

Frederikshavn Art Museum and Ex-libris Collection

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Full Length Paper
Accepted 30 January 2017

Abstract

Ex-libris is the closest encounter with art for mankind. In addition to being a mark of property, it is an art form that facilitates swapping and sharing. There are thousands of artists and collectors but very few museums devoted to ex-libris.

With the important collections they have, Frederikshavn in Denmark, Gutenberg in Germany, Saint-Nikolas in Belgium, Moscow in Russia, Mediterraneo in Italy, Shanghai Fuxihanzha in China, Malbork in Poland, Nancy in France, Odessa Lewych in Ukraine and Istanbul Ex-libris Museum in Turkey are the world's major ex-libris museums. The most important museum that managed to reach wide audiences after sharing its collection on the digital environment as well, is the Frederikshavn Art Museum and Ex-libris Collection.

Keywords: Ex-libris; Museum; Collection; Local Governments; Digital Environment



Oleg Denisenko



Gennady Pugachevsky



Museum Gallery

Museums are places where the world heritage is protected. The mission of modern museums is to educate the public, and ensure its social and cultural development. In the ICOM (International Council of Museums) regulations, a museum is defined as a “permanent non-profit establishment at the service of society and its development, open to public, which collects, preserves, researches, communicates and displays tangible and intangible heritage of humanity and its environment for education, study and entertainment purposes.” <http://icom.museum/the-vision/museum-definition/>

Local governments are the most competent bodies in the fulfillment of cultural tasks and services, and can take the most appropriate decisions particularly for the protection of cultural relics. Local governments, under the duties and powers given to them by legislations offer a variety of services to meet the cultural needs of the citizens. (Öztaş, Zengin, 2008, p.155)

In many countries, local governments take responsibility and provide support for the establishment of some museums and are contributing financially.

It is a fact that such services by local governments contribute substantially to the promotion of the cities. Especially a specialized museum that has a good collection can become the center of attraction not only for the local population but also for fans at the international level. People are prepared to travel for miles to see different museums. For those interested in ex-libris, Frederikshavn Art Museum and Ex-libris Collection in Denmark is one of these. As is known, ex-libris are small original works with the owner’s name and pictures on various topics tagged on the inside cover of the book. It is the link between a book and its owner. The word means “from ...’s library” or “belongs to ...’s library” (Pektas, 2014).



Frederikshavn Museum of Art and Ex-libris Collection

Among the small number of ex-libris museums such as the Gutenberg in Germany, the Sint Niklaas in Belgium, the Moscow in Russia, the Mediterraneo in Italy, the Shanghai Fuxihanzha in China, the Malbork in Poland, the Nancy Library of France, the Odessa Lewych in Ukraine and the Istanbul Ex-libris Museum in Turkey, the most important one that has the largest collection is the Frederikshavn Art Museum and Ex-libris Collection.

Established in 1987 under the leadership of ex-libris collector Klaus Rödel and friends with the support of the municipality of Frederikshavn, the Frederikshavn Museum has a collection of over 500,000 pieces of original ex-libris and a library with 7,000 books. The museum is located between the Frederikshavn's city library and swimming pool. Displays have been placed to draw attention to the route between these social areas, and public attention has been successfully captured with the exhibited ex-libris.



Kay Voigtmann



Marina Richter



Klaus Rödel and ex-libris showcases



Catalogs from Turkey in museum library



Donated ex-libris groups and boxes

In the museum, there is a large basement and gallery floors that contains collections and where ex-libris are photographed and documented. Every year, in addition to the nearly 20 ex-libris exhibitions, 6 to 8 different local artist's work and international contemporary art exhibitions are held in the museum. The museum's ex-libris collection consists of ex-libris donated by Hartvig Thomsen, Jensen Tusche, Johny Kohler, Klaus Rödel, P. Th. Albrechtsen and Wolfram Körner as well collected works. Surely leading artists in the world also contribute to such a large collection and send in their ex-libris. The collection includes works of artists from various countries in different techniques and subjects. Ex-libris are being kept in special boxes that include the logos of donors, and the artist's names are sorted in alphabetical order. Each ex-libris entering the museum is being documented through a special camera system and transferred to the computer. The name of the ex-libris artist, country, technique, production year and for whom it was made is recorded. The works are transferred online through meticulous work. And of course, this work is carried out by a group of volunteers. Since the municipality has allocated a large part of its budget to sports and care of the elderly population, it has reduced its contributions to the museum recently.



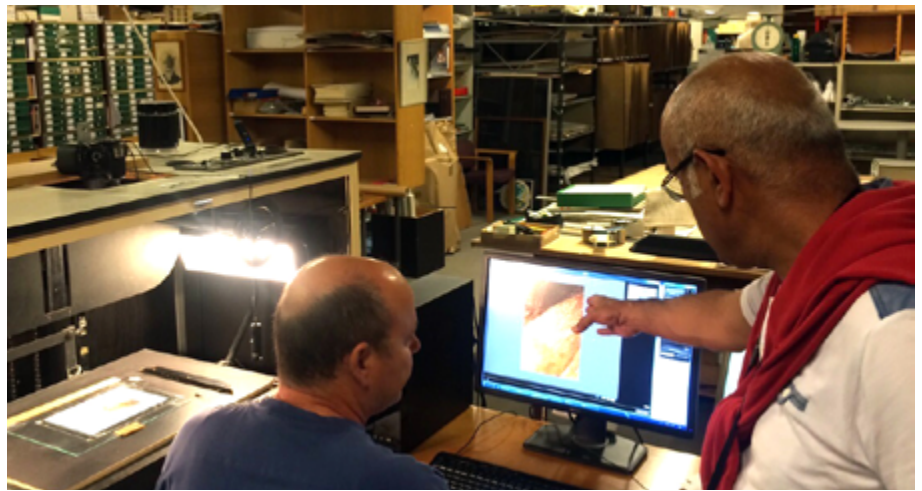
Detlef Olschewski



Book and gift sales department



Museum entry



The part where ex-libris are photographed and transferred to the computer

Books, catalogs, ex-libris and gift products located in the entrance to the museum are also sold on the internet. A large bronze mask decorates the museum's facade overlooking the main street to draw attention to the museum. This mask symbolizes the cooperation with the Danish Ex-libris Association founded in 1941, which contributes to the museum with close to 100 members.

Frederikshavn is a port city in north-east Denmark with a population of 23,000. The city of Aalborg to the south can be reached by plane, and has train connections to Frederikshavn. The Frederikshavn Ex-libris Museum

located at 16 Parallevej Street is open between the hours of 10-16 except on Sundays and Mondays. The entrance fee is 35 DKK. (About 15 TL). More detailed information about the museum can be obtained from <http://frederikshavnkunstmuseum.dk>

Since the goal of the museum is to expand globally and not only inside the country, it has also created an online museum using modern technologies. For this purpose, the museum's collection is regularly transferred to digital media. The Frederikshavn Digital Ex-libris Museum can be followed on art-exlibris.net



Julian Jordanov



art-exlibris.net digital ex-libris museum interface



Karel Benes



Interview with Klaus Rödel

Founded in 2012 with the support of King Christian and Roblon Foundations, art-exlibris.net digital website offers people who are interested the opportunity to see 450,000 original ex-libris. This comprehensive website attracted 4,500 visitors in the first 6 months of its establishment and had over 500,000 visitors so far. The website with examples of ex-libris from 51 countries is used by artists and collectors for 110 countries. The most intensive usage is from Germany, USA and Denmark. In the collection split into periods dating back to the 1700s, searches can be performed by ex-libris artist, owner, subject, technique and period. It is possible to scan many subjects such as abstract, coat of arms, super ex-libris, music, mythology, nude, astrology, women, technology, architecture, erotic, art, owl, theater, circus, insects, trees, books, butterflies, swans, portrait, typography, calligraphy, wine, cats, children, religion, flowers, sea, romance, antique, medicine, forestry, marine, landscape, war, sports, science, dance, world, dragons, death, devil, boat, Don Quixote, and Hermes. There are also a number of language options. The website is updated 5-6 times per year.

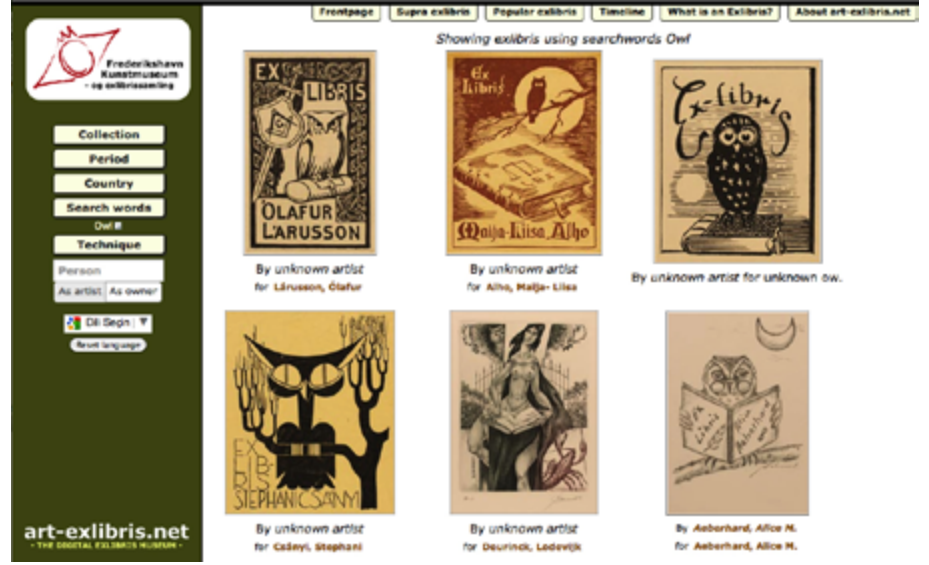
Ex-libris is widely used and collected in many countries, especially in European countries, Russia, China, and Japan. It gives its owner a privilege. People with ex-libris in their book are be delighted to have a special work



Mauricio Schvarzman



Josef Weiser. Ex-libris and printing block



art-exlibris.net digital ex-libris museum owl ex-libris page

designed on their behalf. Those with collections show their wealth with works containing cultural and historic characteristics of their period, and increase their prestige through sharing them. The best place for sharing ex-libris, which allows plenty of creativity for the artists, are museums and websites. Museums, instead of waiting for the arrival of visitors themselves, continue to be attractions by organizing temporary exhibitions, through panel discussions and conferences, and organizing workshops. It is possible to reach the masses with an effective promotional campaign, via social media channels, or transferring the museum's collection to digital media. One of the museums that has been most successful in this regard is the Frederikshavn Art Museum and Ex-libris Collection.

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