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## Interpretation: Heritage revealed

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**Historic Environment**

**Volume 11 Issue 4 (1995)**

**Young, Linda<sup>1</sup>**

**Abstract:** In the past, when 'heritage' meant 'inheritance'. the only uncertainty about the meaning of the term was whether Grandfather would strike out the family 'black-sheep' from his will. or whether Aunt Esther was going to leave her all to the Dogs' Home. In today's application of the word. heritage refers to a whole range of natural. built and social environments, as well as to the objects they contain or used to contain, which are so valued by the community that our society provides both

legislation and financial support to preserve them. The definitions may be contested but, put simply, in a phrase from the 1974 Hope Commission of Inquiry into the National Estate, heritage is 'the things we want to keep'. Heritage interpretation explains why we want (or ought) to keep these things.



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**Affiliation:** (1) Teaches Aspects of Cultural Heritage Management, University of Canberra

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