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TITLE : OBJECT INFORMATION AS HISTORICAL SOURCE

History is the narrative of time changes and objects can reflect change overtime thereby becoming sources for better understanding of our history. They are very crucial to us as a way to approach the past hence they provide us a way into history. Analysing the objects, placing them into historical context and using them to understand the past, is the type of work that transpires in the museum world. By simply looking at an object, one can get many stories. For instance by asking the following messages; what is it? when was it produced? what material is it made from as well as its uses? The above questions assist in identifying the object and placing it in its historical phase and time. Each object has a story to tell, a story shaped by human use. Historians during the analysis of objects begin by recording basic facts like description of an object and its photograph. Description includes size, material and features on the object like ornament and engraving. Objects may have many functions some more obvious than others. The principal function of an object is that for which it was originally made and used. Thorough analysis of an object and its background can help establish function. Analysing wear patterns may show if a knobkerrie was used or if it was for decoration. It is feasible that an object is not in its 'natural' environment thus looking for patterns or multiple examples of the same object can assist to determine normal use.