

I give my support to the idea of creating a web portal for highlighting the role of Adrian Jacobsen as a collector and contributor to the open-air museum genre of the *Völkerschau*. Origin of museum collections is a keynote topic for research in the biography of *things*. It is pivotal in contemporary studies of materiality and blueprints for exhibition-making. The biography of the collector is a facet of such reorientation. Jacobsen's role was not just that of a collector of *things* but also *animals* and *humans*. The Hamburg zoo owner Hagenbeck's shows of human and animal symbiosis framed this activity. Another aspect was that of the scientific specimen. Materials accessible online might spur interest in further research on possible associations between valorous travelogue, folk shows, and broader populist ideologies with racism and colonialism at their core. A contemporary of Jacobsen, the administrator-cum-collector Dean Worcester, was a United States administrator in colonial Philippines. He made a US version of the *Völkerschau* a show for civilizing interventions. The topic invites a closer look at the risks of mixing science with populism. The rationale of a *Völkerschau* did not gain much support in Norway, Jacobsen's country of birth. The Norwegian Parliament would not make budgetary means available. Additional look into sources might reveal if there were other considerations involved – ethical ones, for example. One practical benefit of a web portal would be that of making accessible source material that could be helpful in issues of repatriation of museum objects.

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