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The influence of Z. Z. Stránský's ideas on the formation of the scientific school of the Department of Museology and cultural heritage of Saint Petersburg State Institute of Culture

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METODICKÉ A INFORMAČNÍ TEXTY/
METHODICAL AND INFORMATIVE TEXTSTHE INFLUENCE OF Z. Z. STRÁNSKÝ'S IDEAS
ON THE FORMATION OF THE SCIENTIFIC SCHOOL
OF THE DEPARTMENT OF MUSEOLOGY AND
CULTURAL HERITAGE OF SAINT PETERSBURG STATE
INSTITUTE OF CULTURE

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Currently, in different countries there exist a variety of diverging views on museology, starting from its official recognition as a science at the national and professional levels and ending with the use of this term rather as a definition of the theory and methodology of museum work. The creation of International Committee for Museology (ICO-FOM) in 1977 is considered to be a milestone in the recognition of museology as a scientific and academic discipline by the global community, developing an international platform for theoretical investigations in this field. Nowadays in the XXI century the common official position of ICOM is the non-acceptance of museology as an independent scientific discipline with its definition as a “field of activity”.¹ Researchers of ICOM state that “*the similarities of museology with a science – even with a developing one – are slowly fading, as neither its object nor its methods really correspond epistemological criteria of a specific scientific approach.*”²

In the 1960s–1980s Czechoslovak played an important role in the international activity of ICOM, but

1 Klyuchevye ponyatiya muzeologii [online]. ICOM Russia, 2012 [cit. 2016-09-02]. Available from www: <<http://www.icom-russia.com/upload/iblock/532/5323743f731b222714f20ba0205ec238.pdf>>.

2 Idem, p. 56.

with time its participation has significantly decreased.³ The position of Russia, Eastern European countries, and probably some other countries, concerning the definition of museology hasn't significantly changed since the first theoretical investigations in the field of museology scientific development. Conversely, such theoretical developments in these countries continue and they are reflected in numerous research works of museologists. It is important to point out that in 1960s the acceleration of museological theory development was provoked by the fact that this discipline was for the first time being taught at the universities.⁴ An outstanding museologist Z. Stránský (1926–2016) noted that the necessity of the educational programs' development has deepened the theoretical background of museology.⁵

In St. Petersburg the department of museology was founded in 1988 at the initiative of N. I. Sergeeva (1920–2011). V. P. Gritskevitch (1922–2013) and L. M. Shlyahtina were also the initiators of the

3 MENSCH, Peter van. K metodologii muzeologii. *Voprosy muzeologii*, 2014, vol. 9, no. 1, pp. 15–291 [online]. [cit. 2016-09-02]. Available from www: <<http://cyberleninka.ru/journal/n/voprosy-muzeologii>>.

4 BENEŠ, Josef. Mezinárodní anketa. *Muzeologické sešity*, 1983, no. 9, p. 18.

5 STRÁNSKÝ, Zbyněk. *Archeologie a muzeologie*. Brno: Masarykova univerzita, 2005, p. 197.

creation of the museology department.⁶ L. M. Shlyahtina notes that the understanding of museology, introduced by Z. Stránský, lays at the foundation of educational strategies and museum workers' preparation concepts⁷ and moreover it was an impetus to further development of thought and research in the field of theoretical museology. L. M. Shlyahtina has created a course “Theoretical problems of museology”, which has been taught at the department of museology since its creation.

The Department of Museology and Cultural Heritage of Saint Petersburg State Institute of Culture continues to develop and to refer to some statements of Czech museologists, probably the most significant of which is the “father of museology” Z. Stránský, also J. Neustupný, J. Beneš. This fact is reflected in scientific works of professors, graduate and undergraduate students of the department.

Among them we can name the scientific investigations of

6 MASTENICE, Elena. Podgotovka muzeologov v usloviyakh perekhoda na mnogourovnevnyu sistemu obrazovaniya. In *Trudy Sankt-Peterburgskogo gosudarstvennogo universiteta kul'tury i iskusstv*, 2013, vol. 200, p. 250.

7 SHLYAKHTINA, Lyudmila. Strategii muzevedcheskogo obrazovaniya v kontekste razvitiya muzeologicheskikh idey. In *Trudy Sankt-Peterburgskogo gosudarstvennogo universiteta kul'tury i iskusstv*, 2013, vol. 200, p. 335.

L. M. Shlyahina, E. H. Mastenitsa and their followers such as J. V. Zinovieva,⁸ S. V. Pshenichnaya,⁹ A. J. Volkovitch,¹⁰ O. S. Sapanzha¹¹ and others. O. S. Sapanzha is the research advisor of students that are currently exploring the scientific works of Stránský.

L. M. Shlyahina states that “*the Saint Petersburg State Institute of Culture is exactly a place where a proper museological scientific school is currently being formed*”¹² (although there are other opin-

ions on this matter¹³). It is crucial to point out that Russian authors use a limited amount of sources of Czech museologists, basically they include the works of Z. Stránský (in German and also translated into Russian). It is related to the fact that the number of Czech museologists’ publications in Russia is considerably low. There are some articles, but yet there aren’t any monographs translated into Russian.

The understanding of museology, its subject, object, structure, terminology and methodology by Stránský has been changing during the process of his scientific researches. This article covers the content and essence of museology, presented in his last monography “Archeology and Museology” (2005). On the ground of continuous museum work and the studies of philosophy, noetics, methodology of science, Stránský formulated a system of museology as a scientific discipline, related to the term of “museality”, created by Stránský and accepted on the international level.

Stránský formulated that “*museology is a scientific discipline that studies the musealisation of reality*.”¹⁴ Musealisation is the endowment of reality with specific characteristics with respect to cultural and memorial value of their authentic representatives, i. e. museal mastering of reality.¹⁵ What is more, Stránský introduced the concept of “cultural metareality”, which meant a form of reality appearing after the process of musealisation. In addition to that, Stránský introduced a new professional museological term “musealita” (cultural-memorial value) for the identification

of the object’s cultural value after its transformation in the process of musealisation. “*Museum is one of the historically developed forms for the embodiment of the specific, museal attitude of man to reality, which is not a constant thing, but a changing one, moreover, it should change in historical and social constellations*,”¹⁶ noted Stránský. His concept of musealisation as a subject of scientific knowledge of museology became fundamental for the science.

This theory was accepted by many museologists in Russia. However, it is crucial to point out that the understanding and interpretation of the term “musealisation” and its derivatives, has undergone significant changes in Russian literature and it could be said that this term wasn’t clearly understood and interpreted – it became “russianized”. Stránský highlighted the difference between the following specific terms: “museal” and “museum”, “musealia”, “museality” and “musealisation”, “thesaurus”, that are accepted and used in Czech professional community of museologists, not only in theory but also in practice. Stránský himself noted that although many specialists and scientists have inherited these new terms, which Stránský was forced to introduce in order to formulate the system of museology, they were not used in properly understood content meaning.¹⁷ In many modern Russian dictionaries and museology textbooks many of the mentioned museological terms are not thoroughly disclosed and sometimes they are even absent.

L. M. Shlyahina and E. N. Mastenitsa define the subject of museology as a “*cognition of museum nature*

8 ZINOV'YEVA, Yuliya. *Vzaimodeystvie muzeya i obshchestva kak sotsiokul'turnaya problema*. Avtoref. dis. [online]. Spb., 2000 [cit. 2016-09-02]. Available from www: <http://www.dissertat.com/content/vzaimodeystvie-muzeya-i-obshchestva-kak-sotsiokulturnaya-problema>.

9 PSHENICHNAYA, Svetlana. *Muzej kak informatsionno-kommunikativnaya sistema*. Avtoref. dis. [online]. Spb., 2000 [cit. 2016-09-02]. Available from www: <http://www.dissertat.com/content/muzei-kak-informatsionno-kommunikativnaya-sistema>; PSHENICHNAYA, S. V. *Muzejnyy yazyk i fenomen muzeya*. [online]. Spb., 2001, p. 233 [cit. 2016-09-02]. Available from www: <http://anthropology.ru/ru/text/pshenichnaya-sv/muzejnyy-yazyk-i-fenomen-muzeya>; PSHENICHNAYA, S. V. *Kontseptual'naya model' muzeya v sovremennoy otechestvennoy muzeologii. Muzei Rossii: poiski, issledovaniya, opyt raboty*. Sb. nauch. tr. Spb, 2007, no. 9, pp. 3–6.

10 VOL'KOVICH, Anna. *Model' muzejnoy kommunikatsii v kontseptsii zarubezhnykh muzevedov. Muzei v sovremennoy kul'ture: sb. nauch. tr. T. 147*. Spb., 1997, pp. 69–73; VOL'KOVICH, Anna. *Muzejnaya ekspozitsiya kak semioticheskaya sistema*. Avtoref. Spb., 1999.

11 SAPANZHA, Ol'ga. *Metodologiya teoreticheskogo muzevedeniya*. Spb., 2008. 115 p.; SAPANZHA, Ol'ga. *Tekhnologiya i metodologiya v sovremennoy muzevedeni: k voprosu o metode nauki. Izvestiya Rossiyskogo gosudarstvennogo pedagogicheskogo universiteta im. A. I. Gertsena*, 2009, no. 117, pp. 335–340; SAPANZHA, Ol'ga. *Sovremennoe teoreticheskoe muzevedenie: k voprosu metodologii nauki. Nauchnye problemy gumanitarnykh issledovaniy*, 2010, no. 1; SAPANZHA, Ol'ga. *Istoriografiya muzeologii, muzevedeniya, muzeografii: k voprosu razdeleniya ponyatiy. Voprosy muzeologii*, 2013, no. 2(8), pp. 197–205.

12 SHLYAKHTINA, Lyudmila. *Strategii muzevedcheskogo obrazovaniya v kontekste razvitiya muzeologicheskikh idey*. In *Trudy Sankt-Peterburgskogo gosudarstvennogo universiteta kul'tury i iskusstva*, 2013, vol. 200, p. 337. More about museological scientific school in the Saint Petersburg State Institute of Culture: SHLYAKHTINA, Lyudmila and Elena MASTENITSA. *Stannovlenie nauchnoy shkoly kafedry muzeologii i kul'turnogo naslediya Sankt-Peterburgskogo gosudarstvennogo instituta. Vestnik SpbGUKI*, sentyabrya 2016, no. 3(28), p. 116.

13 ASTAF'YEV, Vladimir and Lidiya SYCHENKOVA. *O predmete Istoriya muzeologii: postanovka problemy. Voprosy muzeologii*, 2013, no. 2(8), p. 181.

14 STRÁNSKÝ, Zbyněk. *Archeologie a muzeologie*. Brno: Masarykova univerzita, 2005, p. 256.

15 Idem, p. 120.

16 Idem, p. 165.

17 Idem, p. 114.

of material evidence,¹⁸ which is very close to Stránský's definition. Stránský distinguishes the main structure of the system of museology as follows:

Diachronic¹⁹ (the levels of museological study)/Historical museology
Synchronous/Modern museology
Theoretical/Theoretical museology
Applied/Museography
Metamuseology.

The structure of museology according to L. M. Shlyahina consists of history, theory, museum chronology, applied museology. In its turn O. S. Sapanzha highlights 3 levels of research which are:

Conceptual level (museology),
Synthetic level (museology and museography),
Technological level (museum activity).²⁰

Theoretical museology, according to Stránský, is the centre of this system, explaining the museal process by theoretical "subsystems"²¹ sub theory of selection, thesaurus compilation, presentation. These three sub theories, based on Stránský's structure, are described in the work of L. M. Shlyahina as a theoretical basis of museum activity.

S. V. Pshenichnaya in her researches creates her own conceptual model of a museum as a specific information and communication system. From the point of view of S. V. Pshenichnaya the use of sys-

18 SHLYAKHTINA, Lyudmila and Elena MASTENITSA. Muzeologiya i ee metody v sisteme sotsial'no-gumanitarnykh nauk. *Fakty i versii: Istoriko-kul'turologicheskiiy al'manakh Issledovaniya i materialy. Kn.4. Metodologiya. Simvolika. Semantika.* SPb.: IMISP, 2005, p. 29.

19 STRÁNSKÝ, Zbyněk. *Archeologie a muzeologie.* Brno: Masarykova univerzita, 2005, p. 116.

20 SAPANZHA, Ol'ga. Istoriofafiya muzeologii, muzevedeniya, muzeografii: k voprosu razdeleniya ponyatiy. *Voprosy muzeologii*, 2013, no. 2(8), p. 201.

21 STRÁNSKÝ, Zbyněk. *Archeologie a muzeologie.* Brno: Masarykova univerzita, 2005, p. 122.

tematic and informative-semiotic approaches in the museum investigation allows to shape a holistic view of the museum as a "complex dynamic socio-cultural information and communication system."²²

Stránský highlights the necessity to combine "museological thinking" with the modern philosophical and scientific thinking. Museology is merging with onthology, noethics and axiology.²³ E. H. Mastenitsa also addresses this issue, pointing out that at the turn of XX–XXI centuries museology was facing an introduction of "philosophical paradigm, oriented on human study in the diversity of all its interconnections with civilization, society, family... The past century was marked by the graduate retreat from the positivistic fragmentation of humanities to the affirmation of a more scientifically universal cultural and historical picture of human and social development..."²⁴

The works of E. H. Mastenitsa²⁵ and L. M. Shlyahina²⁶ examine the interdisciplinarity and multidisciplinary of museology, described by Stránský. Investigations in the field of museology methodology were held by O. S. Sapanzha and have many parallels and similarities with

theoretical thinking of Stránský on this issue.²⁷

In can be concluded that the continuity Z. Z. Stránský's concepts and ideas can be found in theoretical works of professors and students of The Department of Museology and Cultural Heritage of Saint Petersburg State Institute of Culture with their significant influence on scientific development.

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22 PSHENICHNAYA, Svetlana. *Muзей kak informatsionno-kommunikativnaya sistema. Avtoref. dis.* Spb., 2000.

23 STRÁNSKÝ, Zbyněk. *Archeologie a muzeologie.* Brno: Masarykova univerzita, 2005, p. 108.

24 MASTENITSA, Elena and Lyudmila SHLYAKHTINA. Muzei i muzevedenie v universitetskom obrazovanii. *Filosofskiy vek. Al'manakh. Vyp. 30. Istoriya universitetskogo obrazovaniya i mezhdunarodnye traditsii prosveshcheniya.* T. 3. Spb., 2005, pp. 307–314.

25 MASTENITSA, Elena. Muzeologiya v prostranstve mezhdistsiplinarnogo vzaimodeystviya. *Vestn. Len. gos. univ. im. A. S. Pushkina. Nauch. zhurnal. No. 3. Tom 2. Filosoftiya*, 2013, pp. 155–164.

26 SHLYAKHTINA, Lyudmila and Elena MASTENITSA. Muzevedenie kak faktor optimizatsii razvitiya muzeynogo dela. *Kul'turologicheskie issledovaniya v Sibiri.* Omsk: Izd. Dom Nauka, 2009, no. 3(29), p. 71.

27 SAPANZHA, Ol'ga. Tekhnologiya i metodologiya v sovremennom muzevedenii: k voprosu o metode nauki. *Izvestiya Rossiyskogo gosudarstvennogo pedagogicheskogo universiteta im. A. I. Gertsena*, 2009, no. 117, pp. 337–340; SAPANZHA, Ol'ga. Razvitie predstavleniy o muzeynoy kommunikatsii. *Izvestiya Rossiyskogo gosudarstvennogo pedagogicheskogo universiteta im. A. I. Gertsena*, 2009, no. 103, p. 249.