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PERIODIZATION OF NATURAL HISTORY MUSEOLOGY IN THE CONTEXT OF THE EUROPEAN HISTORY OF NATURAL SCIENCES

Summary

The present paper is devoted to the determination of periodization of the natural history museology in the light of development of natural sciences in Europe. The aim of this research is to highlight the history of creation of natural history museums through the prism of development of natural sciences, and to formulate criteria for periodization of the European natural history museology. The historiography and the source base on the discussed issue are analyzed. Examples of scientific conceptions proposed by different authors concerning the periodization of the natural history museology are presented.

The object and subject of the natural history museology are outlined and the definition of natural history museology is given as well. It is emphasized that the incipience of the natural history museology is closely related to the history of development of natural sciences. The historical process of gradual transformation of the first collected materials of natural origin into natural history museums is analyzed. The reason for such transformation was the cultural and scientific development of the society. The present paper also provides a brief historical survey on the formation of the scientific thought in the field of museology in general, and of natural history museology in particular. It is proved that the periodization of museology can be correct only for certain territories for a clearly outlined historical period. We propose here our own periodization of natural history museology for Europe.

The research methodology we used included the historical approach to studying the problems of museology, the general historical and logical methods, and the principle of objectivity. During studying the creation and development of concepts in museology, the comparative historical and the retrospective methods were used as well.

Key words: *natural history museology, periodization, Europe, natural history museums, the history of natural history collections, natural science.*