The Nation’s Treasure House: A Colonial History of the Fiji Museum 1904-70

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ABSTRACT

Museums such as the Fiji Museum can provide discourse on cultural identities in the Pacific Islands. This article describes the historical evolution of the Fiji Museum during the colonial period of 1904 to 1970. The museum, as a socio-cultural institution and an extension of colonialism, was transplanted into Fiji during the era of British rule and retained the colonial outlook within this period. The challenges and successes to create a museum are highlighted in an effort to collect, conserve, research, preserve and promote Fiji’s heritage.

Key words: Fiji Museum, cultural identities, indigenous Fijian