CULTURAL HERITAGE – STANDARD FORMS OF DOCUMENTATION AVAILABLE OVER TIME.

Case study: Traditional Costumes Collection of The National Museum of the Romanian Peasant

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Introduction

• Founded on the 5th of February 1990, The National Museum of the Romanian Peasant is the continuator of some museological tradition dating back from 1875. Only in 1906, a museum of peasant art was established. It was known as The Museum of Ethnography, National Art, Decorative and Industrial Art. Since 1906 until present day our institution had gathered about 80,000 artifacts.

• In 111 years of its existence the museum has experienced four stages of documentation:
  • First stage (1906-1944) The Museum of Ethnography
  • Second stage (1953-1978) The Folk Art Museum
  • Third stage (1978-1990) The Village and Folk Art Museum
  • Fourth stage (1990-present day) The National Museum of the Romanian Peasant
• FIRST DOCUMENTATION STAGE (1906-1944)

• At this stage the great ethnographic collection were started as a result of long field research, being followed by major acquisitions, regarding all the traditional arts. It was started the registration of the objects, regardless of typology, into a single casebook. This method was difficult to use.
• **SECOND DOCUMENTATION STAGE (1953-1978)**

  • This stage was the most important because in this period the collections were tripled and were organized based on scientific criteria. There had been created 9 different collections, according to typology, materials and utility:

  • The Traditional Costumes, Textiles, Rugs, Ceramic, Wooden furniture and Wooden tools, Religious Art Objects, Traditional Customs Props, Foreign Ethnography and Samples collection.

  • The patrimony has been re-registered in separated casebooks for each collection, starting at number 1 for each collection.
• **SECOND DOCUMENTATION STAGE** (1953-1978)

• The scientific evidence was made on standard formats used at national level (A).

• At the same time, records were kept on specific factsheets for the ethnographic domain (B).
• THIRD DOCUMENTATION STAGE (1978-1990)

• At this stage there was no form of enrichment for the patrimony. In the context of the emergence of the first forms of computerized evidence, with the purpose of introducing the data into a national database, the factsheets with delimited fields and thesauri of terms has appeared. The institution designated for the national management of this base was CIMEC.
• **FOURTH DOCUMENTATION STAGE (1990-present day)**

- From 1990 to 2004 the documentation has continued on standard sheets, placed into a national database by experts of CIMEC. Since 2004 the DOCPAT program was implemented. In present days the curators are working with that program Objects with an outstanding cultural value are listed in the national cultural heritage database and they are available in Europeana.eu through the national aggregator National Heritage Institute (former CIMEC).
CONCLUSIONS

The form of documentation evolved from an empiric form used at the beginning of the 20th Century to our day computerized systems.

The advantage of this system is the greater accessibility of the information for different kind of interested users.

Today our specialists are working with a barcode program used for inventory and for an easily identification in the storage space.
Triumph Exhibition

Storage spaces

The National Museum of the Romanian Peasant

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