



Ethnographic Museum

permanent exhibition



NATIONAL MUSEUM OF MONTENEGRO



Ground floor

Specific geomorphological characteristics, geographical position, climate and social conditions determined the manner of work, which in the effect heavily influenced the entire life of the population of Montenegro. Livestock production was the main economic activity in the Dinaric zone, while fisheries, olive growing and viticulture, on the other hand, represented the most important economic activities in the Adriatic zone.

Depending on the available arable land, the population would be farming, as well as beekeeping. In addition to this, crafts represented a significant branch of economy.





Room I (right)

Hunting was primarily done by the rural population. Large game was hunted most, given that it caused damage to livestock and households in general. Besides the regular rifles, various types of traps, irons, and snare traps were also used to hunt the large game.

Cabinet No. 1 exhibits hunting weapons: a hunting rifle and various traps made of cast iron that were used to capture game: bears, wolves, foxes, rabbits...

Beekeeping appears as one of the most important complementary industries and almost every house in the village would have at least several hives. Honey was used as a medicine, or to produce mead, a type of a homemade alcoholic drink. Wax was used to produce candles that would be lit in the house or in the church on certain holy days.

Cabinet no. 2 features a hive, made of twisted wickers, covered with mud on all sides.

Fishing has been present since the ancient times in the area of today's Montenegro, both in the region of Skadar Lake and the rivers and on the coast. When it comes to the Skadar Lake area, fishing has always represented a significant economic activity and played an important role in Montenegrin export.

The fishing items were diverse and numerous. Fishing was done with various hooks, wicker-baskets, fishgigs and nets. It was also done using longlines - ropes with hooks with baits attached.

Cabinet no. 3 features hunting equipment and accessories: baskets of various shapes, made of wickers or reed, wooden needles for knitting and patching torn fishing nets, fishgigs and longlines. Livestock breeding was the main economic activity in the Dinaric zone. It was of particular importance because of meat, milk and wool production and supply, and directly influenced the wealth, nutrition and clothing, migrations and trade. Montenegrin livestock breeding relied on breeding sheep and goats, while large cattle were kept mainly for hard labour and assistance in farming, or for transportation.

Cabinet no. 4 features characteristic items related to livestock breeding: metal cattle bells, sheep shearing scissors and shepherd's sticks, which used to be essential tools in shepherding.

In the

Cabinet no. 5 there are various types of vessels for processing, storing and transporting milk and dairy products: buckets used for husbandry, measurement and transport of milk; butter churner pots - vessels used to turn milk into butter; karlica - a vessel used for keeping freshly cooked to collect fat crust from the surface once the milk cools down; kabljić - container used during making sour milk and buttermilk, and small kaca - a wooden container in which kajmak, a type of tasty cream, was kept. These vessels and containers were made of wood and were deemed necessary accessories by those engaged in livestock farming.

In the cabinet no. 6 various types of measuring devices can be found: scales, balances and weights. These items were used in virtually every economic activity and without which it would not be possible to accurately measure ready-to-sell products.



Room II

Craftsmanship remains one of the most important economic activities that involves the production and repair of various items, produced by a master-craftsman in his workshop. In the past, crafts provided the opportunity to supply the population with the necessary everyday items, and therefore, represented a significant source of income.

In the cabinet no. 7 there are various tools related to different types of crafts - woodcarving, shoemaking, brazier-making, tailoring: axes, carvers, sheet metal scrapers, drills, carpenter's plane, leather-shoe makers, saws, blacksmith's tongs, lead melting spoon, sheet metal scissors ...

Agriculture was more or less represented depending on the available arable land. In the rugged and rocky regions, the soil was worked using simple

tools, but when it comes to larger arable land, people most frequently used a pair of yoked oxen to plough the land. The ploughed land was additionally pulverized and smoothed using a harrow. Scythes and sickles were used in harvesting.

Various tools for the cultivation of the soil are exhibited in the cabinet no. 8 : dikela – a type of sharp hoe, small mattock, planting stick, as well as the tools used for harvesting: scythe, sickle and kosiier, a tool used for cutting shrubbery.

Cabinet no. 9 features a plough, yoke, harrow, hayfork and pitchfork, a sweep for removing earth from the plough, pack saddle and cargo bag.

Wooden vessels for water have been widely used in almost every house. They were used for collecting, transporting, removing and storing water. They were made in several ways, by carving a single piece of wood, or carving a wood cut in half, and most often by putting together wooden strips, which, together with the bottom of the vessel, are joined together by metal rings.

Cabinet no. 10 features burilos – elliptical water barrels and a žbanj – a small shallow wooden vessel for spirits.

A spindle used to be a basic tool for spinning, that is, combining and forming textile fibres into a thread. Although it was an inevitable tool in the process of preparing a wool, it was also a decoration and a symbol of love and attention.

Cabinet no. 11 features various forms of round and spear hand-held distaffs.



Room III

Tableware was a necessary household item in all rural and urban homes. It used to be made of different materials, mainly of wood, clay or metal. In addition to serving food, keeping water, oil, fat and honey, it was also used to store cereals, dairy products, products prepared for winter months, etc. Handmade wooden dishes are characterized by a simple form with little decoration, while the crafted items were richly decorated with carving. In the cabinet no. 12 wooden dishes are exhibited: vagan (a shallow bowl), spoons, flask, čanak (bowl), glass and racket.

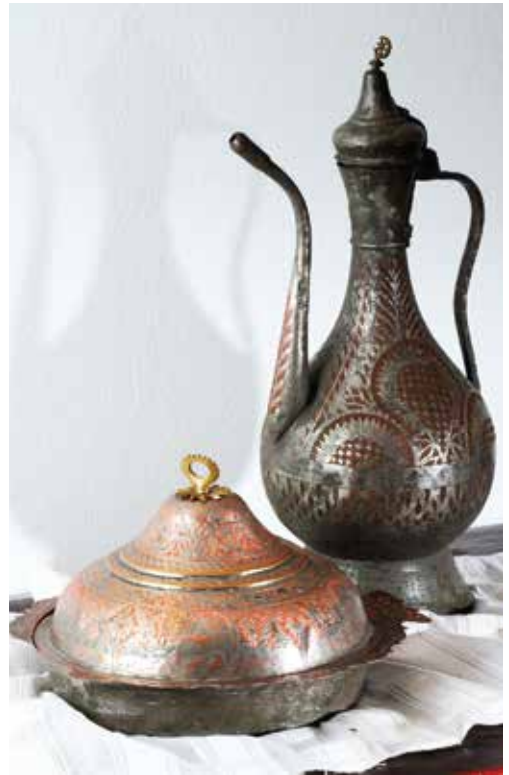
Clay pots were made mostly on a rotating pottery wheel. Various types of cooking utensils were made on the hand-wheel, in particular those used in preparation of food in the open fireplace, while the cooking utensils were made using the kick wheel. Cabinet no. 13 features various types of cauldrons and cooking pots used on the hearth. Cabinet no. 14 features various types of ceramic jars for storing liquids and honey.

In addition to traditional dishes, glassware, porcelain and silver were used in better-off rural households, as well as in the town households.

Cabinet no. 15 features: a frutijera - a fruit bowl, a cake dish, porcelain bowls, spice jars, silverware and glasses.

Metalware, most commonly made of copper and its alloys, in addition to its functionality, is characterized by the harmony of the shape, the beauty of the lines and the richness of the ornaments.

Cabinet no. 16 exhibits: sinija – a small round table for preparing dough and meals, đugum – copper vessels for water, leđen with ibrik – a vessel with a vase shaped pitcher or jug, pot, pan, sahan – small serving plate with a lid, then ibrik, coffee-pot and coffee grinders. The central part of the showcase is occupied by mangalas, copper ves-



sels used to warm the room. They were commonplace in better-off Muslim households. Almost every Christian house in Montenegro celebrates its family saint patron's day, marking the day devoted to the patron saint of the family, brotherhood or tribe. It is celebrated on a certain day of the year and is passed from one generation to another. In the house, the icon of the saint is displayed in a prominent place. If there is a cresset, it is put and lit in front of the icon, while the inevitable symbol of this event is the lit candle, which the household head lights in the morning on the day of the celebration and extinguishes in the evening with a piece of bread sprinkled with red wine. A special loaf is made - a round bread whose upper crust is decorated with a cross made from dough or imprint lines made with proskurnjak – a square wooden seals that are most often rectangular or circular in shape, richly carved with geometric ornaments and engraved IC XC NIKA, which means "Jesus Christ Conquers." in Greek.

Cabinet no. 17 features: proskurnjak – a square wooden seal, a cresset, an icon and a candelabra.



Room IV

The folk notion of the house is related to the hearth, the only room in which the fire was burning and around which the whole life of the family would take place. The hearth represented the centre of social life, the place where important decisions would be made, fraternisations and invitations to become godfathers would also take place, as well as the place where the oaths and behests were pronounced. Around the hearth, on the floor, on the shelves and the wall of the house, there were items necessary for everyday life. Benches or trunks were used for seating by the fire, while the common pieces of furniture were tables and chairs – usually wooden semi-circular chairs used by the host or a distinguished guest. Cradles were often found around the hearth being a household item that contributing to the warmth of



every home with its purpose and beauty. **Cabinet no. 18 features:** dining table and chairs, crib with a cover and children's toys. In the central part there are the iron chains from which the boiling pot hung, tongs to tend the fire, spade for ember and prijeklad – demirodžak an iron stand whose function was to support logs while burning, trpijelj - an iron tripod, the sumpreš - old flat-iron and načve with the lid – a wooden dough tray. Gusle represents a traditional musical instrument whose sounds for centuries accompanied births, lives, narrations narrated, celebrations and mournings. They are played only by men, and their production is part of a tradition that is passed down from generation to generation. They were made of different types of wood, most commonly of the maple, which has proven to be hard and acoustic wood. Gusle is almost always decorat-

ed using carving and painting techniques. The ornaments are geometric, plant and zoomorphic in their nature, and very often anthropomorphic – depicting prominent historical figures, rulers and heroes. In a large number of cases the head of gusle is decorated with symbolic representations of animals: chamois, eagle, dragon, snake, etc.

Cabinet no. 19 features instruments such as gusle, pipe and dipele (reedpipe). The cultivation of tobacco was present almost everywhere in the territory of Montenegro, especially in the vicinity of towns of Podgorica, Bar and Ulcinj, regions favourable to tobacco production due to fertile land and favourable climate. Growing, harvesting and processing tobacco is a long-term process that requires a lot of effort and commitment. Tobacco leaves would be picked gradually during the summer, stacked onto a thread, kept in a dark place to take on a yellow hue and then sun-dried. After that, they were stored in a room with a lot of moisture and prepared for further use. Later on, the tobacco leaves would be sliced and chopped, most often using mortar, a specially designed for cutting tobacco. In addition to smoking, tobacco leaves were also put in trunks with woollen robes to protect it from moths. **Cabinet no. 20** features a tobacco mortar used for cutting and smoking accessories: chibouks – Turkish tobacco pipes, regular pipes, wooden boxes and tobacco bags. Carpets had their multiple uses in a traditional interior. Although their primary purpose was to cover the floors, carpets were also used as bedspreads or wall decorations, and played a significant role in everyday life. Carpets were mainly woven on horizontal looms, and wool was used as the primary material for their production, although hemp and cotton were also in use. Their ornamentation featured many motifs, from simple geometric shapes to floral stylized or naturalistic compositions. Cabinet no. 21 features woven carpets with geometric and floral ornaments.



The upper floor

A large number of national costumes were used in the territory of today's Montenegro during the 19th and the first half of the 20th century. Their appearance, manner of production, cut, colour, material, as well as ornamentation and the manner of decorating, speak volumes about the coexistence of ethnically and religiously heterogeneous population of Montenegro. The original samples of everyday and ceremonial men and women's costumes are exhibited, along with individual clothing elements that were combined with the traditional costumes, and jewellery and weapons that were inevitable decorations to complement and enrich every costume.



Left room

Cabinet no. 22 features various knitted wool items: gloves, socks, half-socks. They are characterized by different colouring and harmoniously arranged geometric ornaments, with some being additionally decorated with coloured beads.

Cabinet no. 23 features various belts and bags, made of wool, using weaving technology. These items were an indispensable part of national costumes and special attention was paid to their decorating.

Cabinet no. 24 features a *jakičar* a wide leather belt with red carneoles. The belt was made of several layers of thick bovine skin combined with decorative nails. Its front features elliptical or round frames, and inserted stones of red colour, believed to possess apotropaic power. The rest of the belt is covered with square metal plates, adorned by ticking. These belts were made in the second half of the 19th century in the workshops in a small town of Rijeka Crnojevića and were very effective decoration of the Montenegrin traditional women's costume.

In addition to *jakičar*, exhibited men and women's costumes are characteristic for the area of Old Montenegro. They are distinguished by homemade materials, white colour and discreet, dark decorations such as cords and buttons.



Central room

Cabinet no. 25 features a ceremonial women's costume from Vasojevići region, with a characteristic zubun – a type of a long white-cloth vest, decorated with colourful embroidery and applications made of baize, woollen tassels and beads.

Cabinet no. 26 features a ceremonial women's costume from Rožaje, with dark-red anterija – a type of a long-sleeved traditional blouse produced by skilful seamstresses, decorated with golden braids and golden thread.

Cabinet no. 27 features a women's costume from Pljevlja in its variant with oprežina - an apron, a short, richly plated white skirt, whose edges are decorated with a discreet colourful thread.

Cabinet no. 28 features a yelek with toke - decorative buttons. These buttons are believed to have been part of the warrior's armour once and which ended having solely decorative role. They were made of metal, most commonly silver, but they could also be gilded. They were made using special casting or forging techniques, and were finished with decorative with gentle hammering, granulation and using niello technique.

Cabinet no. 29 features a ceremonial male Montenegrin costume presented in combination with dušanka - a garment element with characteristic gold tassels on the breast and sleeves that are not worn, but freely fall while wearing it.

Cabinet no. 30 features short riffles - lednica and kubura were most often carried as a pair, stuck in the belt, then stick and oil flasks, common accessories for charging gunpowder, cleaning the pipes and lubricating weapons.

Cabinet no. 31 features a woman's costume from Paštrovići region, made of silk, was modeled after Western European wardrobe.

Cabinet no. 32 features forged ćemer, a type of a characteristic women's belt, a part of Montenegrin traditional costume, made of silver.

Cabinet no. 33 features a filigree ćemer belts made of silver, common parts of the Montenegrin women's costumes.

Cabinet no. 34 features a ceremonial women's costume that is characterized by both West European and Turkish-Oriental elements.

Cabinet no. 35 features a ceremonial Montene



grin women's costume presented in combination with a black lace veil, the usual headwear in married women.

Cabinet no. 36 features a ceremonial men's costume from Risan in combination with decorative buttons - toke

Cabinet no. 37 features a bridal costume - an alaturka from Ulcinj, made of white silk and richly decorated with silver thread.

Cabinet no. 38 features silver filigree kolan belts - with edžerand pafta embellishments - decorative belt buckles, usually made of silver in the form of an almond, leaf, plate or circles.

Cabinet no. 39 features Russian belts made of textile tape with two silver plates of irregular shape, which are fastened with a miniature sword or a handgun, as well as with a silver wire purse.

Cabinet no. 40 features a woman's Bregasor costume, characteristic of its layering and vivid colours.

Cabinet no. 41 features a Malesija region's bridal costume, with a džupelet - a characteristic bell-shaped dress, made of a cloth.

Cabinet no. 42 features a woman's costume from Šestan region, made of white cloth with a distinctive yelek vest decorated with filigree buttons and pafta embellishments.

Cabinet no. 43 features long rifles, with buttocks and pipes richly decorated with mother-of-pearl.

Cabinet no. 44 features long rifles with characteristic T-shaped buttocks.

Cabinet no. 45 features Boka Navy's costume and women's costume from Dobrota. In the central part, there is a representative piece of carved coastal chest that was used for keeping dowry, textile items and various valuables. Kukuljica, a type of a special hood is also exhibited - this characteristic decoration for the head of the bride from Dobrota, consists of a large number of gilded needles of filigree making.

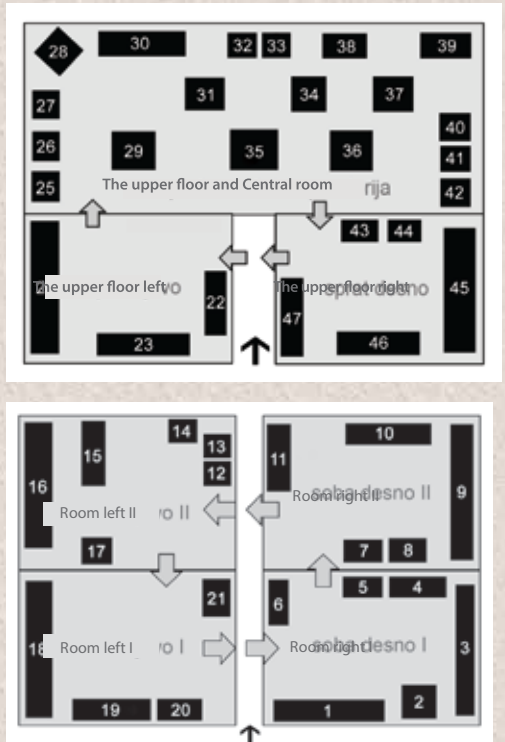
Cabinet no. 46 features yatagans, long knives with a curved blade, whose silver edges and handles were especially decorated, as well as different types of knives with and without sheaths.

Cabinet no. 47 features tobacco enjoyment items - filigree mouthpieces made with amber, silver cigarette cases and snuff cases containing snuff.



Ethnographic Museum of Montenegro

The Ethnographic Museum was founded in 1951. Originally, it occupied the Billiard Building along with two other museums, the Njegoš Museum and the Museum of People's Liberation War, until the catastrophic earthquake in 1979, when, due to the rehabilitation of Billiard Building, the Museum exhibits were deposited to the Government House, where it remained stored for many years. In 1986, the Municipality of Cetinje granted a building of the former Serbian Embassy to the National Museum. It was subsequently adapted in 2002 to cater for the needs of the Ethnographic Museum. In the period from 1979 to 2018, the Ethnographic Museum organized numerous thematic exhibitions in the country and abroad, presenting the rich and traditional heritage of Montenegro to both local and foreign audiences. In 2018, in partly reconstructed exhibition premises, the Museum set its first permanent exhibition. The Ethnographic Museum's fund features over 4.400 artefacts, which testify about the rich material and spiritual culture of the population occupying the territory of today's Montenegro. The items are classified in several separate collections: National costumes, Weapons, Jewellery, Furniture and utensils, Commercial items, Textile production, Textile in use, Bags, Children's toys, Musical instruments, Tobacco use items, Art collection and Collection of items related beliefs and customs. To prepare such a permanent exhibition, set on the ground floor and on the first floor of the building, more than 400 specific items have been selected from the existing collections, with the aim of bringing closer the national life and culture of the ethnically and religiously heterogeneous population of Montenegro, from the mid-nineteenth to the first half of the twentieth century. On the ground floor, in two rooms to the right of the entrance, there are exhibited specific items related to certain commercial activities such as cattle breeding, farming, hunting and fishing, textile crafts, craftsmanship, etc., while the two opposing rooms feature the presentation of the culture of living, that is fragments from interior of rural and town houses. The exhibition area on the upper floor, as a logical continuation, features folk costumes, a very important segment of cultural heritage. Almost every region in Montenegro had its special traditional costume, the most characteristic being exhibited in this very area. Jewellery and weapons, as well as decorative elements of every national costume, are also exhibited.



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