

CULTURAL PROPERTY SECURITY

Protecting Museums, Historic Sites,
Archives, and Libraries



Daniel J. Benny, Ph.D.



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This book is dedicated to my new shelter dogs

Sherlock



Mollie



Preface

The objective of this book is to provide an overview of the culture property protection profession and the methods that can be utilized to safeguard people, artifacts, collections and all cultural property from numerous threats. Since a wide range of cultural property is examined in this book, to include federal, state, local government and private museums, archives, libraries and historic sites, the level of security will vary greatly based on the cultural institutions. Some cultural institutions may utilize unarmed or armed security officers and others, such as campuses, state and federal property may be protected by armed police officers. Because of this diversity, a wide range of security policies and a blend of physical security methods and procedures are examined and discussed in the book.

This book is not just a presentation of facts and the reporting on how cultural properties are being protected, but also my professional opinion and recommendations on protection methods. Some of my views, especially as they related to the use of armed security officers, may not follow the current trend in the protection of cultural properties. If those views foster some critical thinking and professional dialog in the cultural protection community that will be a benefit to all concerned.

In the end, each cultural property must make the decision as to what protective methods will be of most value to them based on the type of property, location, threat assessment, collections, budget, and state laws.

**Regards,
Dr. Daniel J. Benny**

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Daytona Beach, Florida.

Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Harrisburg,
Pennsylvania.

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Chapter 1

Importance of Culture Property Protection: Museums, Historic Sites, Archives, and Libraries

Introduction

The cultural values of a society provide it with an identity and personality of its own. The culture of a nation influences individual principles and philosophies of life. Culture influences ways of living and impacts the social life of a society. The history of a culture is learned and passed from the one generation to the next. For an effective transfer of cultural knowledge from one generation to another, it must be preserved at cultural properties such as museums, historic sites, archives, and libraries that preserve and maintain the records of nations and societies. This preservation of the cultural takes the form of historic artifacts, documents, photographs, and other materials.