

SUMMARY

MUSÉE NATIONAL DE LA MARINE'S COLLECTIONS: MANAGEMENT AND ENRICHMENT, Jean-Noel Gard, Musée National de la Marine, Paris, France

1- Context

Created in 1748, MnM collections are among the oldest in the world. The museum itself was created in 1827 in Le Louvre and remained there until 1939 when it was transferred to the Palais de Chaillot where it is today.

Originally, collections consisted of around 60 dockyard models. During the 19th century, several new areas were opened including ethnography, navigation instruments, painting or merchant navy items. Today no subject is excluded from our field.

At the same time, in each dockyard, there was a model workshop with an associated exhibition room. All were linked to MnM in 1947. The number of these port museums increased to 15. Now there are 4 port museums;

During this time, over some 30 years, the French maritime museum landscape evolved highly with the creation of several dozen maritime or river museums, cultural organisations and associations. It's a general movement about heritage in France. Now, a real network of maritime heritage does exist and that is not without influence on our enrichment policy.

2- Our enrichment policy

We have to :

- ✓ enrich existing collections with a two-pronged approach: thematically (navy or fishing for example) and by the type of artefact (i.e. models, real boats, painting or uniforms)

- ✓ open new fields as we did with toy boats. Remember photography was first for documentation; now it is collection

- ✓ determine today what is tomorrow's heritage. It is one of our biggest challenges. For instance: what do we preserve about today's navigation instruments? What is representative of GPS? We need to identify milestones.

- ✓ know other museums' collections and coordinate with them

- ✓ at the end, take into account new technologies, particularly multimedia, to determine how we will deal with collections, and how we will deal with multimedia for example