

## PREFACE

The journal *Ethnological Research* (20/2015) is the regular yearly publication of the Ethnographic Museum, in Zagreb, issued in Croatian and English, which carries papers covering ethnology, cultural anthropology and museology. It enjoys the support of many outstanding experts who suggest, write and review articles with a lot of enthusiasm. The journal focuses on recent themes, and every issue is devoted to current issues.

The efforts of museum institutions in the protection of the cultural heritage and safeguarding of many objects in the museum collections, acquired over many years, and their dedication to their activity in the spirit of the UNESCO Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, and other international conventions on the safeguarding of heritage and protection of museum holdings are quite well-known. It is a fact that many objects and whole collection have not yet been processed or registered as cultural properties, and are not therefore accessible to their users. In recent times great efforts have been focused on resolving the problem as fast as possible by resorting to new technologies. High quality digitisation will promote the faster and more substantial involvement of museums in protection and presentation projects, but also sustain systematic care for their invaluable holdings. This is why the Editorial Board has decided to choose the words *From the Museum Object to the Protected Cultural Property* for the main theme of this issue. It ought to prompt museum experts to share their considerations and practical experience. Thereby we would endeavour to determine the chances of greater success of this part of museum activity in terms of, for example, recognition of the need for inter-institutional cooperation in collection processing, changes in the organisation of museum work and of its departments with appropriate professional staffing, or possible legislative changes in the Republic of Croatia – all in order to improve the protection and presentation of the rich cultural

heritage we are inheriting in this part of the world, safeguarding and bequeathing to future generations. We are pleased to see that many colleagues and fellow experts, not only from the Ethnographic Museum in Zagreb but also from other Croatian museums and institutions associated with museum activity have responded to our call with their articles. On the basis of their own experience they have discussed the problems they have been facing from the very beginning of the processing procedure required for the registration of collections, from theoretical and professional considerations to practical examples which can be used in drawing up the documentation for registration. There are also indications that a practical manual might in the making, and it would make this segment of museum work much easier.

In this issue readers will also find worthwhile papers covering other ethnological themes. One of them refers to the Croatian Ethnological Society which, animated by the flood which ravaged parts of Županjska Posavina in May 2014, organised a scientific&professional meeting on heritage and natural disasters. At the invitation of the Editorial Board, two of our colleagues that made presentations at the meeting prepared articles for the journal. There are two articles on smoke and smoking accessories, completing this year's theme – smoking and the exhibition *Smoke – the Tobacco Story* held in the Museum until last June.

In addition to these themes, the journal also carries other interesting ones. The section *From the Ethnographic Museum* reviews the exhibitions held last year and the conservation&restoration work carried out in the Textile Restoration&Preparation Workshop of the Ethnographic Museum in Zagreb over the past year.

Editor-in-chief