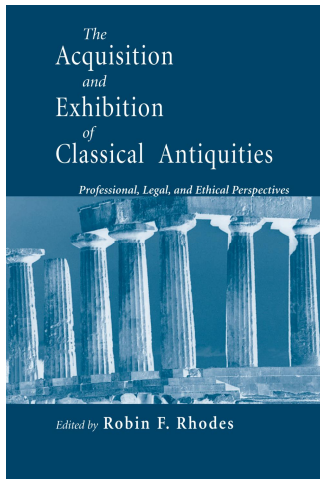


The Acquisition and Exhibition of Classical Antiquities: Professional, Legal, and Ethical Perspectives / Edited by Robin F. Rhodes.—Notre Dame, IN: University of Notre Dame Press, February 2008.—192 p.: ill.—ISBN 978-0-268-04027-7 (pa., alk, paper): \$25.00.



Looting, illegal export, acquisition and display of antiquities have been concerns for archaeologists and art historians, museums and governments; more recently, particularly with the high-profile prosecution in Italy of Marion True, former Getty antiquities curator, ethical questions concerning cultural property and its stewardship have attracted the attention of a broader audience. The papers in this volume, and responses to each, were presented at a symposium organized by professor Robin Rhodes at the University of Notre Dame.

The fundamental question, "To whom should antiquities belong?" is addressed from a variety of perspectives by directors of art and university museums, archaeologists, and legal experts. James Cuno (Art Institute of Chicago) addresses the political nature of cultural property and advocates for more "encyclopedic museums" throughout the world. Kimerly Rorschach (Nasher Museum of Art, Duke University) discusses university museum collection policies, illustrated by a recent gift of antiquities to the Nasher Museum. Malcolm Bell III (University of Virginia) outlines some problems with looted antiquities, which are stripped of archaeological provenance as

sites are destroyed, and suggests steps that could be taken to eliminate the market in unprovenanced materials. Stefano Vassallo, (Ministry of Culture, Palermo) recounts how illegally excavated materials, however beautiful, lose cultural value and historical meaning. Patty Gerstenblith (DePaul University College of Law) provides an overview of U.S. domestic and international laws with an emphasis on the collecting practices of U.S. museums, while Mary Ellen O'Connell (Notre Dame Law School) addresses the return of objects looted in war and the protection of cultural property. Nancy Bookidis (American School of Classical Studies in Athens) presents a case study of the theft and recovery of more than 270 objects from the Corinth Archaeological Museum in 1990, highlighting the importance of documentation of artifacts. C. Brian Rose (University of Pennsylvania) describes the Archaeological Institute of America's Troops Lecture program, where archaeologists provide soldiers with educational programming on the archaeology of Iraq and Afghanistan; the program emphasizes history and culture and summarizes the extent of loss when sites are plundered.

The essays and responses are not intended as a comprehensive reference work, but provide a good overview in an interesting and highly readable format; copious footnotes will guide the reader who needs more in-depth material. Several essays include black and white illustrations and graphs that enhance understanding of artifacts and issues discussed. This work will be of interest to scholars, lawyers, museum employees, and the layman interested in the collection of antiquities. It is recommended for academic, museum, and large public libraries.

Sarah McCleskey, Head of Access Services, Axinn Library, Hofstra University,
Sarah.E.McCleskey@hofstra.edu

Copyright © 2008 ARLIS/NA