

Terms of Reference for the Committee on the Trade in Cultural Material

Preamble

It is now well established that most archaeological or ethnographic objects appearing for sale on the market are without provenance (either findspot or ownership history), and that a large proportion of these unprovenanced objects have been removed destructively and illegally from their contexts, which include archaeological sites and monuments, museums and other cultural institutions. The trade in this illicit cultural material has two European aspects:

1. Archaeological sites and cultural institutions within Europe are plundered to provide material for the trade;
2. Archaeological and other cultural material obtained illegally from countries outside Europe is marketed within Europe.

With this view, at its Annual Business Meeting in 1998 the EAA agreed to the establishment of a Working Party on the Illicit Trade in Archaeological and Cultural Material. The Working Party reconvened at Bournemouth (1999) and roundtables at Lisbon (2000), Thessaloniki (2002), and Lyon (2004).

In roundtable discussion in Lisbon in 2000 the need for the EAA to adopt a clear stance in opposition to the illicit trade was emphasised and the following statement was forwarded to and accepted by the EAA at the 2000 Business Meeting:

The EAA, as a professional body of archaeologists, is opposed to the illicit trade in archaeological and cultural material, and urges governments to become parties to all relevant international conventions, including the 1970 UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property, the 1995 UNIDROIT Convention on Stolen and Illegally Exported Cultural Objects, the 1954 Hague Convention on the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and its 1999 Second Protocol, and to adopt effective implementing legislation.

It is now proposed to establish the Working Party as a Non-Statutory Committee.

Mission statement

The Committee on the Illicit Trade of Archaeological and Cultural Material represents the European Association of Archaeologists in matters regarding the illicit trade. It will:

- Endeavour to raise awareness in the European archaeological community of the problems caused by the illicit trade;
- Explore ways in which national and pan-European executive bodies may be encouraged to adopt appropriate legislative counter-measures;
- Lobby national and pan-European executive bodies accordingly;
- Act on behalf of the EAA when asked to do so by the Executive Board.

Constitution

The Committee will comprise five people, one of whom shall be the Chairperson and one the Board Liaison. Committee members must be members of the EAA.

The usual term of membership of the Committee will be three years, starting and ending at Annual Meetings. The Board can appoint members to shorter or longer terms as circumstances warrant, and members may be appointed to more than one term.

The usual term of the Committee Chair is three years. The Committee Chair is ordinarily appointed from existing committee members to serve a term starting and ending at Annual Meetings.

Appointments or re-appointments of the Committee Chairs and members will be decided at the February meeting, after the President has consulted the Chairperson and Board Liaison.

Committee Membership

The Committee membership as of February 2003 will continue through from the Working Party. It will be:

Amanda Chadburn – chair

Paula Kay Lazrus – member

Vinnie Nørskov – member

Anthony Harding - EAA Board liaison