Charlie Nitschelm

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Response to Susan Ackerman and Laetitia La Follette

I enjoyed Susan Ackerman’s presentation the most out of the other Sidore Lecture Series guests. Her presentation was clear, and Laetitia La Follette followed the theme of the presentation very well. Akerman’s opening statement that we are living in a period of the greatest cultural heritage crisis in the world since World War 2 was powerful. Too many people are unaware of this crisis, and her presentation helped support the magnitude of the damage we have experienced. Her statistics on how military operations have the greatest impact on cultural heritage sites is extreme. The far second is illegal excavation of antiquities in cultural heritage sites. Some sites have begun to look like a lunar surface.

One fact that I learned from her presentation is the selling of looting permits to support ISIL’s endeavors. This raises the question of ethics, and really the core of our class. Do we have a responsibility to stop this? The culture that is in the middle east can be traced back to the ancestry of everyone. Should America and the rest of the Eastern world not do everything in their power to preserve the history of us? I believe that the destruction of cultural heritage that is present today is a call to all people to stand up and fight. No one group can have the right to destroy sites and culture that the rest of the world cares to preserve.