

Abstract

This thesis studies the history of the Lahore museum 1900-1947. It will focus on the new developments and projects initiated by the Colonial state during this period, paying special attention on the interwar period. Specifically, it examines the initiatives to bring in archeological objects and institute an archeology section in the museum and the establishment of the zenana day. The thesis argues the three formed parts of the museums unstated objectives. Further it investigates the efforts of the colonial state to attract and influence Indians through these steps and considers the response of Indians and the extent of the state's success. It shows that the museum unstated objectives often had unintended consequences, and interacted with the Indian social context in different ways. For instance, museums organizers had started to display the Sufi artisan's exhibit in the museum so that followers of Sufi's would visit the museum on Mela days after visiting the shrines. But examining these aspects of the history of the Lahore museum, this thesis explores hitherto neglected areas of colonial history.