

= National Museum of Vietnamese History =

The National Museum of Vietnamese History (Vietnamese : Vi?n B?o tàng L?ch s? Vi?t Nam ; Hán t? : ???????) is located in the Hoan Kiem district of Hanoi , Vietnam . The museum building which was an archaeological research institution of the French School of the Far East under French colonial rule (Louis Finot École française d 'Extrême @-@ Orient EFEO) of 1910 , was extensively refurbished in 1920 . It was redesigned between 1926 and 1932 by architect Ernest Hébrard . The museum was acquired by the Government of Vietnam in 1958 and then the artifact collections were expanded to cover eastern arts and national history .

The museum highlights Vietnam 's prehistory (about 300 @,@ 000 ? 400 @,@ 000 years ago) up to the August 1945 Revolution . It has over 200 @,@ 000 exhibits displayed covering items from prehistory up to the 1947 revolution and founding of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam , arranged in five major sections .

= Location =

The museum is situated at the back of the Hanoi Opera House . It is in 1 Trang Tien Street , 216 Tran Quang Khai Street , Hanoi .

= History =

The museum building used to be the archaeological research institution of the French School of the Far East under French colonial rule (Louis Finot École française d 'Extrême @-@ Orient EFEO) , which opened in 1910 . This was extensively refurbished in 1920 , and redesigned between 1926 and 1932 by the architect Ernest Hébrard . It is considered a blend of French colonial and traditional Vietnamese architecture , also called Indochina architecture . The museum was acquired by the Government of Vietnam in 1958 and then the artifact collections were expanded to cover eastern arts and national history . It was formally opened for public viewing on 3 September 1958 . The museum 's exhibits highlight Vietnam 's prehistory (about 300 @,@ 000 ? 400 @,@ 000 years ago) up to the August 1945 Revolution .

= Features =

The museum is housed in a colonial French building which is a cupola shaped edifice in the shape of a pagoda . The design of the building is an amalgamation of French and Chinese architecture known as Indochina architecture . The building designed by Hebrard , incorporates double walls and balconies for a natural ventilation system and protection from sunshine . The exhibition area is more than 2 @,@ 200 square metres (24 @,@ 000 sq ft) with exhibits arranged chronologically . It is divided into five major sections : Section 1 covers period from the prehistoric period from the Stone Age (30 @,@ 000 ? 40 @,@ 000 years) to 4 @,@ 000 ? 5 @,@ 000 years ago ; Section 2 has displays from the time of nation building during the Tran Dynasty ; Section 3 has exhibits from the period of the Ho Dynasty to the August 1945 Revolution ; and Section 4 has artifacts of the Champa stone sculptures . The museum showcases Vietnam 's history with very large collection of about 200 @,@ 000 items , covering the Neolithic age , Bronze age , Sa Hunh , Oc Eo , and Hung periods , Ngyyen dynasty , Cham period , and also northern Vietnam 's Dong Son , a culture which existed about 1000 BC @-@ 100 AD . These exhibits are in the main building . The exhibits highlight communism and depict the rule of the French colonists as cruel .

= Exhibits =

Exhibits in the museum include Hung era and Neolithic mortuaries , Bronze Age implements such as axe heads , and Cham period artifacts . There is an intimidating sculpture of Quan Am , the Goddess of Mercy , which has 1 @,@ 000 eyes and arms . Also on display are the 13 Nguy?n

dynasty emperor 's ornamented throne , dresses and other antiquities . These include the large Dong Son drums , which are symbolic of Vietnamese culture . At ground level the display consist of stone implements , pottery , and ornaments , up to 1400 AD . On the first floor the exhibits pertain to the monarchic reign from the time of the Dinh and Le eras of 900 ADs to Vietnam 's last emperors ; these are decorative items such as a chest of drawers inlaid with mother @-@ of @-@ pearl , cylindrical containers of enamel (these are funerary jars) , ceramics and bright lacquer ware . There is a stele which was found during an archaeological excavation with an inscription at a monument labeled G1 , which is dedicated to God Harivamsesvara by Harivarman I (ca . 1137) is preserved in the museum . The exhibits of new artifacts cover Central Vietnam , Central Highlands , South Vietnam and also an old shipwreck near Cu Lao Cham Island . The museum has signage in English , but this is inadequate to express all that is on display in the museum .

To popularize Vietnam 's history from the past to the present , the Museum administration organized an exhibition of 450 artifacts (416 from 13 Vietnamese museums and the balance from 8 European museums) in Austria and Belgium from September 2003 to November 2004 . The Royal Museum of Arts and History (Kingdom of Belgium) and the Vienna Ethnology Museum (Republic of Austria) were associated with this exhibition , which was titled " Vietnam ? Past and Present . "