

Prizes and acknowledgements of the Croatian Museum Society to the staff of the Ethnographic Museum in 2012 and 2013

2012

ŽELJKA JELAVIĆ AND MALINA ZUCCON MARIĆ RECEIVED A SPECIAL CREDIT AWARD FOR THEIR EDUCATIONAL WORK WITH SOCIALLY SENSITIVE GROUPS THROUGH THE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMME *TWO MUSEUMS IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD*

The educational programme *Two Museums in the Neighbourhood* is the joint programme of Željka Jelavić, Senior Curator of the Ethnographic Museum, and Malina Zuccon Marić, Senior Museum Pedagogue of the Museum of Arts and Crafts in Zagreb (Fig. 1/p. 348), allowing children, patients of the Zagreb Children's Hospital, to get to know two museums (Ethnographic Museum and Museum of Arts and Crafts) in their immediate neighbourhood and see some of their collections. The programme was held in the hospital classroom with the support of teachers from the "Izidor Kršnjavi" Primary School. Along with creative work in workshops, additional classes were held on tangible and intangible culture in order to bring museum activity closer to the young generations. This project confirms in the best way the extraordinarily important social responsibility of museums in modern society. In their activity they need to contribute actively to the establishment of dialogue between cultural institutions and society focused on the activity of museums as democratic cultural institutions.

2013

IRIS BIŠKUPIĆ BAŠIĆ, PH.D. (AUTHOR OF EXHIBITION) AND MIRJANA DROBINA (MARKETING AND PUBLIC RELATIONS) RECEIVED A SPECIAL CREDIT AWARD FOR THE OVERALL PROGRAMME OF THE *WORLD OF TOYS* EXHIBITION PROJECT OF THE ETHNOGRAPHIC MUSEUM

Nominated by:

Ivanka Ivkanec, Museum Adviser (Ret.) – *The World of Toys* Project
Željka Jelavić, Senior Curator – *Let Us Give Children Roots and Wings* Drive

The *World of Toys* exhibition project of Iris Biškupić Bašić, Ph.D. with the display designed by Nikolina Jelavić Mitrović, demonstrated diversity and wealth primarily of Croatian wooden children's toys and their production, but also of toys produced in several European workshops and/or factories, and urban toys from Zagreb and Croatia. The Project included five exhibitions: the central exhibition, *Children's Toys from Croatian Heritage*, two visiting exhibitions, *Polish Traditional Children's Toys* and *Trains or Kids and Adults*, and the exhibition *The Toy Has a Heart*. The exhibition project was accompanied by three catalogues, a leaflet, a series of picture cards, and a range of souvenirs, educational workshops and a cycle of public lectures on the significance and role of toys.

As a cultural-promotional complement to the *World of Toys* project, Mirjana Drobina, Head of the Marketing and Public Relations of the Ethnographic Museum, designed and launched the educational drive *Let Us Give Children Roots and Wings*. The drive was based on cultural, promotional and educational subjects through which children gained knowledge of the value and significance of traditional toys. According to the basic idea of the drive, institutions dealing with children throughout Croatia – kindergartens, children's hospitals, SOS-villages and children's homes – would get a set of thirty wooden toys for their requirements. Donations to children's institutions were accompanied by discussions of heritage and plays.

The *World of Toys* exhibition project of Iris Biškupić Bašić, Ph.D., and the cultural-promotional complement of Mirjana Drobina, the educational drive *Let Us Give Children Roots ad Wings* (Fig. 2/p. 348), presented the significance of wooden toys inscribed on the List of Protected Intangible Cultural Goods – Register of Cultural Goods of the Republic of Croatia, further confirmed by

their inscription on the UNESCO Representative List of Intangible Heritage of Humanity in 2009.

NERINA ECKHEL, CURATOR (RET.) RECEIVED THE LIFE ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Nominated by: Ethnographic Museum (Director Damodar Frlan) on the initiative of Ivanka Ivkanec, Museum Adviser (Ret.)

Nerina Eckhel (Fig. 3/p. 348) was born in Zagreb on 20 April 1946. After graduation from the School of Applied Arts – Textile Department, between May 1972 and retirement in December 2011 she worked in the Ethnographic Museum in Zagreb. As a volunteer she worked on the protection of textile material and then as professional museum preparator for textile until 1983, when she was promoted to senior preparator. On a study-as-you-work scheme she enrolled in the ethnology/archaeology course at the Faculty of Arts and Letters of the University of Zagreb. As a member of the museum staff and professionally she focused on themes related to the culture of textile raw materials and handicrafts, national costume characteristics and, in particular on patterns and proposals for the reconstruction of traditional garb. In 1984 she took over the duty of curator and head of textile collections: textile tools, kilims, bags, soft furnishings and lace. She was also continuously involved in the activity of the textile preparation workshop of the Museum, and in training, motivating and advising junior museum staff.

Her great energy and research work (field, professional and scientific work) is reflected in a respectable series of ethnographic (thematic, monograph, study) exhibitions. The period of intensive cooperation of the Ethnographic Museum with the Zagreb Folklore Festival was marked by her exhibitions on textile handicrafts of Pokuplje, Posavina, Konavle, Slavonija and Baranja. She co-authored the design of displays of major exhibitions in Croatia and abroad (e.g., *Love and Marriage*, Belgium; *Croatian Traditional Culture*, Budapest, Argentina, Chile).

Nerina Eckhel's intensive interest and sustained involvement with lace/lace-making started in 1992 and has continued to date. Owing to the results of her

research, written professional and scientific papers, realized exhibitions and other presentations of Croatian traditional lace-making in Croatia and abroad, Nerina Eckhel is the leading Croatian museum lace expert. Her continuous contribution the presentation of Croatian cultural and folklore nationally and abroad is indisputable. This was confirmed by her participation in the project of the Croatian Ministry of Culture and the Agency for the Protection of Cultural Heritage, which resulted in the inscription of Croatian lace-making on the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in 2009. The significance and meaning of lace in the cultural heritage of lace in the folklore heritage of Lepoglava, Pag, Hvar, Primošten and Sveta Marija, and the revival of their lace-making schools, workshops and current creative efforts are also the fruit of Nrina Eckhel's professional work, scope and initiative, and it is also reflected in her participation at the international lace festivals in Lepoglava and on the island of Pag. Her contribution to lace-making as part of the sacral heritage – the church textile of the Kotor diocese, the Baltazar Bogišić collection in Cavtat, three residential villas on the island of Brioni and the review of textile material in the holdings of the Vukovar City Museum and Ilok City Museum after the Homeland War – is truly invaluable.

She has published more than forty papers in technical and scientific publications, exhibition catalogues, manuals for national costume reconstruction and other professional and popular publications. She has presented her work at professional meetings and taken part in the work of panels. Her photographic opus in the photographic museum documentation file of the Ethnographic Museum in Zagreb is of outstanding documentary-museum value.

For her professional work, reputation and responsibility she has received a number of public acknowledgements and recognitions: in 1997 the City of Pag issued a charter granting Nerina Eckhel honorary citizenship; in 1999 she was decorated with the Order of the Croatian Star with the Effigy of Marko Marulić; in 2005 she received the *Milovan Gavazzi* Life Achievement Award of the Croatian Ethnological Society, and in 2009 the Annual *Vicko Andrić* Award.

As a result of these professional and museum achievements, outstanding contributions and of the overall promotion of museum activity Nerina Eckhel is awarded the Life Achievement Award of the Croatian Museum Society.

TRANSLATED BY: JANKO PARAVIĆ