

Museum collections and exhibitions, and permanent exhibitions on the Yugoslav National Liberation War and the post-war socialist reconstruction in Croatia.

At the end of 1988 the Museum Documentation Centre in Zagreb produced a study of the state of museums and other institutions that keep and exhibit materials connected with the period of the National Liberation War, and socialist reconstruction, to the order of the Yugoslav Committee of the Federation of War Veterans' Organizations and the Republican Committee of the Socialist Alliance of the Working People of Croatia.

The study was undertaken with the aim of establishing the number of such collections and exhibitions, and of drawing up a list of them. The professionally more important part of the task was connected with the processing of the data, the conditions and museological presentation of the collections. At the very beginning of this working plan there was encountered the problem of unorganized preliminary work which was meant as the starting point of the study. A very serious and important problem was posed by the undefined status of some collections, or even of entire institutions, by the lack of a generally accepted and legally regulated working model of the museum network. This fact had an immediate influence on the study, for which influence on the state and form of other reasons a considerable part of the analysis and the concluding text was devoted to this problem.

The data necessary for this project were collected by means of a questionnaire and through direct observation of the state of a particular collection or exhibition, on account of which was given a written report by the custodian of the Museum Documentation Centre. The study is a detailed explanation of the questionnaire, which contains 17 groups of questions. They are adjusted to the methodology of the ICOM-UNESCO in Paris. They are also compatible with the legislation and methodology of the members of the revolutionary labor movement and the national revolution as determined by the Croatian Assembly. According to this categorization all monuments and memorial symbols of the period mentioned are to be treated like all other cultural monuments, and their protection is regulated by the Protection of Cultural Monuments Act. All monuments of culture are divided into three categories (A, B, C) according to UNESCO's criteria.

The study falls into four parts. The introduction provides an analysis of the data collected, followed in the second part by a separate graphic presentation of each set of data in four tables. The tables contain information on the status, number of objects and the space available for the exhibition or storage. There are data on the trained personnel, and on special activities, i.e. the frequency and forms of contact with the public.

The third part consists of a catalogue and a list of the collections and exhibitions examined, with detailed descriptions of the displays. Suggestions are made for the modernization of the exhibitions and the raising of the level of communication with the public.

In the concluding part the present state is summed up and the problems encountered pointed out. A suggestion is given for a number of actions and measures to be taken in order to improve the quality of services at the institutions mentioned. Much of the concluding text explains that it is necessary to establish a museum network, in order to help national decision and the definition of local, regional and national museums. A network would also regulate competences and mutual obligations between the central museums and smaller collections. This would in turn introduce a new working process in this republic, and reduce some of the vital defects of the displays and exhibitions covered by this study, as pointed out and summed up in the conclusion.

ABSTRACT

Museum collections and exhibitions, and permanent exhibitions on the Yugoslav National Liberation War and the post-war socialist reconstruction in Croatia.

At the end of 1986 the Museum Documentation Centre in Zagreb produced a study of the state of museums and other institutions that keep and exhibit materials connected with the period of the Labour Movement, the Peoples' Liberation War, and socialist reconstruction, to the order of the Republican Committee of the Federation of War Veterans' Organizations and the Republican Conference of the Socialist Alliance of the Working People of Croatia.

The study was undertaken with the aim of establishing the number of such collections and exhibitions, and of drawing up a list of them. The professionally more important part of the task was concerned with museological processing of the data, the conditions and museological presentation of the collections. At the very beginning of this working plan there was encountered the problem of unfinished preliminary work which was meant as the starting point of the study. A very serious and important problem was posed by the undefined status of some collections, or even of entire institutions, i. e. by the lack of a generally accepted and legally regulated working model of the museum network. This fact had an immediate segments covered by the study, for which influence on the state and form of other reason a considerable part of the analysis and the concluding text was dedicated to this problem.

The data necessary for this project were collected by means of a questionnaire and through direct observation of the state of a particular collection or exhibition, on account of which was given in a written report by the custodian of the Museum Documentation Centre. The study a detailed explanation of the questionnaire, which contains 11 groups of questions. They are adjusted to the Museum Documentation Centre's documentation practices, which are in agreement with the working methodology of the ICOM-UNESCO in Paris. They are also compatible with the revaluation and recategorization of the memorials of the revolutionary labour movement and the national revolution as determined by the Croatian Assembly. According to this recategorization all memorials and memorial symbols of the period mentioned are to be treated like all other cultural monuments, and their protection is regulated by the Protection of Cultural Monuments Act. All monuments of culture are divided into three categories (A, B, C) according to UNESCO's criteria.

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The third part consists of a catalogue and a list of the collections and exhibitions examined, with detailed descriptions of the displays. Suggestions are made for the modernization of the expositions and the raising of the level of communication with the public.

In the concluding part the present state is summed up and the problems encountered pointed out once more. A suggestion is given for a number of actions and measures to be taken in order to improve the quality of services in the institutions mentioned. Much of the concluding text explains that it is necessary to establish a museum network, in order to help territorial division and the definition of local, regional and national museums. A network would also regulate competences and mutual obligations between the central museums and smaller collections. This would in turn introduce standardization into the working process in this republic, and reduce some of the vital defects of the displays and exhibitions covered by this study, as pointed out and summed up in the conclusion.