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EDITORIAL

The purpose of a museum can be summed up by the following four closely related functions: collection, preservation, research, representation and education.

The departments represented at the National Museum are Mammalogy, Entomology, Ornithology, Herpetology, Acarology, Palaeontology, Anthropology, Archaeology and Cultural History. Each of these departments has researchers responsible for the collection and preservation of material, while the art department designs and sets out displays, and the educational department liaises with the public, conducts organized groups and is responsible for educational programmes. The quality of research and the close contact between the different departments should determine whether the purpose is achieved. It is therefore essential to study all aspects of the needs of every segment of the community which the museum is serving. The museum is in fact the only educational institution that must cater for every person, no matter what level of development he/she has reached.

I would like to call on the public to be positive about museums, because "the way we think about museums in the present will define their future development" (H.R. Singleton).

●
A. Mönnig
Editor

FRONT COVER/VOORBLAD

by/deur G. Griffith.