

Great historical narratives in Europe's national museums (Paris, 25–26 Nov 2011)

Paris, Nov 25–26, 2011

Deadline: Sep 23, 2011

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Call for papers

Conference organised by Pr. Dominique Poulot, Université de Paris I Panthéon-Sorbonne in collaboration with Eunamus – European National Museums: Identity Politics, the Uses of the Past and the European Citizen.

<http://www.eunamus.eu/>

Proposals and papers may be given in English or French

25 to 26th of November 2011, Paris.

To what extent can national museums be considered as authors of great historical narratives ? National museums have since their inception been key to establishing narratives of the political, military, territorial, social and economic construction of the nation. In disciplinary terms, the archaeological museum is central to forging national origins in a more or less far off past. The nation's genius, may be read in the different narratives that art history constructs, whilst folk and rural culture, as considered by ethnology construct notions of authenticity of the people.

This conference aims to consider the major ideological programmes implemented by museums and how these are visualized and translated into museographical terms – from explicative texts to the disposition of objects, scenographic installations, multimedia presentations etc. Can one identify a « national tale » (roman national), as the idea of a stereotypical version of the nation's past, in the ambiguous relationship between narrative and the complex and not necessarily coherent range of objects that can make up a museum's collections. Looking at traditional as well as revised versions of national narratives, particular attention will be given to the representation of conflict, to shared and opposing tales – but also to silences and absence. Issues of provenance related to repatriation claims may also be considered.

Why are certain themes and types of collections preponderant at different moments throughout the nation's history? The interdependence of narratives, in relation to past versions or to those established by other nations should also be stressed. In order to address these questions, approaches that take into account the social, political, religious and cultural issues that subtend the elaboration of national scenarios will be privileged.

Please send proposals to eunamus3@gmail.com, or Felicity.Bodenstein@univ-paris1.fr by the

23rd of September.

Reference:

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