



THE ARTIFACTS OF TROPICAL MEDICINE IN THE FUNDAÇÃO OSWALDO MUSEUM COLLECTION

Pedro Paulo Soares *, Inês Santos Nogueira **

* *Museu da Vida – Casa de Oswaldo Cruz/ Fiocruz pedros@fiocruz.br*

** *Museu da Vida – Casa de Oswaldo Cruz/ Fiocruz inesn@fiocruz.br*

Abstract

The purpose of the presentation is to reflect on the processes of organization of the museum collections of Fundação Oswaldo Cruz, under the responsibility of Museu da Vida, questioning the application of research methods for the dissemination of collections. Alongside established practice of preserving a relevant collection that witness the formation and transformation of health fields and biosciences in the last century Brazil, new research routines were introduced in the technical treatment of the collections, emphasizing the formation of extensive documentation related to the artifacts, providing individual and historical narratives. New studies to know the context of uses, materials and functions of objects, besides elucidating the scientific practices, collaborate to increase different forms of public engagement of this cultural and scientific heritage. The production of biographies of artifacts used in scientific activities and process - like those related to yellow fever, American trypanosomiasis and bubonic plague - can be revealing of tensions between the central and peripheral science, intercontinental and regional trade relations, circulation and legitimation of knowledge and practices. This work inaugurates a new approach to improve the communicative actions of the Museu da Vida collections, formulating questions around the cultural heritage of science and reaffirming the vocation of museums as a place of knowledge.