CHAPTER SEVEN

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

The foregoing Survey have shown the importance of the site museums in our present-day society. In view of the vital roles the museums play in our country, it is decided to establish more site museums at places of historical interest. Establishment of site museums would to a great extent solve the problems of theft and smuggling and create a feeling of art appreciation among the community at large. In order to make their services available more widely in far away places this is a welcome venture. Here suggestions have been put forward to make museums at some more sites. The scope and collection of each site has been discussed at a length. Besides, some suggestions have been given regarding the future improvement of these museums. The names of the proposed museums are as follows:

1) RATHAGIRI, DISTRICT CUTTACK, ORISSA

Ratnagiri, District Cuttack, Orissa, about 51.5 kilometers to the north-east of Cuttack city is one of the renowned Buddhist sites in Eastern India. The excavation conducted here since 1958 has brought to light an imposing remains of one of the most important Buddhist establishments in India rivaling that of Nalanda and this has further
Plate 30. Ratnagiri, Orissa. View of the entrance gate of the monastery.
confirmed the testimony of the late Tibetan traditions that Ratnagiri was a great centre of Mahayana and Vajrayana learning and art. On the basis of a number of sealings discovered during the excavations bearing the legend "Sri-Ratnasrirl-mahāvihārīyār-
vabhikshu-Sarvahāya" with its nucleus dating at least from about the 6th century A.D., the establishment witnessed a phenomenal growth in religion, art and architecture till the 12th century A.D.

The main stupa at Ratnagiri, made of brick had a base measuring 14.5 m. square with six elegantly-moulded projections on each side and a circular drum, the interior of which was designed as a wheel with twelve spokes with the interspaces packed with mud-filling. Dating from circa eighth century A.D., it was twice enlarged and enclosed by numerous votive stupas of brick and stone, including clusters of miniature monastic ones.

Facing the main stupa were two brick monasteries in a row, with the usual plans, one of them had a magnificent entrance porch flanked by pylons and a shrine in the back wall with elaborately-carved stone door-frames exhibiting a rich wealth of sculptural and decorative ornaments. At least, this monastery was multi-storied and was in occupation from circa eighth to thirteenth century A.D. The second one had also a shrine in the back wall.
Fig. 10. Plan: Archaeological Museum, Ratnagiri, Orissa
The excavation has yielded a vast treasure of stone and bronze sculptures of remarkable workmanship, bas reliefs, inscriptions, minor antiquities including terracotta seals and sealings, ranging in date from the Gupta to the early medieval time.

In view of the importance of the site of Ratnagiri, the A.S.I. has already decided to establish a site museum here. This would, no doubt, be a good idea to have a museum at this site which would be another 'Nalanda Museum' in Orissa. (Fig.10)

2) RUPAR, DISTRICT AMBALA, EAST PUNJAB

The site of Rupar on the left bank of the Sutlez river in Ambala District, excavated between 1953 to 1955, by the Archaeological Survey of India, is one of the few sites in India which shows a more or less continuous occupation from the Harappan times up to the present day with occasional gaps. The earliest occupational level yielded all the essential Harappan objects testifying to a flourishing Harappan township. The Painted Grey Ware people followed the Harappans. The site is extraordinarily rich in antiquities, which can be revealed by the discoveries of profuse antiquities in successive occupational levels.

The stratigraphical levels of different periods of
Rupar are so interesting and significant that a special diorama showing a brief summary of all the stratigraphical levels, representing different periods of occupation may be prepared for the visitors. Similar attempt to show the stratigraphic levels of famous Navasa site was made under the direction of Prof. H.D. Sankalia of Deccan University. This aroused much interest amongst the museum visitors. There is also a proposal to make a museum at Rupar with all her rich treasures excavated so far from this site.

3) HAJARDUARI, DISTRICT MURSHIDABAD, WEST BENGAL.

This is one of the most important historic buildings in the district of Murshidabad which stands on the bank of the river Bhagirathi. It is an imposing pile, in the Italian style of architecture and was designed and built under the supervision of General Duncan McLeod of the Bengal Corps of Engineers. The foundation stone was laid in 1829 and the building was completed in 1837. This was constructed by Nawab Nazim Humayun at an expense of seventeen lakhs of rupees. It is a three-storied building surmounted by a dome. On the ground floor are the "toshakhana", armoury, offices and record-rooms, on the first floor are the "Durbar" Hall, banquet hall, drawing room, sitting room and billiard room. The second floor contains a ballroom, library, chino-room, bedrooms etc. The palace itself is called the "Bara kothi" or "Hazarduari", i.e. the house with a thousand doors, the enclosure within which it is situated is
known as the "Nizamat Kila".

The Library and the Painting galleries contain rare art treasures which in term of money value comes to several crores. The collection mainly consists of some European masterpieces, portraits of successive Nawabs, Indian paintings primarily of theBurshidabad School. For the last few years attempts have been made by the Ministry of Education, Government of India to consider the feasibility of converting the palace into a site museum in order to preserve the valuable art treasures and rare collection of books and manuscripts which are lying in a state of neglect for years together. Since it involves huge expenditure, no concrete proposal in this regard has yet been formulated. In May, 1974, the Union Minister of Education accompanied by the Director General of Archaeology and other high officials from both centre and state governments paid a visit to this historic house for an on-the-spot study of the building and its collection. It is learnt that they discussed among other things the future plans for preservation and maintenance of the building as well as the priceless art treasures, documents of the library and taking over of the building. Establishment of a museum at "Hazardarari" will be a welcome venture no doubt. We may hope that the Government would consider the idea again in order to protect the priceless treasures. If this is not done immediately we
are afraid that the entire collection may be lost forever.

4) MANDU, DISTRICT DHAR, MADHYA PRADESH

The hill-fort of Mandu, about 35 Kilometres south of Dhar, headquarter of the district of that name in M.P. is situated on a 2079 ft. high plateau on the crest of the Vindhyaa mountain range and is bounded on three sides by a deep gorge called "Kakra Koh" (winding chasm). The area is endowed with a very attractive natural scenery. The Mughal emperor Jehanmir says in his Memoirs: "I know of no place so pleasant in climate and so pretty in scenery as Mandu in the rainy season". Mandu is conveniently connected by road. The most nearest rail-heads for Mandu are Shhow and Indore from where there are good road connections.

Early history of this place is shrouded in obscurity. By the 6th century A.D., the hill-fort under the name of Mandapa-Durga has become famous. The fort around the 10th century A.D. formed part, probably as a frontier out post of the Gurjara-Pratihara empire of Kausavj, particularly the king of Bhoja. The place rose to prominence during the 13th century when this was known as "one of the last strongholds of the Parmar kings". This is duly attested by the Hindu remains at this place which, according to tradition, can be dated between the 10th and 13th centuries A.D.
The Muslims appeared on the scene in the 13th century A.D. under Iltutmish, the Delhi Sultan. Subsequently, Tilwar Khan, the Governor of Malwa, extended his kingdom on this hill fort.

Mandu became a seat of power and many important buildings were constructed. Among the important buildings here mention should be made of Jahaz Mahal or 'Ship Palace,' which takes its name from the lakes between which it stands, 'Hindala Mahal,' a hall of fine massive proportions, 'Champa Doori,' a well with subterranean retreats for hot weather and the remains of some baths. These remarkable monuments are also associated with the legendary love of king Bajbahadur and his hindu wife Rupamati. The site was of great historical importance in central India as attested by the existing deserted ruins and the palaces almost reminiscences of Fatepur Sikri. A site museum will surely try to envisage the starring episodes of past.

5) CHANDRAKETUGARH, DISTRICT 24-PARGANAS, WEST BENGAL

Chandraketugarh, 37 KI north-east of Calcutta in the district of 24-parzanas yielded interesting finds which attracted the attention of scholars. The site excavated from 1956-57 by the University of Calcutta revealed a continuous sequence of occupations, divided into six periods, from the pre-Mauryan to
Pala times at the two mounds of Chandraketugarh and Khana-Mihirer Dhipi and a third site known as Itakhola, all parts of village known as Berachampa.

A brief summary of the different successive periods will reveal the importance of the site as a prospective site museum. The period I, assignable to pre-Maurya levels, yielded red ware, often treated with a slip, ivory beads, bangles and other small objects. Period II, probably coeval with the Maurya and Sunga periods, is marked by the introduction of N.P.B. ware and black-slipped, polished and unpolished grey wares, pieces of a Rouletted ware dish, beads of semi-precious stones, antimony rods of copper and ivory, terracotta figurines and copper and punch-marked coins. In Period III, possibly late Sunga, a red ware sometimes bearing stamped designs appears to have been in use. In addition to typical Sunga terracottas, beads of stone, antimony-rods of bone, ivory and copper, steatite caskets, cast copper coins and sherds inscribed in early Brahmi character are the other antiquities of this period. Period IV, coeval with the Kushana rule, yielded typical terracotta human figurines, cast copper coins, beads of glass and semi-precious stones, bangles of shell and terracotta plaques. The Period V, which coincides with the Gupta period, is characterized by the use of kiln-burnt bricks.

The finds include interesting plaques with animal and
human figures, the latter often portraying mithunas. The significant discovery of this period at Khana Mihirer Dhipi is a large polygonal brick structure of "Sarvotabhadra" plan, presumably the remains of a temple. The temple appears to have been enlarged out of an earlier smaller structure. The site was also under occupation during the rule of the Pala kings (Period VI) to which some of the later structures belong.

The excavation also revealed the remains of two votive stupas and an extensive brick-built wall which, according to some, indicate the existence of a Buddhist establishment in later Gupta times.

Since the site was excavated continuously by the Asutosh Museum of the Calcutta University for a long time, major collection is preserved in the Asutosh Museum. Best of the collection is available with the State Archaeological Gallery of the Govt. of West Bengal. Although the site is a protected one but due to frequent discoveries of antiquities and works of art here, the site has attracted many antiquity-hunters. This has resulted in the drainage of many valuable antiquities and art objects from this place.

In order to stop any further loss of art treasures and to keep all antiquities in situ, a site museum may be established.
here which will be a popular one and this can house valuable finds which are still in custody of some local art collectors. As this is on a direct bus route from Calcutta the place may be frequented by visitors from Calcutta and neighbouring areas. Foundation of a museum would also arouse interest among the local people. A beautiful park in the adjoining spacious area would add more elegance to the whole atmosphere of the proposed museum at Chandraketugarh.

6) BADAMI, DISTRICT BIJAPUR, KARNATAKA

The site of Badami in Bijapur District is one of the important archaeological sites in Karnataka. The place is quite nearer to other places of archaeological interest. Badami is connected by rail to the Sholapur-Hubli branch line of Southern Railways and well-connected by a good network of roads with Sholapur, Bijapur, Hubli and Bagalkot etc. The ancient site of Pattadakal, one of the important centres of Chalukyan temple-site, is only 22 Km. away.

The site of Badami has got a continuous history and tradition. The place came to prominence in history of the middle of the 6th century A.D. when it became the capital of the early Chalukyas of Karnataka. It had its hey day of glory and pomp till the end of the 8th century A.D. when there was
an eclipse to its glory, only to be regained after a brief interval under the later Chalukyas, who ruled from Kalyan. During the days of Vijayanagara kings, the place retained her glory. Subsequently the place was under the dominion of the Adil Shahis of Bijapur and Tipu Sultan of Srirangapatna. The place is also famous for having earliest Brahmanical rock cut shrines. The early Chalukyas chose the finely-grained and horizontally stratified sandstone cliffs of Badami, which facilitated excavation of comparatively large cave temples and execution of fine sculptures and intricate carvings in them. There are four such cave temples, three Brahmanical and one Jaina. There are some temples of which the temple of Mahakutesvara and the Neelgiri Sivalaya are of considerable importance, providing early prototypes of the characteristic South Indian tower, consisting of an octagonal domical finial supported by a superimposed series of small shrines. The site yielded profuse sculptures and architectural fragments in the past. There are enough scope of collecting Prehistoric artifacts in the Malaprava basin. Thorough and intensive exploration of this region would definitely yield many more sculptures and other objects of archaeological importance.

Further the place is also a centre of pilgrimage due to the existence of so many temples in the area. If a site museum is established here, this would not only preserve the antiquities
and art objects of the place but also reflect a continuous history and tradition of the area.

7) RAJBARI DAGA, DISTRICT MURSHIDABAD, WEST BENGAL

The ancient mound of Rajbaridanga in Jodpur village, District Murshidabad is near Chiruti railway station on Howrah-Nintita or Howrah-Farakka line of the Eastern Railway. The place is about 191.5 Km. from Calcutta. The area in and around Chiruti is dotted with many mounds and scattered ruins. On the strength of the seals discovered in course of excavation by the Department of Archaeology, Calcutta University under the direction of Dr. S.R. Das in 1962, the place has been identified successfully with "Raktamritika-Vihara" described by the famous Chinese pilgrim Huen Tsang in the 7th century A.D. It is told in the account of the pilgrim that the above monastic establishment stood in the capital city of Kansa-varpa metropolis, which also came into prominence in the history of Bengal as being the capital of Sasa-pa, the first overlord of Bengal. The site was earlier excavated by the Archaeological Survey of India in 1928-29 but could not produce any spectacular finds. Subsequently, the excavation undertaken by the newly formed Department of Archaeology, Calcutta University, since 1962 onwards for few seasons yielded many interesting finds. From the nature and character of numerous finds, it is presumed that the site of Rajbaridanga was under occupation
from c. 2nd - 3rd centuries A.D. to c. 12th-13th centuries A.D.
The antiquities recovered from the excavations include seals
and sealings, stucco and terracotta figurines, ornamented
stucco mouldings, copper and bronze objects like copper chakra,
bangles, rings, iron objects, terracotta lamps, ladles
kalke (chillam), beads, conch shell bangles, cowries,
muslim coins, miscellaneous minor antiquities.

Besides the recent finds recovered by excavation, the
site yielded earlier a variety of interesting stone sculptures,
stucco figures and many minor antiquities which are in private
collection as well as in the collection of the Ashutosh Museum
of Indian Art, Calcutta University and State Archaeological
Gallery, Government of W.B., Calcutta.

The site has become much popular during the recent years
and attracted visitors from far and near. The site was declared
as a protected monument long ago. The name of the Chirauti
railway station has also been renamed as Karnasuvarna by the
Indian Railway authorities concerned after the identification of
the ancient place. Establishment of a museum here would fulfill
a long cherished desire of the local people.
8) BURZAHOM, DISTRICT SRINAGAR, KASHMIR

The site of Burzahom, 24 Kms. north-east of Srinagar in
the same district is an archaeological site of great signifi-
cance. The importance of the site lies in the fact that like
southern India, megalithic culture is seen to succeed neolithic
culture. Four periods have been identified here.

The site may suitably be selected as an ideal site
museum. All excavated antiquities should be housed here, which
would facilitate scholars as well as visitors to study the
remains. The museum, if founded, would be the only site museum
of prehistoric period in Kashmir, nay in India.

9) UJJAIN, DISTRICT UJJAIN, MADHYA PRADESH

Ujjain (ancient Ujjayini) is one of the well known sites
to the earliest literary tradition as because this was the
capital of Avanti which is one of the sixteen Mahājanapadas or
major states in Northern India. Avanti is also known for her
ruler Pradyota, a contemporary of Buddha. The site of Ujjain
is located on river Sipra, a tributary of river Chambal and was
one of the most important and well known halting places on the
trade route that extended from Rajagriha (Rajgir) to Pratisthana
(modern Paithan) and from Mathura to Vrigukaccha (modern Broach).
Both the town and the river find mention in Kalidasa's Megha-
dutam and other works of Sanskrit literature.
The site was excavated superficially earlier by the Archaeological Department of Gwalior State. Later on, the site was again excavated on a larger scale by the A.S.I. under the direction of Dr. N.R. Banerjee.

The excavation revealed that the site was in occupation from circa 750 B.C. to the 1400 A.D. and is divided into four periods.

The rich treasure of antiquities recovered from this site may be utilized for building up a site museum. The museum may also house sculptures, architectural pieces from the neighbourhood of Ujjain.

10) VIKRAMSILA (DISTRICT BHAGALPUR, BIHAR)

The ancient site of Vikramasila is about 13 km. north of Colgong railway station in the foot of Patharghat hill. The site occupies an extensive area having many mounds dotted with stone and brick ruins that stretch up to the villages of Antichak and Oriyp. The local tradition associates the mounds with king Vikramaditya, the legendary figure. Vikramaditya has been a symbol of ideal kingship and hence no reliance can be placed on this tradition. Discoveries of carved pillars, votive-stupas, St. Buddhist images and numerous other carvings had been
reported from this site from time to time. The famous University of Vikramashila is said to have been founded here during the Pala period and can thus be assigned to the 10th-12th centuries AD. Later on in course of time Vikramashila became a famous centre of Tantrism. The University continued to flourish until it was destroyed by the Muslims at the end of the 12th century AD.

The site has been excavated since 1960-61 by the Department of Ancient Indian History and Archaeology, University of Patna. Trial trenches were dug at one of the mounds which revealed three structural phases. Floor levels ascribed to three stages of occupation have been noted at places. The finds from Antichak are interesting. These include of Buddha, a few votive stupas, bronze figure of Tara, terracotta beads of various shapes, seals and sealings, ceramic wares of various shapes and sizes, a number of terracotta plaques representing various aspects of the Buddha, terracotta plaques representing animals like elephants, lions, horses, deer, parrots and votive stupas and mangala-kalasas. It is already approved by the government.

The establishment of a site museum here would be a good idea no doubt.

Besides establishing more and more site museums at different prospective sites mentioned here, some suggestions
have been given with the view of improving the conditions prevailing at the present site museums. The suggestions may be given briefly below:

One of the important necessities of the Curators in their profession is academic training in museum administration and organization. Many curators of the Branch join the profession directly from the University after attaining degree in their respective subjects. They do not have any scope to undergo any curatorial training. The Curators very often face various problems at the preliminary stages after being appointed because they are not fully aware of the rules and regulations that are observed by the Archaeological Survey of India. At present, a few leading universities in India offer training courses in museology and museum studies. Some of the museum curators of the Branch have already got training in museology. The training course covers all aspects of museum profession, both theoretical and practical training necessary for any successful museum personnel. At present, some leading universities in India offer courses in museology. Previously only two universities like the Baroda and Calcutta Universities initiated the museology courses. The courses on museology offered at various places in India at the moment include the following: The Department of Museology, Bharat Kala Bhavan, Benares Hindu University, Varanasi; Department of Museum
The site museum curators should always be aware of the current activities in their profession. This is possible only when the curators would participate in various cultural and learned seminars. In order to make them aware of the current
activities, facilities should be extended to the site museum curators to attend seminars, symposiums and learned gatherings pertaining to their field of studies. We have the Indian Museum Association, Museums camp, ICOM, Indian History Congress, Oriental Congress etc. etc. in the country. There is no denying to the fact that among the above, conferences like the Museums Camp, the Annual meeting of the Indian Museum Association are more beneficial for the museum curators. They should be inspired to contribute papers on their respective museum collection. Some of the curators have already been deputed to attend the Museums Camp organised by the Ministry of Education, Government of India. All the museums have become institutional member of the ICOM and Museums Association of India. The museums have taken the scheme of organizing temporary exhibitions under the National Service Scheme of the Ministry of Education. Exhibitions under the above scheme were organised at Sanchi, Nalanda and Konarak. The exhibition at Nalanda deserves special attention since the subject was "Archaeological Site Museums in India".

The Museums Branch should think of organizing an annual general conference of all heads of museums of the Branch. The annual gathering of the museum curators and A.S.I.A. should be held at some convenient and central place. The curators can discuss various problems and difficulties pertaining to their
respective museums and try to find out solutions for the betterment of their museums. The annual gathering can be held at some Museum which is going to be opened in order to understand the infrastructure. Here, the Curators and A.S.A.Ms can easily study every aspect of a new museum "in action". Further, they can discuss various problems that usually arise when a new museum is being set up. The gathering of the curators would again help them to exchange ideas with other fellow colleagues on various matters which are common to all. They can offer suggestions which will be further discussed in the light of present perspective. Incidentally, it may be mentioned here that an informal meeting of the Branch's Curators was organized as early as 1957. This was discontinued later on. Conference of the site museum curators on regional basis has been organized. But conference on all India basis has not been attempted as because this may create problem from the standpoint of security. Since all museum personnel can not attend any meeting at a time together.

The Superintending Archaeologist for Museums, Museums Branch, should also be included as member of the Advisory Board of Museums. In view of the growing importance of the site museums today and while the number of Museums are on the increase, the head of the organization should represent the real need to the Board. The Director General of the Survey who is also a member of the Board usually remains too much preoccupied
with various affairs of many branches under his control. The Superintending Archaeologist Museum, who always tackles day to day problems of the Branch is competent to realize the real needs of his Branch.

The most serious problem of the present day art museums is the question of security. There has been growing demand of Indian antiquities and art objects in the world market. As a matter of fact, racketeers and smugglers have been attracted to the profession of pilferage of monuments and stealing of antiquities from the monuments, museums and art galleries. Some cases of theft in a few site museums have already been reported in the recent past. There were thefts recorded in the museums at Nalanda in 1961 and 1962, attempted theft at Amaravati in 1962, Sarnath in 1966, Khajuraho in 1974 and 1975. Attempts of theft were also made in a few museums of which one at Bodhgaya is most tragic in which a museum attendant lost his life. The last incident has forced the government of India to consider the proposal of providing armed guards in the site museums. Unfortunately, financial difficulties and want of cooperation from the respective state governments have made it impossible to provide the facilities to the museums. As a consequence, no concrete plan in this regard has yet come out successfully.

However, armed guards have been provided to the site
museums at Sarnath, Khajuraho and Amaravati. The proposal for providing similar facility to other museums is under consideration. Problem of museum thefts is not new in India. Markham in his report on the Museums of India as early as 1936 pointed out the causes which encourage more museum thefts in India. These are, according to him, insecure building, insufficient watch and ward staff and lastly poorly built showcases. 4 Although much improvement has been done since the days of Markham, yet some of the reasons mentioned above are still applicable today in case of these museums. It is interesting to note that the Review Committee appointed by the Government of India with Dr. M.S. Randhawa and Sri Narul Hassan, former Union Minister of Education, Government of India, as members along with other experts has pointed out some reasons for museum thefts. According to the Committee, there is no uniform system of looking doors and showcases. There is no such locks available here in India which is very much inconspicuous as well as highly secured. Besides, the night duty of the museum attendants in these museums is very hazardous. They have to work in far away desolate places sometimes even in midst of extensive ruins and constant dangers. Further, the strength of watch and ward staff in all the site museums, according to the Committee, is extremely poor and since the museum have to be kept open all through the year quite often a single gallery attendant is asked to look after two or

three or sometime even more galleries at a time. Obviously, this creates much resentment and frustration in the minds of the watch and ward staff and makes the museum insecure. The night guard should be on duty inside the museum building during the night patrol duty. The present day practice is that the night guards are on duty outside the museum building and they are not permitted to enter inside the galleries at night. The guards are thus exposed to more dangers when they remain on duty outside the museum building. The authorities should seriously consider the issue and make necessary amendments in the present rules so that the night guards can remain on duty inside the museum building. Ex-servicemen should be given preference for the post of guards. The authorities should consider the idea whether the guards can be given adequate training to use fire arms.

More funds should be allocated to strengthen the watch and ward staff in the site museums. Steel cup-boards and iron safes should store the antiquities and other valuables in the storage area. The Review Committee has suggested to reorganize the watch and ward staff by posting either armed police of the State Government or Central Reserve Police. They would assist the existing watch and ward staff for the security of the museums. The government can consider the idea of forming an "Art Object Protection Force" in the line of the similar
organization like Industrial Protection Force, Government Railway Protection Force, Border Security Force. Besides guarding the museums and art galleries, the force can look after national parks, archaeological monuments and sites. In fact, the force should assist the existing watch and ward staff of the Museums Branch. In view of the growing pilferage of art objects in the country, this would be a welcome venture no doubt.

The committee rightly suggested that all skylights and windows in the site museum galleries should be provided with strong grills. The entrance and exit gates may be provided with collapsible gates or rolling shutters. Near the entrance, there should be a cloakroom in which the visitors should keep their bags, portfolios or any such thing which may conceal art objects. Compound wall around the museum premises at a height of 10' feet should be provided. An attempt in this direction has been made in case of Nalanda Museum where the fencing itself has raised at a height of 10' feet. The museum guards have to tackle various kinds of visitors daily. In view of their responsible duty of tackling visitors of every kind and safeguarding priceless treasures, the Committee recommended that the pay and scale of the museum guards should be same with Lower Division Clerk and they should be literate persons. The Committee thinks that "they should be
A general view of the gallery No.1. The large beams in the low ceiling distract the visitors' attention which may be covered with false ceiling.
men of good manners, trained to deal firmly yet politely with 
the public and able to answer the general questions put to 
them by the visitors". Another very important thing in this 
respect is occasional surprise visits by the supervisory staff 
members so that the guards remain alert while on duty. Most of 
the recommendations of the Review Committee have either been 
implemented or in the process of implementation. One of the 
main problems in the majority of the site museums today is the 
lack of adequate storage facilities. Even the newly built 
museum buildings at Nagarjunakonda, Amaravati, Konarak, etc.
suffer from having inadequate storage area. This is due to the 
fact that architectural designs adopted in majority of newly 
constructed museums did not strictly adhere to the basic need, 
scope and collection of individual museum. Before a museum 
building is constructed, the Public Works Department, Government 
of India, should consult with the Museum experts and specially 
the Museums Branch to assess the particular needs of the 
museums. Storage problem is more acute in case of museums housed 
in public and residential buildings of British days. Most of 
these existing buildings do not have sufficient space for carry-
in-out and functions and activities of a modern museum. It is 
necessary that the architects should work in close collaboration 
with the museum authorities right from the beginning when a 
decision is taken to build a new museum building or for recons-
struction of old building for a site museum.
One of the basic necessities of modern museums is the general care of antiquities and objects of art. This is a highly technical job, requiring great care, patience and skill on the part of the museum curators. Instances are not rare that many priceless treasures in a museum get irrepairably damaged through curator's negligence.

Every site museum curator should always take an overall care of museum objects in the collection. They should have a general training about the conservation of museum objects. So they should be careful to take precautions to protect the various specimens from insects, pests, direct sunlight, humidity, etc. Curator should periodically inspect collection both in the display and in the reserve to assess the particular needs of various categories of objects. Free use of insecticides such as naphthalene, D.D.T. and paradichlorobenzene should also be made to protect against pests and other insects in museums in consultation with the Chemical Assistant.

The Gardens Branch of the Archaeological Survey of India should undertake all suitable arrangements to beautify the site museums. There are adjoining gardens at some site museums like Sarnath, Bijapur, Red Fort, Nalanda, Bodhgaya, Srirangapatna, Halebid, Hampi and Goa. An artistically laid out garden enhances beauty and grandeur of the monuments and makes it a

Pl. 33: Archaeological Museum, Konarak, Orissa. A general view of the arrangement of sculptures in the main gallery.
place worthy of visit for the tourists. Every possible steps should be taken to provide flower pots at the selected points of the museum building.

The process of modernization of galleries should be taken up immediately in all the site museums of the Survey. It is a matter of much satisfaction that some of the site museums notably Sanchi, Red Fort, Nagarjunakonda, Sarnath, Khajuraho, Rohigaya, Amaravati attained high standard in modern display. Few museums like those at Goa, Halebid, Bijapur, Srirangapattna are still lagging behind. The Branch has got plans to undertake development in others in near future. Museum curators and A.S.A.Ms should be available twenty-four hours in the museum campus. In order to implement this in practice, staff quarter for the Curator and the staff should be made available at every site museum. Many of the site museums are located at inaccessible places where good communication is not easily available.

There are facilities for staff quarters at few museums like Sarnath, Sanchi, Nalanda and Nagarjunakonda only. Accommodation for the staff is inadequate. The Branch has future plans to make more accommodation facilities in all the site museums. Other necessary facilities like adequate water supply, all weather metalled road connecting the museum with the main thoroughfare have been provided to most of the site museums.
Hotels, Rest houses at least at the important site museums should be provided so that visitors may get easy accommodation with prior permission of the museum heads. Canteen at some important site museum run by the staff in a cooperative basis may be experimented. Water-cooler should be installed at other museums where this facility is not yet made available.

Another very essential need for scholars in the profession is the preparation of standard catalogue on every site museum collection. The catalogue should include not only advanced research work but will lay the foundation stone for many sided academic investigations based on learning and original studies. Young museum heads should be entrusted with the task of writing catalogues. This would further encourage them to carry on research on many aspect of museum collection. Unfortunately in the past no serious attempt was made in this regard. No up-to-date catalogue worth mentioning exists on any site museum. The catalogues on Sanchi, Sarnath and Nalanda museums written long ago are not only out of print but do not tally with the present collection which have increased enormously since their publication. The catalogues in future should contain adequate illustrations which would help the scholars in their studies. There should be a "Photo archives" at the headquarter of the Branch attached to the library. Besides, if possible there should have additional sets of Photo albums on the collection of the site
museums of the Survey. At present, efforts are being made for writing the museum catalogues.

General short guide book on the site museums should be published. It is needless to say that the price of these guide books should be nominal. It is essential that the guide book should discuss the short history of the site, excavation thereon, a map showing the distribution of the site museums in India, the various routes by which visitors can reach these places, other principal museums, nearest hotels along with their charges and available accommodation and other nearby places of tourist interest. If possible, colour photographs of important museum objects may be added to make the guide books more appealing to general public. It is gratifying to learn that the survey has made progress in this direction and guide book on some site museum has been published. A completely new unit of publication Division has been created under a Superintendent to look after publication of the Archaeological Survey of India. It is hoped that this new division will give due attention to the needs of publication of guide books and catalogues of the museums.

Transparencies of important exhibits, colour photos, guide books, picture post cards, plaster copies of important and remarkable pieces as souveniers may be put on sale for public through the museum's sales desk. If possible, popular
books on Indian as well as foreign museums, art books may be sold here in order to popularize museums among the visiting public. Sir Mortimer Wheeler’s Committee made a strong recommendation in this regard.

Livery supplied to the museum attendants of the Survey is very much sub-standard due to financial bindings from above. The site museums are very often visited by foreigners and the attendants in these museums play an important role of public relation while they remain on duties in the museum galleries. So the livery supplied to them should have a presentable appearance and should be in keeping with the rich heritage of the Archaeological Survey of India even if the standing rules on livery by the government has to be overruled.

Sculpture shades should be constructed to protect the loose sculptures lying in the field in places where there are no site museums at present. The Circle Superintendents should take adequate steps to collect the loose sculptures. The sculptures, architectural fragments collected from one site or place may lay the foundation of a site museum in near future. Moreover, this would arrest thefts and pilferage of antiquities and works of art from our country. It is gratifying to learn that a large number of such shades have been added by the Survey at various sites specially in the states of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka.
Children's creative art corner at some leading site museums may be experimented. A big hall can be kept separate for the use of children where creative art classes for the local school children can take place regularly. The main purpose of such art classes is to infuse or create a genuine love and respect in children in art appreciation. The separate hall may further be used as a community hall by the local people where public lecture, musical programme, film show etc. can take place regularly.
NOTES


9. Law, B.C., Ujjayini in ancient India, Archaeological Department, Gwalior State, Gwalior, 1944.


14. Museums Review Committee Report, 1969, The Committee consists of Prof. M.S. Randhawa (Chairman), Shri B.B. Lal (Member Secretary), Dr. Satyamurti, Prof. Nurul Hassan, Dr. Motichandra (Report unpublished).


22. - Do - 'Past pattern in living as unfolded by excavations at Papar', *Lalit Kala*, No. 2, 1956, pp. 121ff.

