

Abstract:

The aim of this thesis is firstly to deal with the emergence and development of museums on the Korean peninsula and since 1948 only in the Republic of Korea. Secondly it aims to concentrate on their educational activities. The very first modern museum in Korea called the Imperial Museum was established at the beginning of the 20th century. A year after the museum opened its door to the public, Korea was annexed by Japan. That had a great impact on the development of the first museums in Korea. After the liberation from Japanese rule in 1945 the museums were handed over to Koreans. Museum activity had only just begun when the Korean War broke out. The focus of the following part is the National Museum of Korea (NMK), the most important museum in South Korea. For most of its history the museum moved from one place to another. In 2005 it finally found its place in a newly built modern building in Seoul's district called Jongsan. By taking NMK as an example the thesis explores the museum educational activities. It offers a closer look at programs for foreigners and the growing number of immigrants and senior citizens, popular lecture series, wide range of guided tours etc. Finally, some exhibition projects are introduced.

Keywords:

Korean museums, National Museum of Korea, museum education, educational programs, exhibitions