## A MUSEOLOGICAL EVALUATION OF THE MARITIME ARCHAEOLOGY MUSEUM, GALLE

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## Abstract

Museums are important institutions because they house the objects that represent the history of man and his environment. Over the years museums of various types have evolved and each of these museums is unique in its own way. This study attempts to evaluate and appreciate the Maritime Archaeology Museum, which was established in Galle, recently, i.e. in 2010. It is the first of its kind in the South Asian region. There are numerous Maritime Museums in the region though none other than this is concentrated on the Maritime Archaeology in particular. This study is a museological evaluation of this newly established museum. It will describe the museum and critically discuss different aspects of the museum. Aspects like Gallery Planning, Display Objects, Conservation, Security, and Communication are described. It will pay more attention to choice of location and building, choice of objects, museum exhibition, communication means, texts and labels, lighting, security methods, storage, museum's facilities and visitor friendliness. Since this is the maiden Maritime Archaeology Museum in this country, this study will take a look at its location, or differtus access, building as well as the historical background of Maritime Museums in the world. A critical evaluation on museums is very important in the current scenario to determine how far the established museums are important and how they can be improved to provide a more valuable service to the society.