



Orpheus – Filipović
 Mijo Filipović, founder of the Zoolet, in the role of the mythical Greek musician Orpheus who charmed the animals to the strains of his magical lyre
 The caricature was created for the benefit meeting Merry Zagreb Fair which was held in the Zagreb Old Fair on Sunday, May 29, 1927.
 Menci Clement Crnčić, Zagreb, 1927
 mixed media, 224 x 290 cm
 ZCM

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23.7. - 29.11.2015.

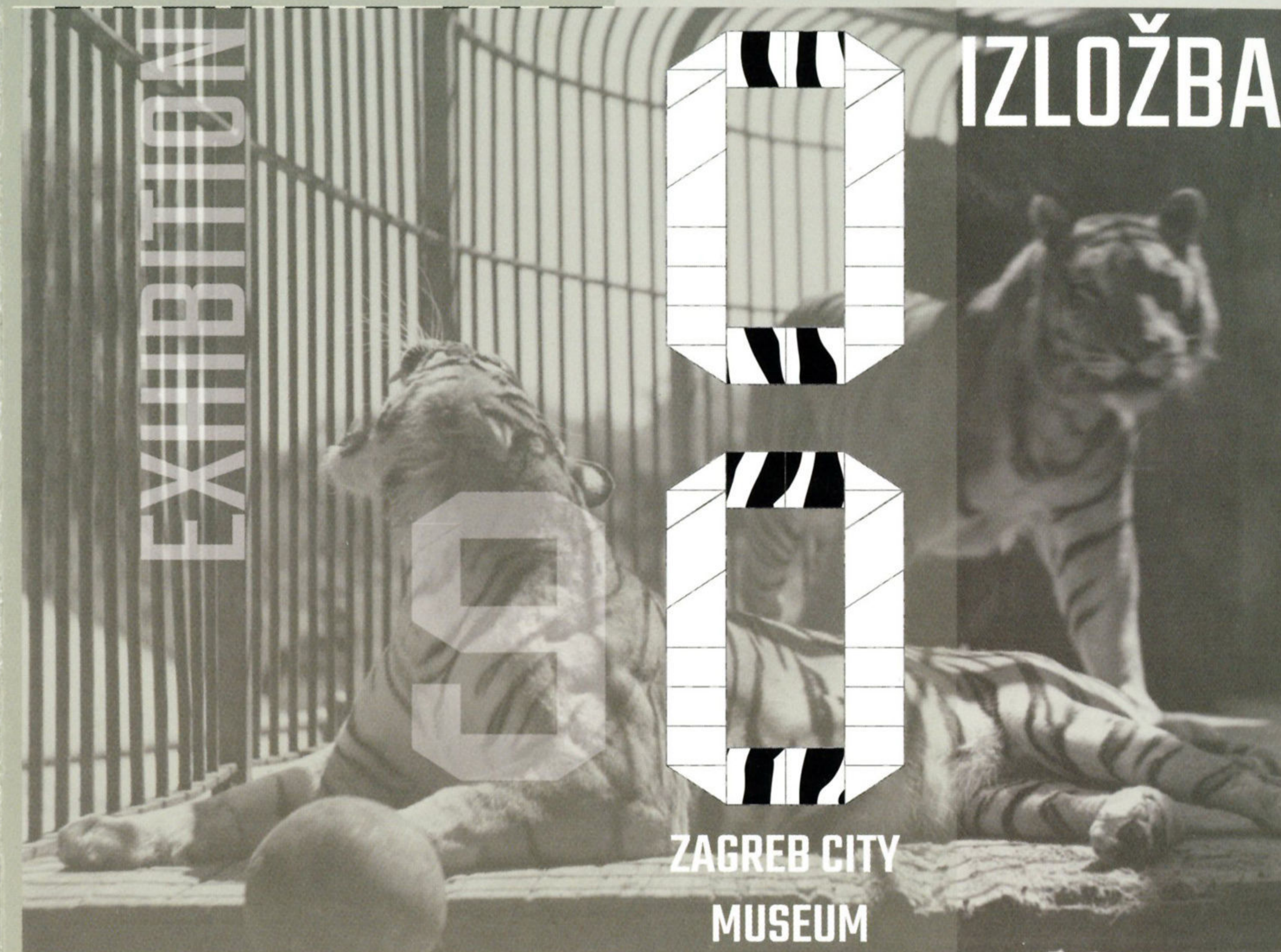
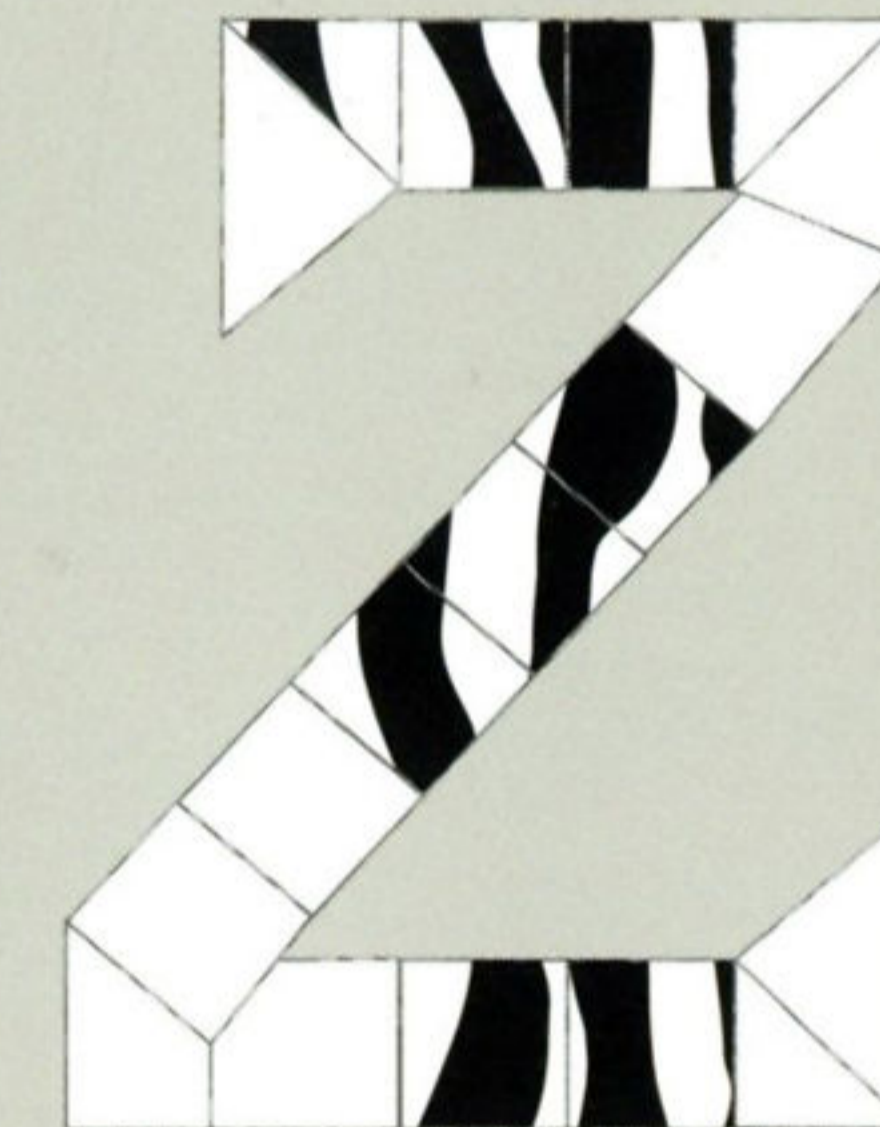
ZOOLOŠKI VRT

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1925. - 2015.

MUZEJ GRADA ZAGREBA

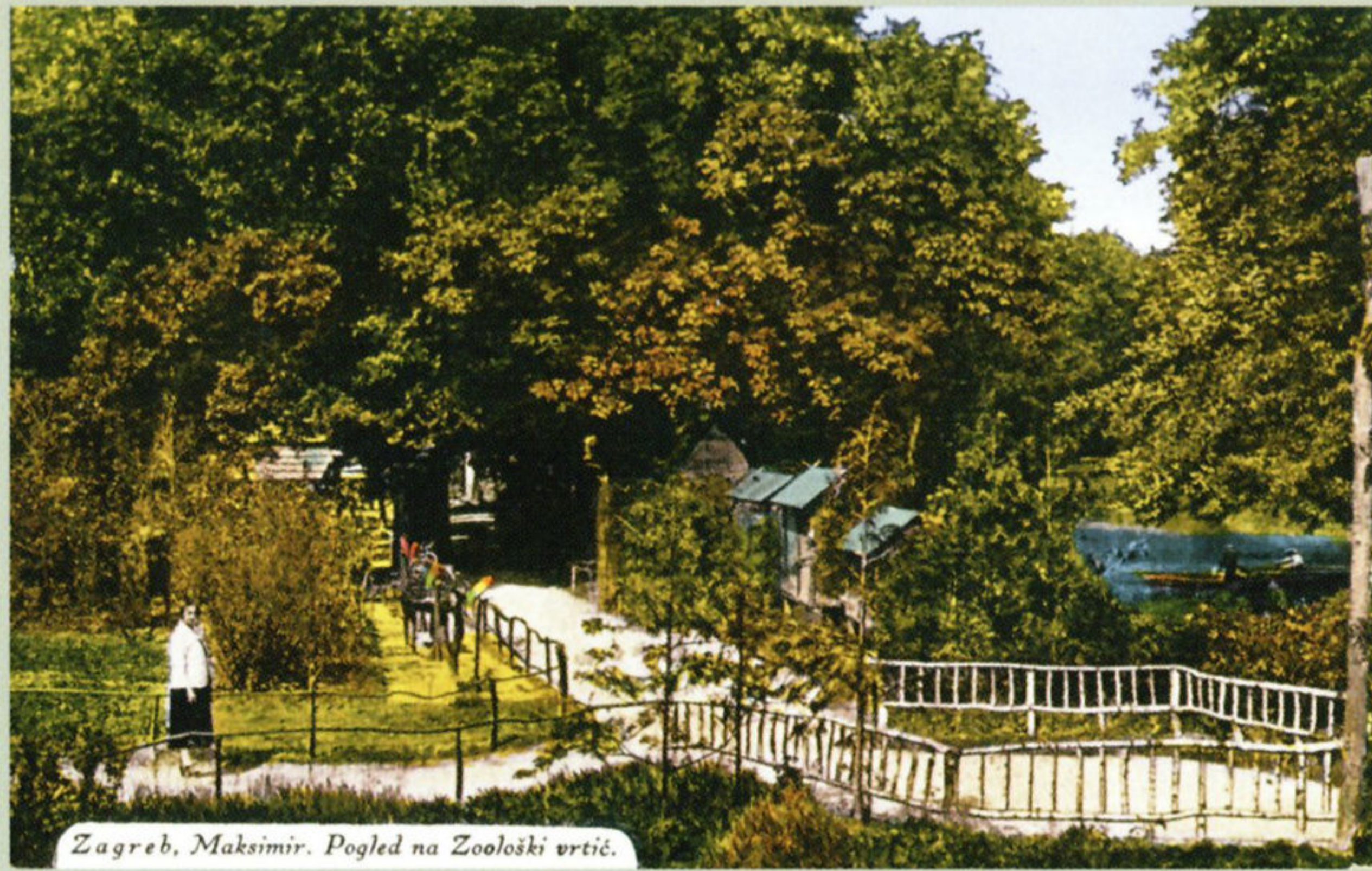
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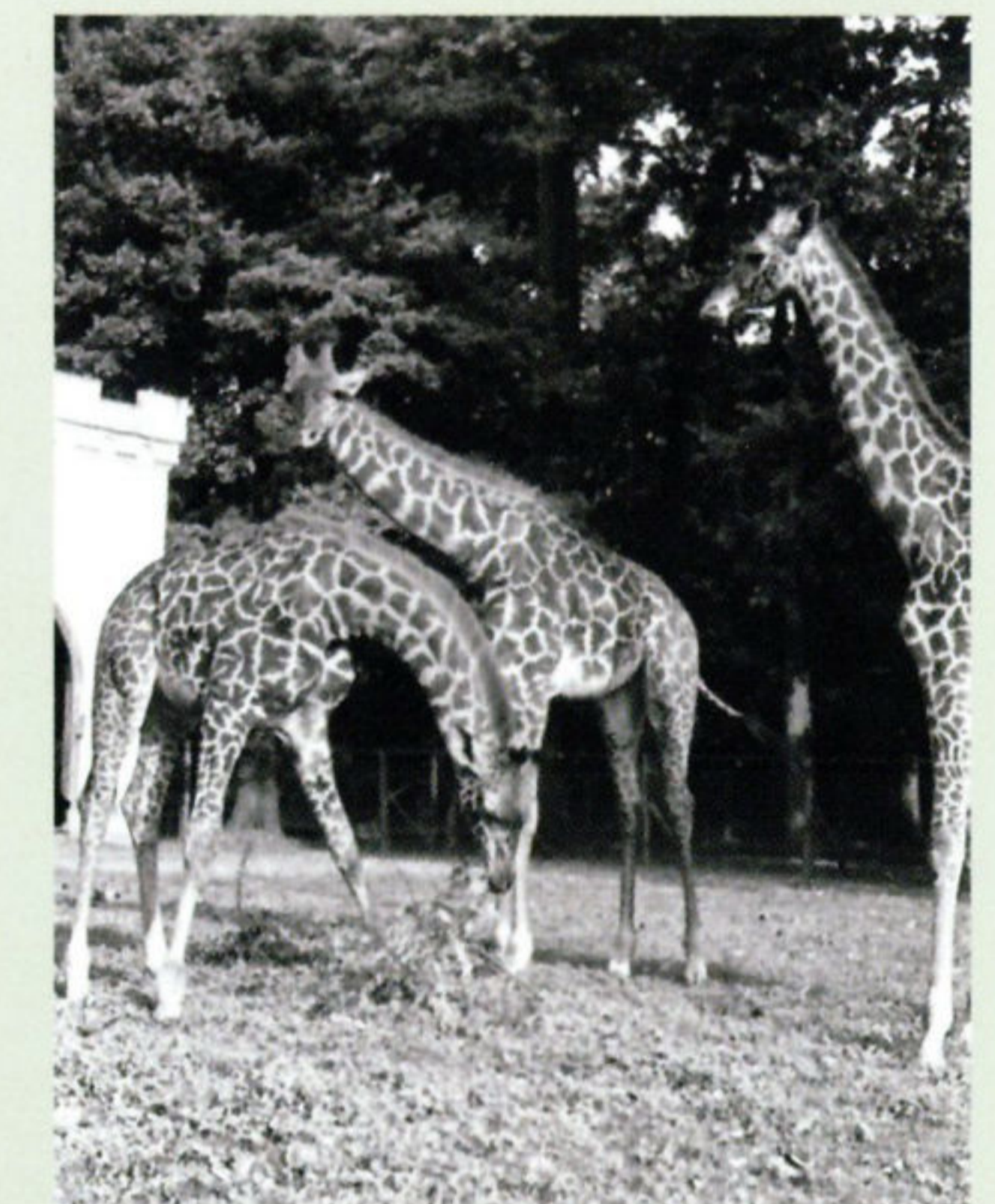
About the Exhibition

Its position and importance have made the Zagreb Zoological Garden during its 90 years of history a circumstance that cannot be overlooked in the formation of the image of the identity of Zagreb.

It was opened on June 27, 1925, in Maksimir Park, due to the advocacy of Mijo Filipović, the founder, with the help of the then Mayor of Zagreb, Vjekoslav Heinzl. The first few years could be called the Romantic period, since the garden was formed - with the acquisition of animals, the expansion of the grounds and the building of the houses - with the unstinting support of the citizenry, of friends and convinced enthusiasts, arguing for and supporting the initiatives urging the need for the existence in Zagreb of such a cultural and educational institution.

From the very outset and during its ninety years of existence, the Zoological Garden has attracted a large number of curiosity seekers, Zagreb people and visitors to the city. At the same time, it has gone through periods of greater and lesser good fortune. The current exhibition, created on research into original archival records, extensive existing photographic documentation by professionals and amateurs, objects collected from other, similar, establishments and in collaboration with the Zoological Garden of the City of Zagreb, will give ample evidence of all this. Through the story of the Zoological Garden told through the exhibition medium, the coexistence of people and animals and of animals and their keepers will be followed, taking in the visitors, the wardens responsible for the working of the garden and their many assistants, thanks to whom the garden was constantly updated.

Three key periods are marked by the organisations of the garden undertaken firstly in the 1930s and then in the 1950s, and the third phase that started in the 1990s and is still ongoing. During



the historical development, each of these three periods was marked by some spatial, building or architectural arrangement of the garden, or the development of modern animal houses. The exhibition will in great part refer to the media coverage of news items in the Zoo, in the daily press and in the many reels of film material that recorded the setting, the atmosphere and life in the garden, from the first film made in 1926 until the current day.

The attractions of the garden, the arrival of the first exotic animals and the recreation of the context of their lives in the garden - the first monkey, the first lion, the first elephant, the first giraffe, the first sea lions - are just some of the tales to be seen at the exhibition. And almost always there are also the people the animals made friends with, from Mijo Filipović, the first "Orpheus" of the Zoological Garden in Zagreb to all the other friendships made with the animals.

The specific medium of the exhibition enables the contents presented to be easily communicated; it stimulates interest and involves big and small visitors, who, directly or indirectly, through three generations, right until the present day, have been able to encompass their adventures, emotions and experiences connected with the Zoo. The playroom programme for children, which is a component part of the exhibition, was prompted by a toy, the Zoological Garden puzzle from the holdings of the Museum, which was once very popular, and could be bought in the shop of Mavro Drucker, Ilica 29, Zagreb, in the 1920s.

Željka Kolveshi