



GET THE FACTS - HERITAGE INFORMATION SERIES

39. HERITAGE EXPERTS AND PROFESSIONALS

Museums, along with archaeology and history were important tools in the construction of national identities during the 19th century. Museums have had and will always have a role in the creation and maintenance of memories and identities.

The dramatic changes caused by the Industrial Revolution during the 18th and 19th centuries had profound consequences on the ways in which many people in the industrialising world perceived the past and their sense of place.

Despite the fact that the Victorian period was dominated by industrial and scientific progress, it was also an age dominated by a fascination with the past. Today, endangerment of both the natural and cultural heritage constitutes a combined threat to society.

Development in the form of unfettered private avarice and corporate greed together with insistent productivity, rampant innovation and heedless technical advance threatens to obliterate the artefactual and

the natural environment.

Responsibility for the management of heritage sites is increasingly problematic. The mixed economy of access to heritage which has developed over the last century has resulted in a selective presentation of sites based essentially on their qualities as visitor attractions or their importance as determined by experts and professionals in archaeology, conservation, architectural history and related disciplines.