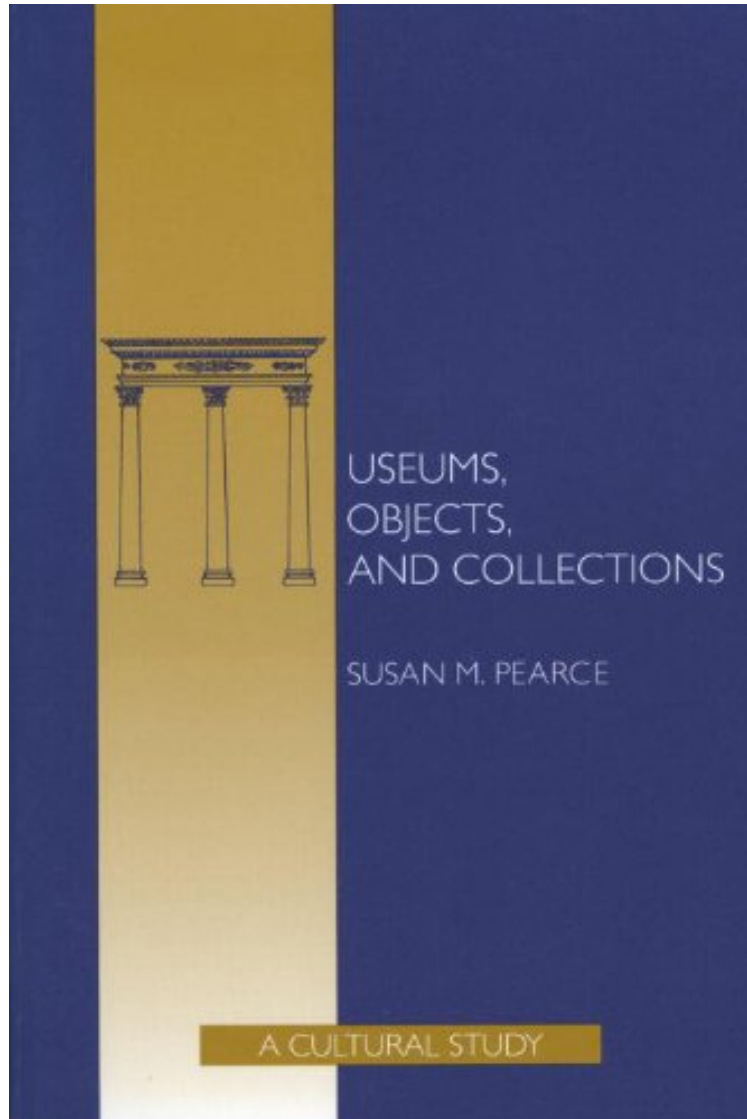


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MUSEUMS, OBJECTS, AND COLLECTIONS

Susan M. Pearce

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Susan M. Pearce : MUSEUMS, OBJECTS, AND COLLECTIONS before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised MUSEUMS, OBJECTS, AND COLLECTIONS:

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Pearce makes a philosophical explication of how material functions within ...By Anonymous Pearce makes a philosophical explication of how material functions within museum collections. The author defends museums as collection that is, object centered institutions, and argues that museums should be concerned with the creating and facilitating special experiences through its collections, which is why it is important to understand how the museum and its collections function at all their various levels. Pearce begins by

examining the nature of material culture asking what an object is, what creates an artifact, and how materiality objectively anchors time, as an authentic or real object, or as a signifier. Furthermore, Pearce discusses how value and ownership is assigned to objects, and explores different types of investments made in the collection of material culture, including: financial, sport, extension of self, control, and a tool for shaping the world. Pearce identifies three forms of collecting, namely: 1. Souvenir, 2. Fetish, 3. Systematic. Pearce then turns her attention to how museums create meaning with their collections, which Pearce categorizes as function, structure, and history (which might have sacred/religious tones, be considered treasure, or be regarded as a historical witness). The way objects are experienced can be active, giving objects agency in a relational exchange. However, Pearce acknowledges the problems of power relations and shifting ideological paradigms.

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A must in all curators and museums specialist library. A great investigation from Susan M Pearce
By Luis R Ortiz
Excellent book
4 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Collected informations without form
By German Reader
In the book Susan Pearce presents many topics concerning collecting, museums and the cultural context that forced the outcome of museums. But the chapters lack in my opinion a coherent form that synthesizes the abundant themes in a central thesis. The book is a collection of thoughts and interpretations - sometimes more or less complex, sometimes very banal. What made me angry, were too many pictures and self-made diagrams with very little theoretical outcome in their explanation. My be this book had to be been written, to show everyone that this kind of cultural philosophy is not of much value. Therefore I recommend the impressive book of Didier Maleuvre: Museum Memories. It is much more concentrated and has a complexity that Susan Pearce never reaches.

This book examines the historical context of museums, their collections, and the objects that form them. Susan M. Pearce probes the psychological and social reasons that people collect and identifies three modes of collecting: collecting as souvenirs, as fetishes, and as systematic assemblages. She considers how museum professionals set policies of collection management; acquire, study, and exhibit objects; and make meaning of the objects in their care. Pearce also explores the ideological relationship between museums and their collections and the intellectual and social relationships of museums to the public.

Dense and rewarding. Through this study the author intends to explore the philosophies and cultural traditions which underlie museums, their collections, and the objects which make them up, and to see how meaning is created amongst them.

Arts-News
sheet
Profoundly rewarding . . . [Museums, Objects, and Collections] offers one of the most extensive and penetrating analyses of museums you are likely to find anywhere.

Curator
About the Author
Susan M. Pearce is professor of museum studies and director of the department of museum studies at the University of Leicester. She is the editor of *Museum Studies in Material Culture* (Smithsonian Institution Press, 1992), and the author of *Archaeological Curatorship* (Smithsonian Institution Press, 1990) and *On Collecting* (1995).