

## **ANDREJ KMEŤ AWARD AND TITLE OF MUSEUM OF THE YEAR**

On June 17<sup>th</sup> 2019 in the Hall of the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic, the Minister of Culture of the Slovak Republic, Ľ. Laššáková, awarded the title of the Museum of the Year 2018 and the Andrej Kmeť Award.

The Museum of the Year competition evaluates important artefacts in the collections of the competing museum, their level of research activity and their methods for improving the protection of collections and for restoring important works from the collection. Assessment criteria include the level of the exhibitions, the public's interest in events and their promotion in the media. In the 16<sup>th</sup> edition of the Museum of the Year competition, the City Museum of Bratislava received the title for 2018 for the following activities: for restoring a set of photographs from the legacy of Ján Nepomuk Batka. This was a project involving the specialised treatment of a set of 250 historical photographs, which forms part of the extensive photographic legacy, the only one of its kind, left by Bratislava's city archivist and organiser of cultural and especially musical life in the city in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century; for the exhibition "Generation to generations" devoted to the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the foundation of the City Museum of Bratislava and describing the context of the museum's history during the socio-political changes which Bratislava was going through and for the project "Devote 30 minutes of fame to the City Museum of Bratislava", a cycle of events which introduced ten thematic museums which are part of the City Museum of Bratislava in a new, joint presentation during the whole of 2018.

The prestigious Andrej Kmeť Award is named after the founder of Slovak museology. Andrej Kmeť (1841–1908), a Catholic priest, organiser of scientific life in Slovakia, national collector and researcher, founder and first president of the Slovak Museum Society, was largely responsible for the creation of the Slovak National Museum. He worked in the fields of ethnology, folklore studies,

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archeology, etymology as well as botany and mineralogy. His organisational work helped improve individuals and sites in several regions of Slovakia. He maintained professional contacts with numerous foreign researchers, with whom he discussed the results of his research. His professional and personal authority was reflected in the cycle of narratives which were told after his death as part of the regional narrative repertoire.

The Andrej Kmeť Award, awarded following a nomination from the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic, the Association of Museums in Slovakia, the Council of Galleries in Slovakia and the Council for the Preservation of Intangible Cultural Heritage, was given to six personalities: to Mgr. Helena Němcová for the protection and renewal of cultural heritage in the field of fine art research and museology and for the development of regional art history, to Mgr. Danica Zmetáková for the salvage, professional treatment and publication of collections and works of fine art from the 19<sup>th</sup> century and the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, to Mgr. Jozef Moravčík for his life-long contribution to the protection and preservation of archaeological cultural heritage and in the fields of ethnology and folklore studies: to PhDr. Klaudia Bugarová for her many years of professional work in the field of ethnology, her important publication activity and the popularisation of the results of her research, to PhDr. Soňa Burlasová, DrSc. for her significant contribution to Slovak folklore studies in the field of research into folk song as part of intangible cultural heritage, and to PhDr. Stanislav Dúžek, CSc. for his significant contribution to Slovak ethnochoreology in the field of the research, documentation and presentation of traditional folklore dance.

*Hana Hlůšková*