

## PREFACE

In 2018 the Ethnographic Museum has yet again realized the annual journal *Ethnological Research* with the support by the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Croatia and the City Office for Culture of the City of Zagreb. This issue comprises two scientific and three professional texts regarding ethnology, cultural anthropology and museology, as well as ten reviews of ethnographic exhibitions, museum educational programs, catalogues and books, all of which were realized or published in 2017 and 2018.

The topic of this year's issue is "What is it that we research and why?". The editorial team chose such a broad topic because of several reasons. One is that contemporary museums and their staff are faced with increasingly complex tasks and demands, from bureaucratic and infrastructural to those that lead towards networking with world museums and museum like organisations. Still, one task remains the same and equally demanding and that is how to attract the largest possible audience with quality museum product? Therefore we find it extremely important to investigate and present to expert audience a variety of ways in which museum employees strive to fulfill this essential task. The second part of the topic (why?) seeks to delve into the motives behind each topic that has been processed museologically. Is this a new research theme the goal of which is to collect materials or is it a presentation of existing materials, are these the questions which motivate the authors - this is sometimes difficult to discover from the exhibition itself. This is precisely why we wanted to encourage authors to answer this simple question, which is extremely complex at the same time, in the form of an article.

Therefore papers published in the journal answer and problematize relevant questions as to what ethnologists do in museum like institutions, what their research focuses on, and in which ways they will present their research to an audience.

The journal opens with the article "Project Creapolis - Civic Museums and Urban Creativity: Heritage as a Source of Inspiration in Cultural and Creative Industries" by Zvezdana Antoš, Ph.d., a museum advisor at the Ethnographic Museum in Zagreb. In this paper the author presents a two-year long international interdisciplinary project (2016-2017) which brought together city museums and ethnographic museums from six European cities with the goals of promoting cultural heritage as a source of inspiration and creating new contemporary products thus enabling the availability of heritage to all kinds of visitors. This text is followed by a paper written by Sani Sardelić, a curator at Korčula Town Museum, entitled "The Things We Investigate: the Preparation of Exhibitions about *Kumpanija* Sword Dance on the Island of Korčula at Korčula Town Museum". This article brings to the fore information on the origins and materials exhibition authors use when they do research for the purposes of a series of theme exhibitions by commenting and presenting the importance of this kind of

investigative and museological project to all communities on the island of Korčula, i.e. in order for them to be able to understand each other better and to encourage the preservation of intangible cultural heritage inscribed on the List of protected intangible cultural heritage treasures of the Republic of Croatia.

Three expert papers that follow all focus on contents and expert analyses of collections from museum holdings. For example, Branka Vojnović-Traživuk, Ph.d., a museum advisor at Split Ethnographic Museum presents Đuro Nazor's postcard portfolio from Split Ethnographic Museum; Petra Jenjić, a curator at the Museum of Cetinska Krajina Region - Sinj writes about traditional hand wheel pottery from Potravlje village through the Pottery Collection of the abovementioned museum; Nikolina Rusac, a documentarist at the Ethnographic Museum of Istria presents and expertly analyzes a photo archive at this museum.

Recent exhibitions, publications and events in museum like institutions all over Croatia are presented through ten reviews that follow. In this issue you can read reviews of ethnographic exhibitions from 2017 and 2018 displayed at the Ethnographic Museum in Zagreb ("The Seljan Brothers in Wilderness and Desert," "Feathers, Apples and a Grain of Salt - Christmas Ornaments from the Holdings of the Ethnographic Museum in Zagreb," "Lost and Found: Indonesian Picture Scroll Theatre"), the Ethnographic Museum of Istria ("Memories Embroidered in Bale"), Museum "Staro selo" Kumrovec ("Nema gazde bez duboke brazde"), Moslavina Museum in Kutina ("Take a Peek Underneath - Underwear and Hygiene"). In addition to four exhibition reviews, this edition brings you catalogue reviews. Branka Vojnović-Traživuk, Ph.d., a museum advisor, presented a catalogue for a collection of the Ethnographic Museum in Zagreb published in 2017 ("The Image Collection") by Zvezdana Antoš, Ph.d., a museum advisor, and Katja Sirotić from the Ethnographic Museum of Istria presented a catalogue for the Economy Collection ("Economy in Istria from the Collection at the Ethnographic Museum of Istria") by Ivona Orlić, Ph.d., a senior curator. The catalogue was published in 2017. Silvija Vrsalović, a museum pedagogue, presented a rich and varied educational program which was organized and realized alongside the exhibition "Of Animals and Humans" in 2017. Zdravko Živković, an architect, presented a book by Jadranka Kranjčević, Ph.d., very aptly entitled "Neglected Heritage: Spatial Structures of Villages in Croatia."

We would like to thank all the collaborators for their trust and submitted papers. We hope that we contributed to the further development of museum and ethnological profession with these texts and we hope that some of the texts in front of you will inspire you in your further professional and scientific work.

*Editorial team*