

Behind collecting, a state between moral and law in
the history of collecting at the Museum of World
Culture, Sweden

(Abstract)

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Abstract

At the Ethnographical museums in Europe, there are thousands of objects and collections coming from all over the world. There have been some periods of frenetic collecting, when almost every museum organized expeditions, bought materials, or acquired collections in different ways. The Museum of World Culture in Göteborg, Sweden is also included in this description.

The current collections at the Museum of World Culture are a legacy from the former Ethnographical museum of the City of Göteborg, which was closed and became Museum of World Culture in 1999.

The collections are mainly from Latin America, especially from South America, and the museum reckons with almost 100000 numbers in its storages.

In this presentation I would like to explore the relationship between law, moral and the formation of the collections at the Museum of World Culture. I am going to develop how, in different periods, these three axes have been paradoxically related.

(Editors remark: Adriana Munoz is one of the responsible curators for the exhibition about Trafficking where there also is a part about illicit trade with cultural objects. This exhibition is opening on September 8th, 2006. The presentation will relate to the present work.)