WORKING SESSION 1

Latte Stones and Carabaos - Collecting in Hybrid Cultures

Ethnographic collections from countries outside of Europe and their permanent exhibitions mainly document the so-called non-European or pre-European world. Intensified research into collection history has shown that this representation of cultures ignores the dramatic changes of these societies. The case of the Chamorro culture which already constituted a hybrid formation when Western collecting activity started demonstrates attitudes and aims of collectors and museum curators at the beginning of the 20th century. The activities of the German colonial officer Georg Fritz are embedded in a vast colonial strategy. The emphasis on pre-European aspects of Chamorro culture finds its continuation today in renewed symbols of identity and renewals of Chamorro culture.

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