

SOME CONSIDERATIONS UPON MUSEUM EDUCATION ACTIVITIES DEVELOPED IN „DACIA AUGUSTI PROVINCIA” EXHIBITION

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The museum education field can be considered rather new among the activities that a museum usually runs. In our country this field is placed somewhere between the changes that are taking place in the State educational system and the recent institutional developments in museums. Among those institutional changes we may consider the establishment of new departments such as PR department or even Museum Education department and also some new laws regarding the activities of public collections and museums that were recently recent adopted.

As the main purpose of any educational system is equipping the individual with what is necessary to be a productive member of society, every institution that is developing such an activity tries to find out specific methods in order to achieve its goal.

But our society is changing so fast that very much of what it is now learned in schools could be useless after a relatively short period of time. And this feature seems to be one of Romania's most important problems concerning the educational system.

Cultural institutions like museums are trying precisely to develop another kind of education, the prospective education. Some series of projects have succeeded in doing this. There are programs developed by large museums, like the National Art Museum in Bucharest and the National Natural History Museum “Grigore Antipa” also in Bucharest.

In this frame we may also include the educational side of the cultural events organized by The National

History Museum of Romania under the title of “DACIA AVGUSTI PROVINCIA. The making of the province”. (The events were organized in order to celebrate an important moment of our national history – 1900 years since Dacia was founded as Roman province=) The manifestation comprised an exhibition organised in collaboration with two museums of Rome: Musei Capitolini and Sistema museale dei Fori Imperiali. Ufficio dei Fori Imperiali, a street military parade and fight demonstrations performed by the soldiers of the Legion XV Apollinarias of Savaria (nowadays Szombathely in Hungary) and a national symposium.

The educational activities were based especially on the presence of “Roman soldiers”, and because the media covered quite well the event, lots of people found out about their coming.

When the soldiers first came at the museum, walking down the street, kids that were waiting for them on the stairs of the museum could observe mainly the defilation step an the way the leader was addressing to his subordinates, in Latin. They even learned some simple orders and they repeated them to one another.

The most attractive part was of course the one that took place next day in Herăstrău Park, where the soldiers performed in a very realistic way all kinds of war tactics and they showed every one how our ancestors where fighting. As the weather was fine, kids could really enjoy seeing the soldiers “at war”.

Members of the museum educational staff were also there and they provided adequate information in order to make the soldiers' actions easily to understand.

For kids it was a very nice experience, because they had the opportunity of learning lots of new things and to enjoy it (as in school History is considered to be one of the most boring subjects).

And because any process of learning is working both ways, from the educator to the pupil but also from the pupil to the educator, it was also a nice experience for educators too.

Everybody discovered that sharing information and learning new things can be funny.

In this manner, an event that it was not originally designed as a main activity of museum education became a very successful one. The educational activities are still going on, until the exhibition will be closed, and the evaluation process of its results will be than finished. All in all it was a very useful exercise and a good way of testing the institution's capacity to develop such kind of activities in the future.

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