

CHANGING PERCEPTION OF ZOOS IN INDIA: A HISTORICAL STUDY

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ABSTRACT

Humans captured wild animals for their pleasure from the ancient period. Western European countries developed the modern system of collection of wild animals which was termed as menagerie and later became more popular form of 'zoological garden' or 'zoo'. The coming of colonial British rule in India and its interest in the faunas of the orient led to the formation of zoological gardens in several urban centres of India from the nineteenth century onwards. Public now get entertained by watching different exotic animals from a safe distance without going to forests. The early zoos were mainly based on iron cages with little scope of space for the wild animals. Later on, especially after the Independence, there has been a rapid upsurge of zoos in several parts of India. The design of these zoos are founded with new ideas of broader open air space, concept of park and safari. This paper wish to locate the rise and transformation of zoos of India in a historical time span.

KEYWORDS: *Menagerie, Zoo, Enclosure, Design, Safari, Zoological Park, Wild Animals*