

The story of a Tie: Interpreting museum object and the construction of local identities

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Postmodernist theories change the paradigm of a museum and museum activity, together with the paradigm of heritage and identity. Museums are no longer perceived as storerooms/depos that store objects valorized as permanent value that shape the identification card of the community, they are the institutions that tell stories for the present, based on the objects from the past. Museums are places where basic facts about the object from the past, through imaginative and stratified interpretations, enrich with new meanings in a way that they become more representative and thus more valuable to the community they present. Museum's task is to produce and shape the contextual contents and information about the objects from the past, with the goal to preserve, promote and present the identity of the community they are active in. Considering the fact that the museum's status in the community depends on its ability to communicate and interpret cultural heritage, the interpretation and contextual information become the important part of the museum documentation, which requires well designed plan for keeping and managing.

The aim of this work is to show process of creating contextual and interpretative contents on the object from the museum collection – garment detail of Croatian peasant (soldier). The story of a tie is the history of diffusion, of transformation and desemantization of a garment detail in peasant's clothing, in social and cultural context but also the reconstruction of the process of creating, using, interpreting and spreading the information and the knowledge about the museum object.