

Call for papers

THE SCHOOL ON DISPLAY

The role of educational exhibitions in the development of the school market between the 19th and 20th centuries

As well known, thanks to the observations initiated first by María del Mar del Pozo Andrés (1983) and then through an international seminar organised in 2007 by the CEINCE-Centro Internacional de la Cultura Escolar in Berlanga de Duero, Spain, a new track of investigation dedicated to Universal Exhibitions has been opened in educational historiography. As highlighted in the proceedings of the seminar (Lawn, 2009) it can be considered as a place that advocates the future or rather which the presence of educational materials makes it possible to discover “the signs of the future” with respect to the development of a particular school industry and its educational policies. From that moment a new branch of studies began. Dedicated to investigating the link between Universal Exhibitions of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries and the evolution of the production of teaching aids, making it a “field of historiographical analysis in which we are shown scholastic material and their representations as a new record for cultural history in an ethnographic and hermeneutic perspective” (Escolano Benito, 2012: 151).

Alongside the major Universal Exhibitions (Dussel, 2007; Lawn & Grosvenor, 2005; Dittrich, 2011 y 2013; Matasci, 2015; Trigueros-Gordillo & Rubio-Mayoral, 2018; Viola, 2018; Brunelli, 2020), it has become clear that even educational exhibitions of a more strictly national or local character have the ability to offer us elements of great interest for the interpretation of the history of the scholastic materials of a given period and to have new pieces that nourish and complete the wider panorama of historical-educational research (Rico Mansard, 2004; D’Ascenzo & Vignoli, 2008; Meda, 2010 y 2016; Durán Rodríguez, 2012; Barausse, 2020; Pizzigoni, 2022).

Actually, sometimes the different levels – international, national and local exhibitions – intertwine with each other, they do not only feed each other (for example, objects awarded in a local educational exhibition that are shown internationally or vice versa) but they also allow us to reconstruct intertwining, contacts, areas of impact, economic-commercial relations between different countries or different companies, destiny of authors and their inventions that expand the knowledge of scenarios capable of overcoming the specific place and the moment of the exhibition to become part of the policies (not only educational) that go to determine the material culture of a specific historical moment or a given reality.

Indeed, these Exhibitions - being at the time of their realization the representation of the most innovative elements of the society in which they were organised, real “display” of innovation at school - allow us today to grasp their significance through various interpretative keys: from the functions that were intended to be attributed to certain teaching aids based on the new pedagogical-methodological directions, to the “movements” in that productive sector (origin

of new objects, new producers, new exchange relationships, etc.) and even enabling us to study, through the educational materiality of a particular period, the interests of those who were involved in schooling and discussing it at that time (political decision-makers, representatives of economic interests, pedagogical and master associations, etc.).

Cabás' call for papers therefore intends to continue the investigation dedicated to the heuristic potential of Exhibitions by focusing specifically on educational exhibitions. These can be explored at different levels, both in terms of the institutions that organise them and with respect to the geographical radius of impact of the exhibitions themselves:

- the presence of educational exhibitions within the framework of large universal exhibitions;
- the presence of school and didactic objects within the national exhibitions;
- regional, provincial, or municipal educational exhibitions;
- educational exhibitions organized by associations, institutions, organizations and schools;
- educational exhibitions dedicated to a specific subject, a specific school grade, a specific category of products;
- the presence of schools and educational objects in the context of trade fairs.

These Exhibitions can be investigated from various research perspectives: from the analysis of the didactic objects displayed to the organization in exhibition classes (which reflects not only a pedagogical but often also political and organizational thought), from the promoters to the analysis of the exhibitors, from the appointed figures to the organization of the jury members, from the respective awards to the final reports, from the catalogs to the conferences organized during the exhibition and so on.

The objective of each contribution will be to provide knowledge of an exhibition reality dedicated to education, the specifics that constitutes its identity and at the same time the heuristic contribution it can offer regarding the overarching theme of educational exhibitions in Europe and in the world between the Nineteenth and Twentieth centuries.

SCIENTIFIC COORDINATION:

Juri MEDA (University of Macerata, Italy)

Francesca Davida PIZZIGONI (University of Turin, Italy)

ACCEPTED LANGUAGES:

The special issue will be published entirely in **English**.

RECEIPT OF PROPOSALS:

- Deadline for submission of proposals for articles: **1st December 2024**
- Notice of Acceptance: **31 January 2025**

- Delivery of final contributions: **30 June 2025**
- Publication of the monographic number: **December 2025**

STRUCTURE OF THE ABSTRACT:

The abstract of the proposal must contain a maximum of 2,000 characters (spaces included) and can be sent in English, Castilian or Italian, including:

- First and last name of the author(s)
- Institutional affiliation of the author(s)
- E-mail address of the author(s)
- Title
- Keywords (max. 5)

SENDING THE PROPOSAL:

The proposal must be sent by e-mail to: cabas@ehu.eus

A maximum of one article proposal per author will be allowed, even if made in collaboration with others.

Sending the article, template and rules: the loading of the final article must be carried out using the dedicated space on the *Cabás. Revista Internacional sobre Patrimonio Histórico Educativo* web page, following the rules indicated on the page itself: <https://ojs.ehu.eus/index.php/cabas>.

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