojuhari (textele în limbile ucraineană și rusă/ Ukrainian and Russian)

**Tipar:** *Notograf Prim s.r.l.*

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### **DESCRIEREA CIP A CAMEREI NAȚIONALE A CĂRȚII DIN REPUBLICA MOLDOVA**

„**Patrimoniul cultural: cercetare, valorificare, promovare**“, **conferință științifică internațională (17 ; 2025 ; Chișinău)**. Conferința Științifică Internațională „Patrimoniul cultural: cercetare, valorificare, promovare“ = International Scientific Conference „Cultural heritage: research, valorization, promotion“ : Ediția a 17-a : dedicată Zilelor Europene ale Patrimoniului = dedicated to the European Heritage Days, Chișinău, 25-26 septembrie 2025 / comitetul științific: Ion Ursu [et al.]. – Chișinău : [S. n.], 2025 (Notograf Prim). – 280 p.

Antetit.: Ministerul Culturii, Institutul Patrimoniului Cultural. – Texte : lb. rom., engl., rusă, etc. – [100] ex.

ISBN 978-9975-84-252-5.

008+7/9(082)=00

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## **Kutsky Center for Kosiv Painted Ceramics: past and present**

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Among the numerous folk crafts of Hutsulshchyna, Kosiv ceramics occupy a special place, serving as a vivid example of decorative and applied art. One of the lesser-known but no less interesting centers of Kosiv ceramics is the Kutsky center, an ancient craft environment that developed in the village of Kute in Hutsulshchyna. The most common products were various dishes, souvenirs, stove tiles, and decorative tiles.

A characteristic difference between Kuty ceramics and Kosiv ceramics is the intensive use of blue (cobalt), which is used alongside green and yellow. In contrast, blue was used sparingly or not at all in Kosiv ceramics. In addition, Kuty ceramics are characterized by geometric ornaments borrowed from embroidery, carving, and, to some extent, Armenian ornamentation.

Yakiv Voloshchuk, who moved from Pistyn to Kuty in 1907, and his son Mykhailo made a significant contribution to the development of painted ceramics. Three decorative stoves by Mykhailo Voloshchuk adorn the interior of the exhibition at the Yosafat Kobrinsky National Museum of Folk Art of Hutsulshchyna and Pokuttya.

In the 1930s, there was already a pottery workshop in Kuty. In 1939, the «Kylymarka» artel was established here, which was reorganized into a factory in 1949. In 1956, a ceramics workshop was organized at the factory. The decline of Kuty ceramics began during the Soviet era. At that time, production standards were imposed on craftsmen, which led to the simplification of ornamentation and a loss of uniqueness. The use of blue, which distinguished Kuty ceramics from all other Kosiv ceramics, was banned. In the 1990s, the ceramics workshop in Kut was closed down altogether.

Today, Kuty ceramics, unfortunately, are not as popular as Kosiv ceramics. But there are masters who work specifically with this center, remembering all the subtleties of the production process. In general, we believe that Kuty ceramics are a unique phenomenon of folk art, combining traditional Hutsul

motifs and influences from different cultures. They played an important role in the development of pottery in Hutsulshchyna, and the products of local masters became famous far beyond the region.

**Key words:** ceramics, Kutu, Kosiv, decorative and applied arts, master craftsman.