Ustanovitev Deželnega muzeja v Ljubljani

IZVLEČEK

Narodni muzej Slovenije je druga najstarejša slovenska znanstvena ustanova in bo 15. oktobra 2021 kot neposredni naslednik kranjskega Deželnega muzeja praznoval dvestoletnico obstoja. Kot datum nastanka je obveljal dan, ko so deželni stanovi sprejeli sklep o njegovi ustanovitvi, čeprav je zares zaživel šele s postavitvijo prvih razstav in odprtjem za javnost okroglo desetletje pozneje. Oblikovanje muzeja v Ljubljani se tako v maršičem razlikuje od sorodnih institucij, ki so v tem času nastajale v deželnih prestolnicah Avstrijskega cesarstva. Prispevek obravnava ustanovitveno obdobje (1821–1831), v katerem so bili kljub mnogim težavam osnovani trdni temelji za prihodnji razvoj ustanove.

KLJUČNE BESEDE

Deželni muzej, Narodni muzej Slovenije, Kranjska, Ljubljana, deželni stanovi, Franz Hohenwart, Jožef Kamilo Schmidburg

ABSTRACT

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PROVINCIAL MUSEUM IN LJUBLJANA

The National Museum of Slovenia is the second oldest scientific institution in Slovenia and will celebrate its two-hundredth anniversary on 15 October 2021 as the direct successor of the Carniolan Provincial Museum. The officially recognised date of its creation was the day when the provincial estates passed the conclusion on its establishment, even though the museum only commenced its operations by organising the first exhibitions and opening its doors to the public about a decade later. The formation of the museum in Ljubljana therefore differs in many ways from similar institutions that were emerging in other provincial capitals across the Austrian Empire. The article discusses the founding period of the museum (1821–1831), during which, in spite of many difficulties, solid foundations were laid for its future development.

KEYWORDS

Provincial Museum, National Museum of Slovenia, Carniola, Ljubljana, provincial estates, Franz von Hohenwart, Joseph Camillo von Schmidburg
Establishment of the Provincial Museum in Ljubljana

The long nineteenth century was a time of general progress, which was also reflected in the development of all scientific disciplines. Intellectuals showed a growing interest in the natural and social features of their environment. Many of them, including Sigmund Zois, for example, built collections of various objects, and ideas emerged about establishing central public institutions that would collect, study, and exhibit these precious materials. The first such institution in the Austrian Empire was founded in 1802 in Budapest, followed by those in Graz (1811), Brno (1817) and Prague (1818).

After the end of the French occupation and the return under the rule of the Austrian emperor, Carniolan intellectuals enhanced their patriotic sentiments and felt especially proud of the Congress of Laibach (Ljubljana), which moved a minor provincial capital to the centre stage of European politics for a few months. It is not by chance that the desire to establish a museum in Carniola was publicly voiced for the first time precisely during this period. At the provincial assembly session on 15 October 1821, the estates passed the conclusion to turn this desire into reality, but what followed was a long period of endeavours and uncertainties until the institution finally opened its doors on 4 October 1831. The major obstacles on this path were securing appropriate premises and stable funding. Although on 8 June 1826, Emperor Francis I confirmed the founding of the museum, he provided that it should be funded strictly from voluntary contributions, and thus prolonged the serious financial difficulties for years to come. The greatest credit for the successful completion of the founding process belonged to Count Franz von Hohenwart (1771–1844), from 1827 the President of the Carniolan Agricultural Society, under which the museum operated between 1822 and 1830.

Until the disintegration of Austria-Hungary, the Provincial Museum in Ljubljana remained Carniola’s central scientific, cultural and to some degree also educational institution, which, at least in part, compensated for the non-existence of a university centre. It ensured that most of the abundant natural historical, archaeological, cultural-historical, and archival materials remained in Carniola rather than being seized by foreign institutions. In the decades following the First World War, individual departments gradually separated from the museum into independent units which now form the backbone of the Slovenian national museum network.