



FIGHTING THE ILLICIT TRADE IN CULTURAL HERITAGE – how conservation professionals can help –

EDUCATION

- Participate in training events for law enforcement agents focusing on issues of looted, stolen and trafficked cultural heritage materials, such as the workshops (10 to date) hosted by the Smithsonian's Museum Conservation Institute. The behind-the-scenes sessions with conservation and other museum professionals offer opportunities to (1) meet specialists and participate in demonstrations using collection items from at-risk parts of the world; (2) better understand the skills and methods we use to help identify, assess authenticity, and uncover evidence of provenience, as well as document and care for cultural heritage items; and (3) break down potential trust barriers, and open up avenues for further interaction.

DIRECT ASSISTANCE

Technical examination • Condition assessment • Sampling guidance • Analysis • Documentation

- provide expert advice on materials and fabrication techniques, style, and condition, to help law enforcement with identifying, assessing authenticity, and determining provenience
- generate documentation for law enforcement's use during their investigations

Collections care

- provide expert advice on handling, packing for transport, and storage conditions, as well as conservation (if needed), for cultural heritage items held by law enforcement

EXPERT REFERRALS

- expand the technical resources available to law enforcement, through referrals within our networks of conservation and allied professional colleagues
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RESOURCES (selected) for Law Enforcement + concerned Cultural Heritage Organizations

- U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security, U.S. Customs and Immigration Enforcement, Homeland Security Investigations – **Cultural Property, Art and Antiquities Program**
Website: <http://www.ice.gov/cultural-art-investigations>
 - U.S. Dept. of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs – **Cultural Heritage Center**
Website: <http://eca.state.gov/cultural-heritage-center>
 - U.S. Dept. of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation – **Art Crime Team**
Website: http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/investigate/vc_majorthefts/arttheft/art-crime-team
 - UNESCO, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization – Illicit trafficking of cultural property
Website: <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/culture/themes/illicit-trafficking-of-cultural-property>
 - ASOR, American Schools of Oriental Research – Syrian Heritage Initiative
Website: <http://www.asor-syrianheritage.org>
 - SAFE, Saving Antiquities for Everyone. Website: <http://savingantiquities.org>
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CONSERVATION ETHICAL GUIDANCE for working on/reporting suspected illicit items

- AIC, American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works – **Ethics and Standards Committee**, and **Code of Ethics and Guidelines for Practice**, including **Commentaries to the Guidelines for Practice**.

Website: <http://www.conservation-us.org>, under “About Us”, Our Structure and Core Documents, respectively. *NOTE*: Commentaries to Guideline 7 – Confidentiality, under (4) Special Practice.

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