A STUDY ON BIOGRAPHY OF THINGS: POSBLOC PUBLIC CREATIVE SPACES

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A STUDY ON BIOGRAPHY OF THINGS: POSBLOC PUBLIC CREATIVE SPACES

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ABSTRACT
This paper discusses the journey of Pasar Baru Post Office using The Biography of Things study in which observes the building from time to time. Pasar Baru Post Office is used as the main source in this paper. Amidst the changes since The Netherland-Colonial era, the building remains still and that became the reason this study was conducted through The Biography of Things study. The research method used in this article is the research framework of Sharer and Ashmore which consists of data collection, processing, and interpretation. The results of the study show that there are some changes in the physical form of the building or its commodification, which can be included as a way to put off the past colonial memory. This can be seen throughout the values and functions shifting that were once used as a place for postal and philatelic services, now the building has become a public creative space.


INTRODUCTION
Archeology is a science that studies culture based on remains or material culture of the past. According to Hodder (2005: 155) in his study, post-processual archeology takes into account a person's role in that culture. In other words, material culture is not only created by humans, but also plays a role in the process of cultural development of society and its environment. Therefore, through archaeological remains, archaeologists can understand the relationship between society and objects in all aspects of life, such as social, economic, political aspects, as well as changes in cultural behavior from time to time.

In practice, to understand and make interpretations of material culture, archeology requires studies that involve multidisciplines and apply certain approaches or theories. According to Kopytoff (1986), one theory that can be used to understand material culture in remains is the biographical approach to objects or Biography of Things. Biography of
Things is an approach assuming that like humans, material culture also has a life cycle and can be written in the form of a biography. This approach developed in social anthropology studies in the 1980s and was adopted by most postprocessual archaeologists in Europe (Joy, 2009: 541).

According to Gosden and Marshall (1999: 169) in the biographical theory of objects, if an object survives over time, it should be possible to know the relationship between humans and the object by revealing the history of the object. Based on this statement, it is very possible for archaeological remains to be studied using the Biography of Things approach. This is because objects in archaeology are human remains from the past that still remain and survive from time to time, so that people's relationships with building objects can be known periodically from time to time based on the influence of cultural developments at that time.

The development of the Biography of Things theory has also influenced archaeological studies because archaeology cannot be separated from objects in the form of artifacts, ecofacts and features. One of the objects in archaeology that can be studied in the Biography of Things theory is features. This is in line with the opinion of Gillings & Pollard in Joy (2009: 541) which states that static objects such as monuments have historical value based on their durability over a long period of time so that they can later be reinterpreted. Therefore, in this research, we will examine the Biography of Things at the Pasar Baru Post Office building, an archaeological heritage object that is still strong today.

Therefore, it is certainly appropriate if an archaeological object in the form of the Pasar Baru Post Office building is studied using biographical theory because these remains are objects that have survived for a long period of time, making it possible to know the activities, events, or "stories" that have influenced this object in its cultural development in Indonesia since the Dutch East Indies Colonial period so that community relations and activities can be known from time to time through developments and changes in the Pasar Baru Post Office complex, Jakarta.

These changes and developments occurred due to the commodification of buildings. Commodification is defined as the process of transforming use value into economic value and according to Cloke & Perkins (2002: 525) if a place is transformed into an economic commodity, then this change will also involve social and cultural changes, as well as having a major impact on the physical structure of the building. This statement can be found in the current Pasar Baru Post Office building, which was originally a post office but now the public recognizes the building as a public space that can be used freely to meet the economic needs of the community.

This background is needed to apply a biographical approach to the Pasar Baru Post Office building to determine the social relations between the Pasar Baru Post Office building object and the community as well as events that have influenced the development of the post office from time to time. Apart from that, through the biographical narrative of the Pasar Baru Post Office from time to time, it will be known how the features of the Pasar Baru Post Office Building, which are a colonial legacy, are currently trying to slowly leave the colonial memory behind. Based on the background of this research, the problem formulation focuses on the following two things, namely: (1) What is the function and meaning of the Pasar Baru Post Office from time to time? and (2) What is the role of the Pasar Baru Post Office in forgetting colonial memories through the Biography of Things study?

This research uses a qualitative research method which will produce descriptive data in the form of a biography of the Pasar Baru Post Office building from the Dutch East Indies Colonial period in the 19th century AD to the present. Therefore, the method
used in this research refers to the three stages of archaeological research according to Sharer and Ashmore (2003: 158—160), namely data collection, data processing, and data interpretation. Biographical writing is closely related to the historical review of an object. Therefore, data collection stages need to be carried out to obtain primary and secondary data. Secondary data are obtained by means of a literature study, while the primary data are collected in the form of post office building components that still exist today obtained directly through site visits and verbal and pictorial data recording.

The next stage is the data processing stage, further processing by analyzing the primary and secondary data that have been collected. All data collected are classified in the hope of facilitating the process of analyzing in each development and chronological stage that occurs. These documentation data are of course used as a complement to provide visual evidence of the explanation that will be presented. The final stage or interpretation is a synthesis process of all the information that has been generated during the research.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Biography of Things has been widely used in various writings, one of which is in the article “The Cultural Biography of Objects” written by Chris Gorden and Marshall (1999). They argue that humans and objects that are together in time, movement, change and various transformations will be bound to each other. This opinion is also in line with the opinion of anthropologist Kopytoff that everything cannot be understood from just one point. Therefore, objects must be seen as a whole because the significance of objects is closely related to humans and the events that influence them. Based on this explanation, in this discussion we will look at the overall physical form and data that will be used to describe information related to events that occurred at the Pasar Baru Post Office because humans and objects are connected to each other.

History of the Post Office during the Dutch East Indies Period

Weltevreden is the name used for the Central Jakarta area during the Dutch East Indies colonial period. The development of the Weltevreden area was motivated by the transfer of the center of government carried out by Herman Willem Deandels. During his reign, urban development began to be oriented towards the mainland, roads were built far into the interior. This condition encourages the development of new residential centers outside the city which are healthier than inside the city or in Batavia. This prompted the move of the government center to the Weltevreden area because the environmental conditions were better and not far from the old government center (Batavia).

The move of Old Batavia to Nieuw Batavia was the beginning of the development of the Central Jakarta area which at that time was centered in Weltevreden, currently the area around the Banteng—Gambir—Senen Square. The center of community activities at that time was located around the Banteng Field, which was previously called Waterlooplein (Waterloo Field), paradeplaats (Parade Field), and Leeuwinplaats (Lion Field). Weltevreden's spatial layout is inspired by the arrangement of old cities in the archipelago, where one central area is surrounded by roads that intersect each other (Abrianto, 2020). This road connects one building to another and is connected to the main road that connects outside the city. One of the roads in this area is the 1,000 km long Pos Anyer-Panarukan Highway which was a Daendels project carried out during his reign in 1808 (Darmawan, 2000: 80).
**Pasar Baru Post Office**

The background to the establishment of a post office in Indonesia was to ensure the security of letters from trade offices outside Java and facilitate communication with the Netherlands through correspondence activities. Therefore, the reason for establishing a Post Office in Jakarta, especially the Pasar Baru Post Office, cannot be separated from the main objective, namely to ensure security and facilitate communication of correspondence and delivery of goods between cities.

Along with the development of communication with the increase in postal activities in Jakarta, especially Weltevreden, the construction of communication facilities was also carried out, namely by building a post office to the north of Waterlooplein (Banteng Square) and facing Postweg (Post Road). This Post Office building was first built in the mid-19th century and finally restored from 1913 to 1929. The area of the Pasar Baru Post Office complex is approximately 34,355 m² with a building area after restoration of 62 m x 88 m x 12 m built in the city center of Weltevreden or Banteng Square.

The Pasar Baru Post Office building still maintains its original shape, although currently there are several additions to the inside of the building due to changes in the function and needs of the building. Pasar Baru Post Office or currently known as the Philatelic Building and Pos Bloc is a Cultural Heritage Site located on Jalan Pos No. 2, Pasar Baru Village, Sawah Besar District, Central Jakarta City, DKI Jakarta Province. If seen from the map, the Post Office Building is located at coordinates 6°10'01"S 106°50'01"E while the area boundaries are as follows:

- To the north it borders Post Road
- To the south, it is bordered by GPI and Jalan Lapangan Banteng
- To the west, it is bordered by the wall of the Santa Ursula Catholic School complex
- To the east, it is bordered by the Arts Building Complex and Arts Building Road.

![Figure 1. Layout plan of the Pasar Baru Post Office](source: Google Maps, accessed June 2022)

Inside the post office complex is the main building surrounded by other buildings to support postal activities. However, over time there has been a decline in activity centers, which is one of the reasons for the shift in function to Pos Bloc, namely open space for the public and as an effort to empower local MSMEs which was inaugurated by BUMN Minister Erick Tohir in October 2021.
Pasar Baru Post Office Building 1930—Current

Based on literature information and old photo archives, the Pasar Baru Post Office Building is an open building without fences and is equipped with buildings supporting postal activities surrounding the main building. However, currently, although the original building is still maintained, the function of the existing buildings and rooms has changed to become a public space. Based on the location of the room and the period of the building, information can be found regarding developments that occurred in the building and activities carried out from time to time at the post office as a source of data in writing a biography.

1. Post Office Main Building

The main building of the post office is still sturdy and very well maintained. The front of the main building can be seen with typical architecture where there is a semi-circular level or semi-circular level like at Jakarta Kota station which is characteristic of the Art Deco Style. This can be seen from the presence of ziggurats in the architecture, namely multi-story structures that look like stairs, and at the front of the building there is a canopy equipped with air ventilation. This building has Tuscan style columns—the columns are simple in shape and do not have flutes. In the center of the building there are stained glass windows arranged in a semicircle. Right at the base of the stained glass, there are four brown finials. The finials are similar in shape to the one above the building entrance canopy.

![Figure 2. Main Building, (source: Varidy, 2022)](image)

The inside of the room is made with a high roof to maximize air circulation. Based on old photos and current conditions, the interior of the main room has maintained its originality. This can be seen from the crossed triangular iron pillars that support the roof of the post office. The shape of the crossed triangular supports as shown in the picture is considered very sturdy to be used as a building support. The roof of the tall building is accompanied by a row of glass at the top which is used for lighting the room. However, the current conditions inside the building are slightly different due to the addition of 4 room dividers on the right and left sides of the inner building which are intended as merchant tenant rooms due to the change in the function of the Post Office to a public space in 2021. Apart from the partitions, it can be seen The inside of the main building has a permanent staircase made of wood in the middle of the room which is intended as a place for visitors to sit.

2. Right-Wing Building

The main building of the Pasar Baru post office has supporting buildings on the right and left. The building on the right wing of the Pasar Baru Post Office is elongated towards the east and equipped with a canopy. The most contrasting difference between the main building and the supporting buildings is the materials used on the floors. In the main
building, the floor is built using marble, which means that visitors to the post office are "kings" whose services must be prioritized, while the supporting building on the right wing was built with plaster floors from the start of construction until 2020 and changed to wood vinyl during the restoration in 2021. The building on the right wing still maintains its authenticity with a semi-circular canopy, circular windows, and is equipped with ventilation for air circulation. The inside of the building on the left is used as an open space and is equipped with food and drink tenants and a rectangular garden in the middle of the building.

![Facade of the right-wing building and floor differences](source: Varidy, 2022)

3. Left-Wing Building

The building on the left wing of the post office extends to the west. The shape and ornamentation of the left wing building are the same as the right wing building, namely it is equipped with a canopy along the front of the left wing building. There is another building component in the left wing building, namely a staircase for the disabled or a ramp made of wood on the face of the left wing building. The outside and inside of the right-wing building are connected by a path to an open space and garden which is used for discussions and enjoying food and drinks. The open park is surrounded by food and drink tenants. Apart from that, at the back of the right wing of the building there is a prayer room that visitors can use.

![Ramp on the front of the left-wing building](source: Varidy, 2022)

**Biography of Things: The Post Office**

Biography of Things is an approach that assumes that like humans, material culture also has a life cycle and can be written in the form of a biography. This is in line with Kopytoff (1986) that the journey or life of objects can be expressed as a biography of objects. Likewise with Appandurai's opinion (Longhurst 2008: 135) that material objects have a social life so that their biography can be traced through uses and meanings that change over time. One of the articles that discusses the social life and biography of
an archaeological object is "From Rubbish to Cultural Identity" written by Irmawati Marwoto in 2019. In this article, it can be seen that pottery which was originally used functionally ended up becoming fragments and piles which were considered as something worthless. Until finally, through the identification of motifs and ornaments, the uniqueness of Banten culture was discovered and finally, together with the Banten community, these motifs were made into authentic batik cloth and could represent Banten culture, becoming a cultural identity which certainly helped improve the economy of the Banten people.

Apart from that, in "Reinvigorating Object Biography: Reproducing the Drama Of Object Lives" written by Jody Joy in 2009, he uses this theory to find out the life path of a prehistoric object, such as the Porthesham mirror. We can know the stages of making the mirror, how the production, function, and social status of the mirror user through observing physical conditions such as damage, motifs, and the location where the mirror was found. Therefore, the Biography of Things theory can be used in archaeological studies to explain the relationship between humans and objects over time. This inspired this article to look at the post office's life journey which will be described in the form of a narrative of the post office's journey from time to time.

**Life Journey of the Pasar Baru Post Office from Time to Time**

a. Colonial Period

Based on the previous explanation regarding the construction of the Pasar Baru Post Office, it can be seen that the Pasar Baru Post Office has existed since the era of the Dutch Colonial Government, namely in the mid-19th century. Currently, the Pasar Baru Post Office continues to exist, to be strong and to be well maintained despite the times. Therefore, this post office has witnessed the development of life in Jakarta, especially Central Jakarta and experienced several phases of life which manifested in appearance and meaning.

The existence of the Pasar Baru Post Office in the mid-19th century was supported by Dutch East Indies documentation. The Pasar Baru Post Office Building was erected in 1885 in Weltevreden. Apart from that, according to the DKI Jakarta Culture Service, the construction of the Pasar Baru Post Office was carried out in 1853. Based on this data, this means that the construction of the Pasar Baru Post Office was carried out in the mid-19th century, precisely in 1853. The building consists of the main building with the words "Post-en Telegraaf Kantoor" as the building identity on the front of the main building. The main building is flanked by supporting postal buildings on the right and left. The Pasar Baru Post Office building in 1885 (Figure 5) looks symmetrical in the Indische Empire style with the main building in the middle equipped with a canopy and a type of window with blinds or square windows on a gavel.

**Figure 5.**
Pasar Baru Post Office (1885—1900)
(Source: KITLV 5188)

**Figure 6.**
Pasar Baru Post Office (1925)
(Source: KITLV 34259)
However, the Pasar Baru Post Office building underwent several changes due to the construction of the Pasar Baru Post Office in 1913-1929 and an increase in postal activities in Weltevreden. This is also strengthened through the results of a study from the Dutch source "Verslag over de burgerlijke openbare werken in Nederlandsch-Indië, 1920" or it means "Report on Civil Public Works in the Dutch East Indies, 1920". The report states that in the 1920s there was massive development to support community activities in Weltevreden, especially around the Banteng Square. In these notes, it can be seen that there was construction and reconstruction of the Pasar Baru post office or Weltevreden post office in the form of the addition of several buildings consisting of warehouses, employee residences, two mail landing areas, and offices.

Since its restoration in 1913 until the Dutch government, the name of the Pasar Baru Post Office was known as the PTT Pasar Baru Building. As the center of the city of Nieuw Batavia, activity in Weltevreden has greatly increased and it has become the center of community activities because of the arts building or theater, the Pasar Baru post office building, and the Pasar Baru shopping center. One of the activities recorded in history is the addition of non-permanent interiors to the buildings in Weltevreden during the wedding celebrations of Princess Juliana, Queen Wilhelmina's daughter, in 1937. All the buildings in Weltevreden were decorated with lights that come on at night. Apart from that, you can see typical Dutch components in the interior of the Post Office, such as the words "Oranje", "Holland", and "Indie" written on the top of the Pasar Baru Post Office building.

![Weltevreden atmosphere in 1936](Source: KITLV)

**Figure 7.** Weltevreden atmosphere in 1936
(Source: KITLV)

**b. Japanese Occupation Period (1942—1945)**

While under Japanese influence, the Pasar Baru Post Office did not experience physical changes, but it affected the PTT operational system due to territorial division and was supervised by the 16th Japanese Army Military Command. In addition to the division of operational areas, the Postal, Telegraph and Telephone Service was divided into two on October 1 1942, namely Yuseisokyoku (Postal Service) and Tsusinbu (Telegraph and Telephone Service). During this period, the Pasar Baru Post Office was of course dominated by Japanese office workers. However, several employees who hold important post office positions are Indonesians. This triggered the existence of the AMPTT (PTT Youth Force) association which later fought to take over PTT offices or post offices throughout Indonesia.
The period of Japanese occupation in Indonesia lasted until 1945. The event of Japan's defeat can also be seen in the installation of a white flag on the roof of the front of the Pasar Baru Post Office (Figure 8). After Indonesian independence on August 17 1945, the white flag that Japan had put up as a symbol of war loss was taken down by the AMPTT youth and replaced with the Red and White flag. Apart from that, the takeover of the Pasar Baru Post Office only occurred on November 1 1945, which meant that the post office became the property of the Indonesian people and Japanese employees withdrew from the Pasar Baru post office.

c. Post Independence

In the period around the physical revolution, the name of the post office changed from the PTT Pasar Baru Building to the Djakarta Post and Wire Office. The name change can be seen on the iron plaque hanging on the front of the main building or main building (Figure 8). Based on the documentation archives at the Pasar Baru Post Office, it can also be seen that there have been changes in the social life of its employees, one of which is visible, namely in terms of clothing. In the years 1890 to 1900, the clothes worn by couriers or letter carriers were long shirts, trousers and blangkon, while after independence, precisely in 1946, it was discovered that there was a change in the clothing of letter or package carriers at the Pasar Baru Post Office, namely wearing short shirts and trousers. long, dark brown with a different hat than before. Apart from that, many of the upper-class employees at the Pasar Baru Post Office are made up of natives.
The changes also had an impact on the operational system of the Post Office, in 1960 the PTT Bureau in Indonesia underwent a reorganization and became PN Postel. Until finally in 1978 it changed to the General Post and Giro Company. However, in 1995 Perum Pos and Giro changed to PT Pos Indonesia. These changes influenced the designation and naming of the Pasar Baru Post Office, namely after independence it was known as the Djakarta Post and Wire Office and became the Central Jakarta Post and Giro office. The Pasar Baru Post Office building is considered important because it contains high historical value and still survives today. Therefore, this building was designated as a cultural heritage building with SK No: 475 of 1993 on March 29 1993.

However, even though it has been designated as a cultural heritage site, activities taking place in the building have increasingly decreased because most of the postal operations have been moved to the GPI (Capital Post Building) which is a new building facing Banteng Square behind the Pasar Baru Post Office. As a result of moving postal activities to a new building, the Pasar Baru Post Office building functions as a Philatelic service office. Therefore, this building is known as the Philatelic Building. The name of the Philatelic Building is written on the gavel of the main or main building and is still there today.

**Transformation of the Pasar Baru Post Office**

In 2017, the Philatelic Building or Pasar Baru Post Office was still used for Philatelic services in the left wing of the building and a small-scale postal service office in the right wing of the main building. However, even though it is still used as a place to buy and sell philately and collectibles, community activities in this place are relatively quiet and minimal compared to before. Therefore, the DKI Jakarta Provincial Culture Service issued a letter of recommendation for restoration on May 18 2021. The letter contains recommendations for the restoration of the Philatelic Building or Pasar Baru Post Office, which are assets belonging to PT Pos Indonesia, to become a creative space for young people to support activities. business and economics. In other words, the restoration of the Philatelic Building is the beginning of a shift in function from postal and philatelic services to an open creative space "Pos Bloc" which was inaugurated in October 2021.

**Periodic Developments in the Physical Form of the Building**

The journey of the Pasar Baru Post Office since its establishment in 1853 until now has experienced three phases of development: the first phase of initial construction, namely in 1853; the second phase, namely restoration in 1913-1929; and the third phase, namely in 2021. This also influences the physical form of the building. Initially the construction of the post office looked simple in the Indische Empire style which can be seen from the shape of the building where there is a main building flanked by supporting buildings.

However, in 1913-1929, phase II restoration or construction was carried out by architect Ir. J. van Hoytema. This is the result of an increase in postal activity in Weltevreden City, which is the center of Nieuw Batavia. This transitional style (1890-1915) was also influenced by the development of European architecture, the Indische Empire Style, which was not accepted by the Dutch, resulting in the development of a transition towards a more modern direction. The shape of the buildings in phase II remained intact and did not change shape during the Japanese influence in Indonesia until 2020.
Table 1.
Changes in the Pasar Baru Post Office Building

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phase I (1853-1900)</th>
<th>Indische Empire Style</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>There is a main building in the middle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Square shaped wooden slat windows</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Gavel is symmetrical and has the words &quot;post-en telegraph office&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No columns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The wing building protrudes inward</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Krepyak window
(varidy, 2022)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fase II (1929-2020)</th>
<th>Art Deco Style</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Maintain a symmetrical building plan with the main building in the middle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>There is a ziggurat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Semi-circular gavel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>There are 4 pairs of Tuscan columns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The wing building is parallel to the main building</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Columnn
(varidy, 2022)

As time goes by, the preservation of Cultural Heritage Buildings is also developing with interesting solutions but still within the procedures for preserving Cultural Heritage. One of the solutions offered is to develop the Pasar Baru Post Office Building into a public creative space for young people. The transfer of functions carried out affects the physical shape of the building. Some of the changes resulting from the transfer of functions are; (1) addition of 8 room dividers inside the main building; (2) addition of permanent stairs to the inside of the main building; (3) the presence of green open space on the right and left wings of the building; (4) changing the building wing floor to wood vinyl flooring; (5) the addition of disability-friendly facilities and infrastructure, such as ramps and special toilets for the disabled.
The changes or modifications above were made in response to developments in lifestyle among the community. According to the statistical data obtained, there has been an increase in the use of public space and the proliferation of coffee shop culture among young people, especially in the capital city. This lifestyle causes historical buildings to be modified so that they can be utilized optimally, even with new functions to support the implementation of economic activities and creative space for young people.

Apart from that, the addition of several disabled facilities and infrastructure is a requirement proposed by the Directorate General of Culture through a letter of recommendation for restoration during renovations in 2021. Therefore, it can be ascertained that the changes to the Pasar Baru Post Office are quite significant on the inside, but not there are striking changes to the building facade. The commodification carried out has proven to be able to improve the function of the building into a multi-functional area and improve the community's economy, which can be seen from the high level of activity and public knowledge of the Pasar Baru Post Office (Pos Bloc) after the last restoration in 2021.

Figure 9.
Changes to the building during conversion in 2021
(source: Varidy, 2022)

Pasar Baru Post Office Statistics
(Source: Google Trends, 2022)
From Colonial Memory to Commodification

Biography of Things is an approach that can be used to see the remaining colonial memory in the Pasar Baru Post Office building. Based on the descriptive narrative that has been described regarding the journey of the Pasar Baru Post Office, the post office's life journey can be sequenced chronologically to see the efforts to leave a memory of the post office. The life cycle can be known as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1853</td>
<td>Development As the Central Post Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1913–1929</td>
<td>Phase II Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1947</td>
<td>Became the Djakarta Post and Wire Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 November 1945</td>
<td>The post office was taken over by AMPTT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1942</td>
<td>Under Japanese influence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1993</td>
<td>Became the Central Jakarta Post and Giro Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1993</td>
<td>With the GPI, the post office became a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>Restoration and conversion of the</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Life Journey of the Pasar Baru Post Office
*(source: Varidy, 2022)*

The existence of the Pasar Baru Post Office has been visible since 1853 during the Dutch colonial era. The construction was made following typical Dutch buildings which were adapted to the climate conditions in Indonesia. However, since the last restoration was carried out in 2021, the Pasar Baru post office building has significantly undergone changes and commodification in terms of the physical form of the building, the changes being dominated by the inside of the building, as well as a shift in the meaning of the building as a public creative place.

Changes in the Pasar Baru post office building, which was originally a historical building, became a community commodity with economic value, resulting in quite significant building modifications. These modifications were influenced by the lifestyle and trends of the people of the capital city. The consumer lifestyle and people's trend to enjoy public spaces as entertainment are reflected in the existing material objects, the functionality of each room and the changes that occur. This is in line with the opinion of Featherstone (2007: 84) that through living habits, way of dressing and collection of objects one can understand one's consumer culture and lifestyle.

All changes that occurred at the Pasar Baru Post Office can be categorized as an effort to forget the memories of the past and abandon the old function of the Pasar Baru Post Office. According to Connerton, there are 7 (seven) types of efforts to forget past memories, one of which is forgetting as planned obsolescence, namely efforts to forget past memories due to the development of innovation which requires erasing past knowledge and obsolescence (Connerton, 2008: 66-67).
The effort to forget the memory at the Pasar Baru Post Office is in accordance with what was stated by Connerton because the changes that occurred at the Pasar Baru Post Office were an effort to change function and form to suit current needs and developments. The changes included in the efforts to erase the memory of the post office can be seen from the extensive restoration of the interior of the post office and the demolition of remaining post office operations such as counters and letter delivery rooms (Figure 10).

Apart from that, it can be seen from the Pasar Baru Post Office (Pos Bloc) social media account that although it is stated that PosBloc is a heritage place, there is no narrative regarding the history of the building which was previously a postal service office. These changes have made Pos Bloc increasingly known to the public as a place for creative activities and public space, but the public does not even know the history and previous function of the building even though there is residual activity in the form of a letter box at the front of the post office or Pos Bloc.

CONCLUSION

Even though objects usually cannot "talk" much, when supported by some clues about the context of the object, it will be able to tell a story about the background of the object from a historical, social and economic perspective. Biography of Things has placed the Pasar Baru Post Office in its social and historical context, thus revealing elements of its "life" and showing the connection between the post office object and the lives of its people.
Through the Biography of Things study, we can find out the chronology of the building, so that we can understand the meaning and function of the Pasar Baru Post Office, namely changes in meaning. The building originally functioned as a postal infrastructure during the Dutch Colonial period, but because postal activities at the Pasar Baru Post Office gradually declined and did not suit its function, this led the government to provide a solution that caused a shift in value and function to become a public creative space.

This shift in value and function is motivated by a change in use value or functional use value into a form of commodity object that has economic value. This change in value results in physical changes to the building in order to create economic goals, such as renting out the building for a creative place, a place to sell, and many of the remaining postal buildings being demolished. These changes can be said to be part of an effort to leave colonial memory behind because their use is not accompanied by historical education about the Post Office building. Through the physical changes to the post office building, it can be seen that the object can explain and tell the story of the process it went through during its life.

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