

* By the end of 1994 and the beginning of 1995, the ICOM and Council of Europe had organised an exploratory mission for investigating the state of movable monuments of culture from Vukovar, requisitioned during the war. This mission is a sequel to the Mission for investigating the state of museums and galleries in Croatia damaged in the war, which had begun its work in 1993. This mission was, as well as the second mission, organised for ICOM by the MDC.

The mission, headed by H. Ch. von Imhoff, had concluded that a part of the collections and inventory books of the Vukovar Museum are kept at the Municipal Museum and the Museum of Vojvodina in Novi Sad, and in the Vojvodina Archives. Apart from documentary processing of the holdings, restoration procedures are under way on the material, especially the Bauer Collection and ceramic and metal objects.

A smaller part of the holdings is being kept at the Ethnographic Museum in Belgrade.

A part of the collections is still in the ruins of Eltz manor in Vukovar, where the renamed "Museum of the Town of Vukovar" operates. According to the statements by the above mentioned museum employees, a larger part of the holdings had been burned in the fire.

The report states that the building housing the Bauer Collection is destroyed, the History Museum is a ruin that has not been cleared up, and the Memorial Museum of the Nobel laureate Lavoslav Ružička has no roof.

The Vučedol site is also mentioned in the report. The site is neglected, overgrown with bushes and weeds.

Transport lists with data on the items evacuated from Vukovar (holding 1250 items) are being held at the Institute for Protection of Serbian Monuments of Culture in Belgrade.

(The report was published in the IM, 1 / 4, 1994)

After Croatian museum workers had arrived to Vukovar in the middle of 1997, most of the information on the fate of museum buildings and holdings was confirmed.

DAMAGE TO THE BUILDING:

August 25th and 26th 1991

In the aerial and artillery attack on the town, shell blasts had damaged the facade and roofing of the part of the manor housing the Museum. The other part of the manor was completely destroyed by an aerial bomb.

September 1991

In continuous attacks on the town from air and land, the Eltz manor-house was hit by a series of projectiles, and its middle section, the one that housed the Museum, was bombarded and was on that occasion burned down. The fire had lasted for two days.

November 20th 1991

According to the photographs taken on November 20th 1991 and shown on Croatian Television, a section of the Eltz manor, the part housing the Museum, was completely destroyed.

After In the middle of 1997, after the restoration of Croatian authority and the return of Croatian museum workers to Vukovar, the Eltz manor-house was found to be a ruin exposed to the elements and threatened by further decay. The upper two storeys have no roofing, the roof and ceiling constructions are destroyed and the walls pulled down. The ground floor rooms and one big hall are partially preserved, although heavily damaged, neglected and damp.

DAMAGE TO THE HOLDINGS:

Most of the holdings were stolen from the museum, and are to be found in the museums of Novi Sad and Belgrade, as well as in the Vojvodina Archives and in Dalj.

A part of the museum holdings was probably destroyed in the fire, and a part of the material that suffered heavy damage and lesser damage is to be found beneath the ruins of the manor-house.

The books from the museum library are preserved, as well as a part of the archival material.

A part of works of art from the private collections was discovered in the area and in the building of Museum.