

**Uses of Heritage Objects and Artifacts by Local Community Members:
Case study of Lasem, Indonesia**

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Lasem, a sub-district located in Rembang, Central Java, is a culturally rich area that has abundant artifacts and heritage objects that can be traced back to its diverse history. Some of the heritage objects that can be found in today's Lasem include old houses from the 1800s and 1900s, along with the daily objects or antiques found inside the house. This research explores the current uses, treatments, and attitudes towards the heritage, artifacts, and other remains, especially done by local community members. Chosen as the case study, the current local community members and groups in Lasem have shown passion and effort to preserve and make use of the cultural resources that they have. This study uses qualitative research, adopting an ethnographic approach in which data are gathered through participatory observation and in-depth interviews. Thus far, it has been found that in Lasem, some local groups and individuals collaborate with experts and other stakeholders and make use of the cultural and heritage resources that they own or have found. Objects that are considered to be relevant culturally and/or historically are preserved in various ways. Some are used in their daily lives, and some are on display or kept safely in their storage. However, many other houses and objects are also abandoned and/or circulated on the antique market. Interestingly, in preserving, maintaining, and displaying the old artifacts, they also make use of the objects to attract visitors from outside the area, resulting in economic opportunities and gains for the locals. This phenomenon can be observed in old houses which are open to the public as cafes or restaurants, as well as galleries where tourists may visit. There are also old houses that became Batik houses, producing and selling Batik clothes and fabrics. This preliminary research will be a part of a broader analysis of the use of heritage and cultural objects to represent Lasem's identity, culture, and history through the artifacts, especially when the objects are displayed and shown to outsiders or non-local people of Lasem.