

Documentation of Present Time in Slovakia's Two Largest Museums During WWII

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Abstract:

The aim of the contribution is to find out how Slovak museums documented the present in the years of the Second World War. Attention is focused on the two largest museums in Slovakia at that time, namely the Slovak National Museum in Turčiansky Svätý Martin and the Slovak Museum in Bratislava (today one institution). The study will also try to answer the following questions: Were Slovak museums able to take on the role of spreading the national story and state ideology? Was most of the public interested in them? What was their significance for the nascent state and the new political establishment? The text of the contribution will also try to shed light on the reasons for the changes in museology after the break-up of Czechoslovakia by Adolf Hitler and the creation of the Slovak state. The question of well-made documentation of the present in that period has an impact even into the present. Slovak museums, due to poorly done documentation during the Second World War, are not able to present to the public the history of everyday life of the given time.

Keywords: *Slovak State, Documentation of Present Time, Museums, Second World War, Slovak National Museum*