

In memoriam:
Mladen Tomljenović
1949-2013

Mladen Tomljenović, ethnologist and photographer, died on Monday, 8 April 2013. He was a member of the staff of the Ethnographic Museum since 1995, first as the museum photographer and, after 2002, as a senior museum technician.

Mladen Tomljenović was born on 13 February 1949 in Zagreb, where he completed primary and secondary school, and enrolled in the Ethnology Department of the Faculty of Arts and Letters of the University of Zagreb. During his studies he developed the interest in, and flair for, creating ethnological photo-documentation, especially in documenting architectural heritage. This set off his cooperation with a dozen museums, including the Ethnographic Museum in Zagreb, in the field acquisition of photo-documentation. He produced quite a few valuable slides and negatives, many of which cannot be repeated because of the disappearance of the rural architectural heritage or owing to destruction wrought by war. The documentary and aesthetic quality of his photographs is borne out by their presence in exhibitions and publications of many museums.

Mladen worked as a museum technician in the Museum of Prigorje after 1986. He was in charge of field photography and managed the Museum's photo-documentation.

He began developing his own ethnological photo-documentation in 1970. In his free time, and often during his holidays, he took pictures on more than 400 sites throughout Croatia, and collected an impressive library of 3000 slides and about 17,000 negatives, carefully inventoried and catalogued. In the Ethnographic Museum he also produced an extensive stock of photographs taken in the field and in the Museum. He also covered exhibitions openings and displays as well as other events, and engaged in magnification work in the Museum laboratory. His work was also used in the Museum publications and exhibitions. He sorted, inventoried and catalogued the slide and negative library. During the past few years he technologically integrated his work by computer photograph processing.

With his interest in ethnographic photography and dedication Mladen Tomljenović provided a significant contribution to an important segment of museum activity in the museums in which he worked, and especially to the enlargement and ordering of photo-documentation in the Ethnographic Museum.

Damodar Frlan, Director