

The 20th anniversary celebration of the Ludbreg Conservation Centre

Croatian Conservation Centre marks the 20th anniversary of the Ludbreg Conservation Centre's foundation and activity in the protection of Croatian cultural heritage. The anniversary celebration will take place on December 5th in Ludbreg, beginning from 9 am.

From a “wartime hospital for artefacts” to the Conservation Centre

After Croatia was invaded, emergency evacuations were often resorted to as a way to rescue cultural and artistic heritage from wartime destruction. Within the *Programme to evacuate the war-endangered heritage*, fifteen secret depots for artefacts were organized in continental Croatia. It was the Batthyány Mansion in Ludbreg that could provide basic conditions for the safekeeping of evacuated artefacts, due to its spatial capacity and a good state of preservation.

As early as 1991, replies began to arrive to numerous calls to the international public for the Croatian cultural heritage to be rescued from degradation and destruction. In 1992, a treaty was signed by which the Town of Ludbreg handed over the Batthyány Mansion to the then Ministry of Education, Culture and Sports, to be used free of charge for the purpose of protecting the cultural heritage. The project of the Centre was initiated by Croatian conservators, with exceptional appreciation and support of the Town of Ludbreg, and with the backing and professional cooperation from Bavarian conservators. It was approved by the ministries of culture and finance and the Croatian Government, and encompassed by the budget.

The Ludbreg Conservation Centre of the Croatian Conservation Institute began in 1994 its work on the restoration of artefacts injured in the War of Independence. In addition to Croatian experts, international certified conservators have worked in the workshop, their associates and students and other experts in the field of conservation. The Centre's activity was expanded after the Batthyány Mansion was fully renovated in 2000 through a loan from the Bavarian State Bank. Nowadays, it has 16 employees working within the Croatian Conservation Institute, the head institution for art conservation in Croatia.

Over the last 20 years, the Croatian Conservation Institute has through its Centre in Ludbreg given an exceptional contribution to the development of conservation and restoration in Croatia, due largely to the conservation of numerous artefacts from the war-stricken areas as well as from northeastern Croatia, and by being a venue for relevant education programmes. By renovating the Batthyány Mansion, a fine monument of culture was rescued for the County and the Town of Ludbreg, which proved to be an exceptional contribution to the development of the town and the region into cultural and tourist attractions.

Programme to mark the anniversary

The programme to mark the anniversary will take place throughout December 5th and will include lectures and presentations by participants and organizers on how the project of the “wartime hospital for artefacts” had originated and evolved. An exhibition of posters about restored artefacts will be presented, as well as an accompanying catalogue. A memorial plaque will be uncovered and certificates of appreciation presented to the most-deserving organizations and individuals from Croatia and abroad. Throughout the day, conservation workshops will be open, where visitors will be introduced with the restoration of artefacts from the Varaždin County and will be able to talk to conservators and view an exhibition of restored liturgical vestments from the collection in the Holy Cross Chapel.

The news with detailed information will from today be available on our website:
<http://www.h-r-z.hr/index.php/za-novinstvo/priopenja-z-medije->

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