

My Experience with Diving into Restorers World

By: Celestè-Liepa Videtič

I had this fantastic opportunity to go to Narodni Muzej of Slovenia. It is my extra curriculum activity. My teacher, Ms. Tadeja Galonja, arranged this wonderful experience for all the students who participate in this curriculum. I thought we were going just to visit the museum, but in fact, one of Ms. Tadeja's close friends, g. Gorazd Lemajič, who works as a historian and a restorer took us to his work place.

The work place is in the basement of the museum. It was a quite tiny, and a silent place, but 8 people were able to fit. A real place to do very precise work – restoration.

They showed us beautiful, broken artifacts (knives, vases) which still were not published or shown to the public yet. We were one of the first 20 people to see them. Sadly, we could not make any pictures of the newly discovered artefacts, but were able to make pictures of the artefacts which were already published to the press. The two historians told us how they restore all those items which were found, how they examine it, and how long it takes them to finish it.

I learned with my friends that to restore any artifacts you must carefully examine the original colour of artifact at the end. When there are any missing parts, they would patch it up with clay and paint over it. When they want to clean a metal artefact which is covered in rust, they ask another person who is specialized in examining the items and understanding the data.

The person who is specialized in examining artefacts (mostly metals), they use a machine which is similar to an x-ray. After x-raying, the data would be transferred to the computer and it would show what kind of metals would be in the object. “It takes a lot of patience, time, and precision” one of the historians say. They also, told us that they rarely give the original artefacts to other museum, and usually all the time they make a copy of it.

After patiently answering our questions, we had a quick tour of the museum.

Thanks to Ms. Tadeja Galonja for this wonderful opportunity to see closer the of restorers/historians. Being the first 20 people to see the non-public items made me feel special.