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SUMMARY

JOSIP FRANJO MÜCKE - TWO UNREVEALED PAINTINGS IN THE MUSEUM OF SLAVONIA OSIJEK

Painting set of Osijek includes landscapists H.C. Hötendorf and A. Waldinger, and portraitists F. Pfalz, F. Giffinger, J.F. Mücke and G. Moretti.

In this case we are interested in the painter Josip Franjo Mücke (1819.-1883.) and his work and impact in Slavonia. With his long-time work in this region, he left deep trail and many works of art which are kept in the museums and galleries in Slavonia, Zagreb and private collections.

Two Mücke paintings were found in the depository of the Museum of Slavonia and were restored very soon. They are signed and dated still life (1858.) and still unidentified portrait of a woman registered as a "work of unknown author".

*A. STILL LIFE, 1858.
oil on canvas, 94.5 x 94 cm
sign. l.d. J.F. Mücke, 1858.*

*B. PORTRAIT OF CONNTESS SOPHIE
SCHÖBORN-WIESENTHEID
nee ELTZ, 1846.
oil on canvas, 97 x 80 cm
sign. none*

A. Still life is a unique piece in the work of Franjo Mücke and if it wasn't signed we wouldn't be able to define it as a part of his work, as it wasn't known before.

In the painting we can see a part of table covered with marble. Elements of still life are placed on it. In the centre there is a big, round, china plate with pieces of ham and bread. To the right there is a smaller china plate with same

contents. To the left there is an oval octagonal black leather box with gold-plated cutlery. In front of it there is a silver watch. Behind the box cover we can see handles of two pistols of very nice workmanship. In the central part of the painting, behind the round plate, there is a big black box in which we can see a big gold-plated goblet with the figure a horseman on the lid. We can also see open bottle, a tray with a glass of water on it and a gold-plated holder for the sauce.

The objects of still life are products of different styles and periods. China plates date from the middle of 19th century, the pistols from 18th century as well as the pocket watch.

B. A portrait found in the Museum of Slavonia was not signed and was considered the work of an unknown author. By analysis and comparison, I realised it is a portrait of Countesses Sofija Schönborn-Wiesenthied nee Eltz by J.F. Mücke, painted in 1846. Countesses Sofija is young in this painting and dressed in dark blue evening gown Over the left shoulder she has a coat of the same colour decorated with fur. Her dark hair is parted and folded into a bun on the back of head .

Comparing Mücke's paintings from Vasváry-ház in Pecs and Nemszety gallery in Budapest with the portrait from the Museum of Slavonia, I found out the J.F. Mücke has painted the portrait of Countess Sofija.

It is a important fact that Croatian cultural heritage is richer for two exceptional painting achievements by Josip Franjo Mücke.