

PREFACE

Once a year the Ethnographic Museum publishes, with the support of the City Office for Education, Culture and Sport of the City of Zagreb, its *Ethnological Research* Journal in Croatian and English. The 21st issue for 2016 covers topics from the field of ethnology, cultural anthropology and museology with eight technical papers presenting a variety of themes focused on museum activities, i.e., on our primary role. In addition to technical papers we are again presenting, in our section From the Ethnographic Museum, the list of exhibitions staged last year, and a review of restoration & conservation operations carried out in the restoration & conservation workshops in the same period.

In addition to the contributions of our colleagues, staff members of the Ethnographic Museum, related to projects realized in 2016, the Journal also carries articles by experts from other national and international museums and institutions. One of them is Claude Faubert, renowned museum adviser, who held at the invitation of ICOM a lecture in our Museum and contributed a text on the strategy of material collection, its purpose and framework. In it he outlined the research management process, the collection of objects, the creation and management of collections, and the decisions of people responsible for the inclusion of objects into a collection and for their de-accessioning. A related article was presented by our colleague Tanja Kocković Zaborski from the Ethnographic Museum of Istria, who outlined the foundation of the Museum in the nineteen-sixties. Among other things, she linked the foundation of the Museum with the ever greater industrialization, the migration of people from rural areas to the cities, and the neglect of traditional culture and its objects which brought about the need for their collection and display in museums. That was not, noted the author, the only reason underlying the foundation of the Ethnographic Museum of Istria: it was also due to the political situation after the Second World War.

Material objects are not the only part of a museum's holdings. This point was highlighted by our colleague Karolina Lukač from the Brod Posavina Museum, who analysed the manuscripts from the estate of the teacher and ethnographer Luka Lukić. Lukić recorded for many years the events, customs, folk music

and dialects of Brodsko Posavlje. The article also presented Lukić's view of the reasons underlying the disintegration of villages and the decline of the rural population.

Jadran Jeić presented a praiseworthy account of the so far unexplored history of the instrument-making Weiser family and their migration from Silesia to Zagreb at the turn of the 18th century. Jeić describes three generations of the family and its outstanding members. Along with their biographies, he also discloses new information of the traditional *tambura*, which flourished during the Croatian National Revival and became a carefully crafted instrument in its own right.

Late in 2015 and in the first half of 2016 the Museum staged an exhibition entitled *The Magical Crowd* and authored by Danijela Križanec Beganović, presenting beliefs in supernatural beings in Podravina. The article covers the author's field work, the development of the exhibition, and its concept and connection with attendant programmes. The exhibition included educational events, described by Anastazija Cvitković and Željka Jelavić, who highlighted the storytelling method.

Another exhibition attracted great public interest: *A Fistful of Beard*, authored by two trainees, Dolores Miličić and Katarina Dimšić. They presented the reconstruction of a barber's shop as an aspect of current retro-culture, and explored the meaning of the beard and moustaches, and their spread and changes analysed semiotically on examples from oral literature.

Gordana Viljetić contributed a noteworthy project, *Two Stops on the Croatian Silk Road*, staged in 2016 as a cooperative venture of the Zagreb Zoo and the Ethnographic Museum. As noted by the author, the basic activities were focused on children of older preschool and school age, and included educational programmes related to silk-worm breeding and the local silk thread production and use.

Editor-in-chief