

Museum of Camel as Scientific, Educational and Cultural Institution

I. Arnautovic and A. Dzuvic

Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Sarajevo, Bosnia & Herzegovina.

ABSTRACT

Museums are specific cultural institutions that collect, preserve and expose art works, objects from the past, flora and fauna, rocks, minerals and fossils that have witnessed the development of the society or a civilization through various periods of its history. It was proposed to establish the Museum (or Institute) of the One-Humped Camel, a characteristic animal species in anatomical, physiological and many other aspects. Despite the research done on the camel, various features of its anatomy, physiology and pathology need elucidation.

The museum shall have scientifically prepared normal and pathological organs of various systems in different camel diseases displayed in a modern and attractive manner, by using different techniques. A separate parasitological section will be also established. All products from different structures of a camel's body would be also displayed in a separate section.

The Museum (or research center) could include laboratories for the study of different aspects of the camel (Anatomy, Physiology, Pathology, etc.) This center could be used by undergraduate students working on special projects on camel and graduate students working on M.Sc. and Ph.D. thesis. The center could have also its own library, with literature and books - scientific, cultural and educational - related to the camel.

Key Words: Museum, Education, Camel.

The Museum

Museum collections are treasures of immense cultural and scientific value. Ancient Helen's gave the name "museion" to the temples of cultural, scientific and art works. International Committee of Museums (ICOM) was founded in 1946 as a special UNESCO Organization, with a mission to activate and modernize operation of galleries and museums all over the world (its headquarters is in Paris). All members of the UN have organized their own national committees following the guidelines of the "ICOM". Economically, a one-humped camel (*Camelus Dromedarius*) is an important animal for the people's sustenance, particularly in semi-arid and desert areas of the world. The camel is used for different purposes, riding, as a pack animal, milk, meat and hair, among other things.

The camel has been referred to in the Holy Qur'an as follows: Do they not look at the camel how they are created" (Sura 88, Ajet 17). This reference from the Qur'an highlights the outstanding quality of the camel, a domestic species used for thousands of years by the people in Asia, Africa and South America. Neither the cow nor the horse, nor any other animal used by other pastoral people could take the place of the camel in the arid steppes and deserts. The camel is well adapted to these climatic conditions and is aptly called the "ship of the desert".

The camel has left a great impact on the way of life of Bedouins and still continues to be the only means of transport, providing milk, meat, etc. to the people dwelling in the vast desert areas. In addition, its skin is used for shoe making, its hair for making clothes, ropes and tents and hand made carpets. Their feces is utilized as fuel, its tendons and blood vessels as a material for sewing, etc.

The Museum could be unique in the world. It will not be just a simple collection of bones and other specimens, but will depict and display how the camel, through its structural adaptations, is well adapted to the semi-desert and desert climate and also how it was associated with Arab culture through the history of its domestication. Besides, the Museum (or research center) would not be only a scientific, educational and cultural institute; it would be also a tourist attraction. It could become a temple of art and science. The joint work of all scientists and specialists on the camel should be

compiled and displayed here in such a way that a tourist-visitor can be acquainted with Arab culture and civilization. In addition, the Museum could serve the pupils and students of the country (and foreigners as well) with their teachers, expanding their knowledge on camel.

The architectural concept of the museum design

Still on an undefined location, we have made a space concept, which with its function should correspond, to the requirements of a modern museum, dedicated to a specific and important domestic animal, such as the camel. All camel, linked segments would be displayed, from the living space to the tiniest cell structure and the camel's specific organs. The fundamental concept of the museum is placed on a square base with the pyramidal volumes, overlapping each other. The entrance has been planned on one side of the unused square base angle, and on the other side an "oasis", which the camel can never miss on her long desert journeys.

The museum space has been planned on two levels - entrance ground level and the gallery. The attending management office, a laboratory for preparing exhibits, as well as a scientific research unit is located on the subterranean level. Two lecture and seminar halls are on the subterranean level too. Museum displays are supposed to be organized on the modern update scale with all available technological achievements for presentation. The museum is constructively designed as an expanse steel composition of columns, ceilings, roofs combined with concrete subterranean elements. All of the museum area is to be equipped with an air-conditioner system, with a particular emphasis on the exhibition unit.

Architecturally, the museum is designed as a sort of two pyramidal volumes, which always offer the new space correlation depending on view position. Its silhouette sometimes gives the impression of a two-humped camel and sometimes it reminds one of the Bedouin tent. The general arrangement of the inside of the museum will be as clear and simple as the life of the camel. The access to the museum is designed as a yard in which, a space is arranged filled with sand and a rich green oasis, simulating the camel natural environment. So, that the visitor could experience the philosophy of the desert life and feel the urge to know more about

the camel and its secrets. The visitor, while going through various carefully arranged sections of the museum, should feel himself as one of the inhabitants who moved freely through the desert with the camel as a faithful friend.

The visitor, on leaving the museum, shall enter a basement hall where film projections on the camel and its life, as well as lectures and seminars could be arranged. Places for tea and refreshments, a lounge and the store are foreseen in the yard garden. The use of material is strongly reduced: opaque hard aluminum, reflex glass and stone subterranean level. The professional selection and the preparation of specimens of different systems of the camel would be performed by the Professors of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Sarajevo - Ibrahim Arnautovic and Abdulah Dzuvic with a few technicians. The idea and performance of the architectural concept of the Project of the Camel Museum were made by an architect engineer Mr. Ahmed Dzuvic. Drawings and CAD were prepared by an architect Mr. Riad Drino. The realization of the Museum's building would be made by an appropriate company from Bosnia and Herzegovina.