



Prof. Anura Manatunga, Senior Professor in Archaeology, University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka. Director, Centre for Asian Studies of the University of Kelaniya. General Secretary, International Association for Asian Heritage (IAAH). Fellow, Sri Lanka Council of Archaeologists. Formally, Director of the Polonnaruwa Project of the Central Cultural Fund. Honorary Librarian and Council member of the Royal Asiatic Society of Sri Lanka. Head, Department of Archaeology, University of Kelaniya. Vice President and Joint Secretary, Sri Lanka Council of Archaeologists.

Contact : Email id : am@kln.ac.lk

Telephone/Fax: +94 112908779

The museum as a repository for modern materials: Theoretical basis and practical issues

The Museum is a place for exhibiting objects of natural and cultural origin. Some of the museums are known as 'Historical Museums' as they contain antiques or historically important materials. Some museums are 'Science museums' and some others are 'Art Museums' according to the content of those museums. There are various types of 'Thematic Museums' which contain objects related to the particular theme of the museum. However, the museum is not meant for exhibiting modern materials in general. The present paper is an attempt to show the importance of setting up some museums exclusive for modern materials. Each society should have at least one museum for contemporary material culture and that museum can be a repository of samples of all modern material creations of the said society. If we can deposit all print media in the country's archives and all plant materials in the herbarium, it is logical to

have a material repository for every country. The museum is the ideal place for such a repository and possibly the museum buildings might be expanded into Museum Parks to include more materials. Materials are the most important visual component of any society. Systematical collection, preservation and exhibition of a sizable sample of these materials are important for understanding the contemporary culture. As the contemporary society is subjected to constant and rapid change, this will be a challenging task. The challenge itself is being the logic for initiating such endeavor. As we are discarding materials very often and most of the materials are dumped as garbage in the contemporary society, we may pay our attention to collect samples from them than to collect objects currently in use. However, we should appeal all manufacturers to send samples to deposit at the proposed repository museum. This will help to study, appreciate and understand present material culture in an educational and enjoyable milieu of a museum. The ever increasing problem of garbage disposal can be considered in a more pleasurable and useful manner through this move. This will lead to preservation of the present material culture which will be seen as the 'past' by the future society. Thus, this move will help future archaeologists for better understanding of the culture of this turbulent period of human history.

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