

Preliminary Programme

Project Museum:

Private and Public Collecting of Non-European Objects in the Early 20th Century



22–24 April 2026, Ljubljana, Slovenia

Venue: Slovene Ethnographic Museum, Metelkova ulica 2, Ljubljana

Organisers: Science and Research Centre Koper; Department of Asian Studies, Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana; Slovene Ethnographic Museum



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MUZEJ

Wednesday, 22 April

9:00–9:30 **Registration**

9:30–9:45 **Welcome address**

9:45–12:00 **Panel 1**

Ariane Da Cunha: Orientalist décor or more? Displaying Chinese decorative textiles in French and Belgian museums at the turn of the 20th century

Roxanna Maas and Marit Feld: Between museum and gallery practices: The Early Exhibitions of the Dutch Asian Art Society (double presentation)

Valerie Jurgens: The Karlbeck Syndicate (1930–1935): contextualising the early Chinese private and public collections in Europe

Dinara Dubrovskaya: Lang Shining (Giuseppe Castiglione; 郎世寧; 1688–1766)'s Scrolls, Donated to the State Museum of Oriental Art in Moscow by Vladimir S. Kalabushkin: History of Collection and Problems of Attribution

12:00–13:30 **Lunch break**

13:30–15:30 **Panel 2**

Natalia V. Safonova : The Art of Turkestan and the "Muslim East" in Museum Exhibitions of the Russian Empire

Azam Soheilipour: Cultural vow in book collecting and the formation of manuscript libraries in Iran

Jindřich Mleziva: Non-European collection in the regional museum – the case of the West Bohemian Museum in Pilsen

Wang Hao: Mapping the Ethnographic and Religious Activities of Peter Baptist Turk in Early 20th-Century Eastern Hubei

15:30–16:00 **Coffee break**

16:00–18:00 **Panel 3**

Jiří Honzl: Dilettante collectors, or not? A set of pottery lamps from the Hellmuth collection of Egyptian antiquities

Jan Šejbl: „I cannot conceive of living otherwise than in my chambers, adorned with the whole of my illustrious inheritance.“ A lifelong collector Joe Hloucha

Nataša Vampelj Suhadolnik: Collecting Chinese Art in Early 20th-Century Beijing: the Case of Ivan Skušek Jr.

Klara Hrvatin: Before it became public: the Skušek collection and its 1956 unofficial guest book

18:00–20:00 **Welcome reception**

Thursday, 23 April

8:40–9:00 **Registration**

9:00–11:00 **Panel 4**

Kevin Lam: Translating the Museum: Text, Image, and the Construction of the Museum in Late Qing China

Elaigha Vilaysane: From the Tomb to the Museum Plinth: Chinese Burial Objects on Display in the Victoria and Albert Museum and the Metropolitan Museum of Art

Dong Xinyu (Maya): Palimpsests of Devotion: The Fragmented Afterlives of the Guangshengsi Murals in Early 20th Century Collecting Practices

Camille Bertrand: Edward Goldstein (1844–1920) and the Cernuschi Museum in Paris (1904–1908)

11:00–12:30 **Guided tour of the exhibition »Asia in the Heart of Ljubljana«, Slovene Ethnographic Museum**

12:30–14:00 **Lunch break**

14:00–16:00 **Panel 5**

Tomoë I. M. Steineck: Mission, Museum, Empire: A Swiss Protestant Collection of Japanese Religious Images and the Unmaking of Comparative Religion, c. 1880–1920

Davor Mlinarič: From the Altar to the Storage Room: The Fate of Church and Monastic Collections and Their Transformation into Museum Collections in the Celje Region (1938–1958)

Helena Motoh: Curating the experience: "Multimedia" in the Early 20th Century Missionary Exhibitions

Tina Berdajs: Interpreting China: an Analysis of Missionary Turk's Object Labels

16:00–16:30 **Coffee break**

16:30–18:00 **Panel 6**

Freya Terryn: Curating Japanese Illustrated Books Abroad: Art-Historical Frameworks and the Japanese Donation to the University of Louvain

Antonio De Caro: Chinese Catholic Waves: Collecting Chinese Catholic Art in Private Collections

Stella Zhivkova: Memory Loss of an Ukiyo-e Collection: Attempts at Reconstructing Provenance of P.M Montani's Album of Woodblock Prints

18:00–19:00 **Publications presentation**

Friday, 24 April

9:00-11:00 **Guided tour of Ljubljana (meeting place: Prešeren square, in front of the monument, <https://maps.app.goo.gl/RSBa4yZLSuiCWSHh7>)**

11:00–13:00 Panel 7

Tajana Ujčić and Katarina Marić: The Hütterott Family Collection: From Trieste and Rovinj to the Public Sphere

Qiu Yifan: Collecting, Displaying, and Creating a New Taste for Chinese Art from Eumorfopoulos' Private Museum to Public Museums, 1908 to 1934

Zlatka Dimitrova: From Private Ownership to National Heritage: The Early 20th-Century Ukiyo-e Collection of NAIM–BAS

Michaela Pejcochova: Private collections becoming public: Oriental Institute in Prague in the 1930s and the quest for a state collection of Asian art

13:00–14:30 **Lunch break**

14:30–16:30 Panel 8: Archives, Media, and Visual Sources

Alenka Pipan Mubi and Marko Frelih: The Role of Print Media and Archives in Research on Missionary Collections in Slovenia

Chikako Shigemori Bučar: From a Piece of Postcard to a Lost History and Reconstructed Biographies

Bojan Šibenik: Photographic Legacy: Analysis and Interpretation

Marko Frelih: Interpreting the Use of Objects from Missionary Collections through Pictorial and Photographic Sources

16:30–17:00 **Coffee break**

17:00–17:15 **Multimedia presentation *The Life of Skušek Collection***

17:15–17:30 **Closing remarks**