

---

## PREFACE

---

Nena Židov, Andrej Dular

15

---

This year's Etnolog once more brings you a range of interesting scientific, professional, and other reading material. As 2015 saw the conclusion of the *Accessibility of cultural heritage to vulnerable groups* project, led by the Slovene Ethnographic Museum in cooperation with other Slovene national museums and the National Gallery since 2013, the editorial board chose **accessibility** and **impaired accessibility** as the central theme for the scientific articles.

The thematic section starts with Tina Palaič's and Urša Valič's article on the *Project Accessibility of cultural heritage to vulnerable groups, and how the project is viewed by the employees of the participating museums*, presenting modern museological concepts related to participation, inclusion, and accessibility. They analyze the views of the museum employees involved in the *Accessibility of cultural heritage to vulnerable groups* project and conclude that the members of vulnerable groups require changes to museum practices. In her article *Accessibility of culture and/or inclusion?: the blind and visually impaired in Slovenia's museums*, Saša Poljak Istenič addresses the accessibility of cultural heritage to the blind and visually impaired. She presents the related Slovene legislation and the past endeavours in Slovenia's museums to include the blind and visually impaired in their work.

The article *Accessibility of the concepts of male and female: transsexuality and doing gender* by Katarina Župevc addresses, in addition to the socio-cultural division of gender into male and female, persons who do not identify themselves with this division. She presents the ways gender is adopted and asserted by transsexual and other transgender persons and raises the question of the accessibility of the concepts of male and female. In the article *The illusion about universal access to health insurance: non-citizens, the precariat, and poor inhabitants without health insurance* Uršula Lipovec Čebren and Sara Pistotnik focus on the social changes which have increased the numbers of inhabitants who have no access to social rights. They particularly emphasize the restricted access to health insurance for non-citizens, precarious workers, and the poorest inhabitants of Slovenia. In *The cultural heritage of the Maya: the decision-making of the indigenous peoples in Mexico's educational and cultural policies* Marija Mojca Terčelj describes the case of the pre-colonial archaeological monuments of Yucatan, entered in UNESCO's list of world heritage, to illustrate the discrepancies between official cultural policies and practices and the demands of the surviving local Maya communities.

The **Studies** section includes further scientific articles. *Adelma Vay – an ignored healer from Slovenske Konjice* by Nena Židov presents the activities of baroness Vay in the humanitarian field and her healing with magnetism and homeopathy. Janja Žagar's article *Fashion – the social education of taste* deals with the relationship between fashion and personal choice as the key elements of the notion of *personal appearance*, drawing attention to the social determination of fashion that is driven by the fashion industry, which directs consumers. The quality of the medical services in the perinatal care for women and the medicalisation of childbirth in Slovenia is the theme of the article *The dominant childbirth story: are women satisfied with their childbirth experience?* by Irena Rožman.

The section **Museum News** brings professional articles dealing with the central theme of this year's Etnolog in Slovenia's museums and galleries. They are joined by an article commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of the field team of the Slovene Ethnographic Museum in Bela krajina.

*Musical tours at the Slovene Ethnographic Museum: an example of an accessible and inclusive programme in a museum exhibition*, an article by Andrej Tomazin, presents the model of inclusive musical tours at the Slovene Ethnographic Museum, which developed as part of the *Accessibility of cultural heritage to vulnerable groups* project. The musical tours feature the inclusion of live performances of folk music in the museum's exhibitions. The article addresses their concept and design, and describes the individual programmes which enhanced the museum's cultural contents in the 2013–2015 period.

In *A socially engaged museum: including the Roma community in creating museum contents* Tina Palaić presents and analyzes the ways how often misunderstood and marginalized social groups, like the Roma community, can be brought closer to the majority community through the activities of museums, thus creating the foundations for an inclusive and accepting society.

In the article "*The essence is hidden to the eye*": *training in the project Access to the cultural heritage for vulnerable groups and the challenges in enhancing accessibility in the case of the National Gallery*, Barbara Kotnik and Iva Pavlica describe their training at the National Gallery and working with vulnerable groups. Concrete examples illustrate how the accessibility of the gallery can be enhanced in terms of access to the contents and physical access, while also highlighting the first touch painting at the National Gallery.

In *What are the obstacles for better access to the ethnological collections?* Vida Koporc Sedej answers the question with a presentation and analysis of the conditions and ways of providing physical, software, Internet, and technological access to information on the cultural heritage in some Slovene museums in ways that are adapted to all museum visitors. She concludes that this is the right way to acquire and disseminate diverse knowledge and understanding of our past.

In the article *The fiftieth anniversary of the fieldwork team of the Slovene Ethnographic Museum in Drašiči* Andrej Dular presents the team work of the museum's workers in the Bela krajina village in 1965, and based on field notes and photographs, made by the then curator Milka Bras, presents several crafts which used to shape the image of the village environment in the past.

In the *Exhibitions* section, Miha Špiček reports on an occasional guest exhibition of the Slovene Ethnographic Museum, *A family pilgrimage to Šmarna gora: a picturelogue*

---

by Peter Naglič from 1933, which he installed at the Nad velbom Gallery on Šmarna gora. In *Brass bands: of the people for the people – Exhibition celebrating the 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Domžale Brass Band*, Adela Pukl describes the concept of the exhibition which she installed at the Straw Hat Museum in Domžale.

These articles are followed by reports which present in detail the activities of the Slovene Ethnographic Museum in the past year. Janja Žagar presents a new acquisition, a patchwork made of samples of fabric produced by the former Tekstilindus factory in Kranj. This is followed by Anja Jerin's *Report on the activities of the Coordinator for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in 2015*, which informs the readers on the various activities of the Coordinator related to the registration and promotion of the intangible cultural heritage in Slovenia and abroad.

A constant feature of the *Museum News* section is *The SEM in the past year* and this year Nine Zdravič Polič reports on the varied exhibition activities at the Slovene Ethnographic Museum in 2014. The report on the numerous events at the SEM in 2014, prepared by Sonja Kogej Rus and Špela Regulj, is also quite extensive. It is followed by the bibliography of the museum's staff members in 2014 and the bibliography of the participants in the *Accessibility of cultural heritage to vulnerable groups* project in 2014. Both were prepared by Mojca Račič. The section concludes with a presentation of the publications published by the SEM. Photographs of the front pages and short descriptions of the contents thus present the following: *Vrata: prostorski in simbolni prehodi življenja* (Polona Sketelj), *Magija amuletov* (Marko Frelih), *Promocija nesnovne kulture dediščine: ob 10. obletnici Unescove Konvencije* (Anja Jerin). and *Oblikovanje za muzeje: Mojca Turk* (Bojana Rogelj Škafar).

Etnolog commemorates former staff members of the SEM who are no longer with us. Helena Ložar Podlogar reminisces about the ethnologist, curator at the SEM and scientific counsellor Dr. Milko Matičetov, while Ralf Čeplak Mencin pays tribute to the SEM's long-time curator Dr. Pavla Štrukelj.

In the *Awards and Recognitions* section Etnolog reports on the good news that the 2014 Valvasor Award was awarded to our curator Polona Sketelj for the exhibition *Doors: spatial and symbolic passageways of life*.

As usual, *Museum News* concludes with book reviews, written on this occasion by Marija Mojca Terčelj, Iztok Ilich, Tita Porenta, and Mihaela Hudelja.