

## **ON THE TRACE AFTER OUR MESSAGE FROM PARIS**

### **OUR COUNTRY DOES EVERYTHING, TO STOP THE SELLOUT OF THE ERICH SLOMOVIC COLLECTION TO THE RICH**

Slomovic' s collection belongs to Yugoslavia!

Belgrade - The collection of 190 paintings of the art collector, the Yugoslav citizen Erich Slomovic, which came recently from that Paris bank "Societe Generale", where it was kept still since the year 1940, to the daylight and was fixed for an auction at the 19. and 20 April, belongs Yugoslavia! This message and its explanation we received from the director of the national museum in Belgrade Jevto Jevtovic. The national museum in Belgrade has around 300 works from Slomovic's collection and it is already accepted, that the part remained in Paris could not be brought to Yugoslavia during the raving days at the beginning of the Second World War.

Slomovic - a Belgradian

After the message from of Paris that an auction was fixed, the responsible federation and the national organs of Serbia have appropriate measures undertaken. Thus upon the request of the public prosecutor's office of the SR Serbia the first district court in Belgrade, as responsible court introduced, a probate procedure concerning Slomovic's Paris collection. One assumed with undisputed fact, that Slomovic was a Yugoslav citizen and its last firm domicile was in Belgrade (Dobracina Nr.35). Then the public prosecutor's office of Serbia contacted our diplomatic-consular organs to contact the diplomatic-consular agency to France, for the protection of the interests of the Yugoslav citizen Erich Slomovic, and to sent the responsible French authorities a note, in which among other things an attitude of the fixed auction was requested. Because the testator was Erich Slomovic of Yugoslav citizens and its domicile in our Country, both Yugoslav and French regulations plan the competence of Yugoslav courts and application of Yugoslav laws during the deduction negotiation. We got this explanation from our expert, who is responsible for deduction relations in foreign countries.

### **WHO WAS SLOMOVIC?**

For the unexpected discovery of the secret which was protected four decades over the fact that in that "Societe Generale" Erich Slomovic 190 paintings from its large collection had kept, showed not only French but also Yugoslav public interest in this unusual art collecting and man. So far a few people knew that the national museum contained an important collection of Erich Slomovic' - about 300 paintings with oil, pastels, designs and diagrams - in Belgrade, about which 50 of the most important works is issued constantly. The fact is to be considered that the specific and impressive kind of the selection of the works of this collection is own, only for collectors with spirit and knowledge, and such was Erich Slomovic. A exceptional person from our - not only from our - middle. Belgradian (born in the year 1915), art historian with special feeling for authentic works of art. Slomovic travelled in the thirties to Paris. There he became a secretary and coworker of the famous art dealer

Ambroise Vollard, The personal friend of many French impressionists and the most important representative of Paris school. In this environment also Slomovic begins to develop its own collection of great French artists.

## PROPERTY OF STATE

In Slomovic's collection in the national museum in Belgrade are today works of all large French painters, impressionists, fauvists and cubists. Among them also 44 works of Renoir, 29 of Degas etc. otherwise the way of this collection up to the national museum was very unusual. Since fascism over Europe prevailed and Slomovic of Jewish origin was, he returned in the year 1939 with the part of its valuable collection to Belgrade. In the year 1940 he organized a large exhibition of his collection in Zagreb, in the house of the art with a beautifully made catalog. The exhibition contained 429 works. Among them 187 paintings, sculptures and ceramics as well as copper passes, wood arts, lithographs, original compositions and illustrations. During the war he lived legally in Serbia, but still in the year 1943 he fell the fascist terror to the victim. After the war two probate court procedures were led first in the 50's in Zagreb and afterwards in the 60's in Belgrade, whereby the five further relatives of the collecting tank tried to out-fight the requirement on inheritance. After the resolution of the court the collection became property of the state and came into the national museum to Belgrade. Mos'a Pijade, our important revolutionary and painter estimated the Slomovic much and made haven-guessed/advised before the war of it.