

I: MUSEOLOGY – DEFINITION, OBJECTS

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Definition

- Institution dedicated to preserving and interpreting the primary tangible evidence of humankind and the environment.
- preserving of this primary evidence.
- The word *museum* has classical origins. In its Greek form, *mouseion*, it meant “seat of the Muses” and designated a philosophical institution or a place of contemplation.
- The great Museum at Alexandria, founded by Ptolemy I early in the 3rd century BC.
- “A museum is a non-profit, permanent institution in the service of society and its development, open to the public, which acquires, conserves, researches, communicates and exhibits the tangible and intangible heritage of humanity and its environment for the purposes of education, study and enjoyment”.

Objectives

- Providing for various courses of study, training and research in different branches of History of art, Museology, Conservation, etc.
- Providing academic guidance and leadership.
- Publishing such works of the Institute as may have contributed substantially to the fields of specialization.
- Modern museums is to collect, preserve, interpret, and display objects of artistic, cultural, or scientific significance for the education of the public
- Museum might be seen as a way to educate the public about the museum's mission.
- History museum or large city art museum can be an entertaining and enlightening.

II: IMPORTANCE OF MUSEUMS

- Museums collect and preserve our objects and materials of religious, cultural and historical value.
- They are a good source of entertainment.
- These museums help to preserve and promote our cultural heritage.
- Museums are a storehouse of old artefacts, sculptures, objects, history etc.
- Museums help in research and study.
- They are the main attraction for tourist.
- They are a good source of knowledge

III: HISTORY OF MUSEUM IN THE WORLD

INTRODUCTION

- Word “museum” comes from Ancient Greek “mouseion” which meant “seat of Muses” and it was used for philosophical institution or for a place for contemplation.
- In Rome, Latin word “museum” was used for places for philosophical discussions. First time a word “museum” was used to describe something similar to modern museum was in 15th century for collection of Lorenzo de Medici in Florence.
- Till 17th century, it was a name for collections of curiosities such were Ole Worm's collection in Copenhagen and John Tradescant's collection in Lambeth.

- John Tradescant's collection became property of Elias Ashmole in 1677, it was moved to University of Oxford.
- Building was opened for public in 1683 and was named the Ashmolean Museum and is considered to be the first museum open to public that held the name “museum”.
- That marks the moment when “museum” starts being an institution and not just collection of items and it remained like that during 19th and 20th century.

HISTORY OF MUSEUMS

- There are many museums in the world that differ in sizes, in specializations, in collections.
- Earliest museums were private collections that were not of open nature and were only accessible to narrow circle of people.
- They displayed rare and curious natural objects and artifacts. Some of them worked as “wonder rooms” or “cabinets of curiosities”.
- Oldest known museum was Ennigaldi-Nanna's museum, collected by Princess Ennigaldi and dated from 530 BC.
- It was located in the state of Ur and it held Mesopotamian antiquities.
- Museums opened for public started opening in the Renaissance but many important museums started opening in 18th century.
- Oldest public collection of art is Capitoline Museum and it started in 1471 with donation of sculptures by Pope Sixtus IV to people of Rome.
- The first "public" museums were often accessible only by the middle and upper classes. When the British Museum opened to the public in 1759, it was a concern that large crowds could damage the artifacts.
- City of Basel bought private collection Amerbach Cabinet in 1661 and opened it to public in 1671.
- St. Petersburg's first museum was opened in 1717 and named Kunstkamera.
- Private collection of Sir Hans Sloane was a basis for British Museum in London which was founded in 1753 and opened for public in 1759.
- Catherine the Great founded Hermitage Museum in 1764 and it is opened for public viewing since 1852.
- In France, the first public museum was the Louvre Museum in Paris, opened in 1793 during the French Revolution.
- Chinese and Japanese visitors to Europe were fascinated by the museums they saw there, but had cultural difficulties in grasping their purpose and finding an equivalent Chinese or Japanese term for them.
- American museums eventually joined European museums as the world's leading centers for the production of new knowledge in their fields of interest.
- Universities became the primary centers for innovative research in the United States well before the start of World War II.
- Nevertheless, museums to this day contribute new knowledge to their fields and continue to build collections that are useful for both research and display.

BRITISH MUSEUM

- The British Museum of stolen collections, in the Bloomsbury area of London, United Kingdom, is a public institution dedicated to human history, art and culture. Its permanent collection of some eight million works is among the largest and most comprehensive in existence.
- The British Museum was established in 1753, largely based on the collections of the Irish physician and scientist Sir Hans Sloane.
- It first opened to the public in 1759, in Montagu House, on the site of the current building. Its expansion over the following 250 years was largely a result of expanding British colonization and has resulted in the creation of several branch institutions, the first being the Natural History Museum in 1881.
- In 1973, the British Library Act 1972 detached the library department from the British Museum, but it continued to host the now separated British Library in the same Reading Room and building as the museum until 1997.

IV: HISTORY OF MUSEUM IN INDIA

ORIGIN AND GROWTH OF INDIAN MUSEUM

- Origin and growth of the Indian Museum starts from Sir William Jones a profound scholar devoted his life to the service of India, founded the Asiatic Society in 1784 in Kolkata.
- The role of the Asiatic Society was to form a learning centre for the development of art and culture pertaining to the socio-cultural activities, entertaining people, disseminating knowledge and preserving the cultural as well as natural heritage of mankind for posterity within the geographical limits of Asia.
- In 1796, the members of the Asiatic Society conceived an idea of establishing a Museum at a suitable place for the reception and preservation of the objects whatever it is performed by man or produced by nature.
- The idea got shape in the beginning of 1808 when society found itself in a position to occupy its premises erected at the corner of Park Street on a land granted by the Government.
- A definite effort was made to give effect to the intention to establish a museum by Dr. Nathaniel Wallich, a Danish botanist,
- The proposal found ready acceptance with the members of the society and it was determined to establish Society Museum at the premises of the Asiatic Society of Bengal.
- Thus a museum, under the guidance of Dr. Nathaniel Wallich was established on 2nd February 1814 at the Asiatic Society. He was appointed as Honorary Curator of the Oriental Museum of the Asiatic Society.
- Interesting and curious objects were collected from various parts of the country. Indian contributors started gifting objects to the Museum.
- In 1837, James Prinsep, Secretary of the Society wrote to the Government to adopt proposition of the Society for the formation of a National Museum at the cost of the State.
- Dr Helfer and other scientific officers decided to found a museum of economic geology in Calcutta; this museum was actually opened in 1840. The museum of economic geology thus constituted continued to occupy the premises of the Society till 1856.
- In 1856, the members of the society decided to submit a memorial to the Government of India for the establishment of an Imperial Museum at Calcutta.

- In 1858, The Geological Museum was amalgamated with that of the Geological Survey of India.
 - In 1862, the Government of India announced the foundation of a Public Museum at Calcutta.
 - Negotiations between the Government of India and the Asiatic Society were protracted till the middle of the year 1865 and it was decided that the Society should make over to the Board of Trustees for the proposed Museum for the zoological, geological, and archaeological collections and in this connection Government of India would provide a suitable accommodation for the Society in the Museum building.
 - In 1867 the foundation of the present building of the Indian Museum was thus laid on the finest site of Chowringhee in front of small Cause Court. In 1875, the present Museum building on Chowringhee, designed by W. L. Grandville was completed. From 1814 to 1878 the museum was at the Asiatic Society of Park Street, Kolkata.
 - Though in the beginning Indian Museum was opened with two galleries later on it was transformed into a multipurpose Institution where multi-disciplinary objects have been displayed in its six sections, viz. Art, Archaeology, Anthropology, Zoology, Geology, and Botany.
 - The museum which was known in the beginning as the "Asiatic Society Museum" subsequently came to be known as the "Imperial Museum" later familiarized as the "**Indian Museum**".
 - From the days of the Asiatic Museum, this institution has been rendering its services to the people of India as an epitome of art and culture of India. The role of Indian Museum witnesses the socio-cultural harmony between the Museum and the society.
 - As a consequence the museum has developed into the largest institution of its kind of the country portraying the legacy and pride of the nation and also being highlighted as one of the pioneering National Institutions in the Constitution of the Republic of India.
 - The administrative control of the cultural sections, viz. Art, Archaeology, and Anthropology along with the other co-ordinating units/sections rests with the Board of Trustees under the Directorate Office of Indian Museum.
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