

Art as plunder - the ancient origins of debate about cultural property

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Art as Plunder : Margaret M. Miles : 9780521172905

Paul Getty Museum have passed internal guidelines stating that they will generally not acquire an object in the absence of information proving that the piece was outside its country of origin before 1970 or legally exported from its country of modern discovery after 1970. Well-provenanced that is, works that have a long history of ownership , high-quality pieces are few and far between, but they can still be found.

15.7: Documenting and protecting cultural heritage

Some countries, such as Germany, Canada, and Australia, prohibit the import of any illegally exported cultural objects. She has excavated at Corinth and Athens and did architectural fieldwork at Rhamnous in Greece and at Selinunte and Agrigento in Sicily. The Getty returned the pieces she had purchased from Medici and other dubious dealers, to Italy — including the statue of an Aphrodite that True had purchased for eighteen million dollars.

Art As Plunder: The Ancient Origins of Debate about Cultural Property

Miles investigates ancient attitudes and expectations about loot, ranging from the Sumerian period to the early Byzantine era, with special attention to those articulated by Cicero in his Verrine orations.

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As a result, looting caused an increasing loss to our knowledge and understanding of the past.

15.7: Documenting and protecting cultural heritage

In the fourth chapter, Miles turns to the Roman display of spoils of war more generally.

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Kim Hartwick and Patricia Rosenmeyer also took the time to read my manuscript carefully and offer many useful suggestions. It was this lack of training among other things , that ultimately enabled the looting of Iraqi archeological sites as well as the museum in Baghdad — causing the dispersion of thousands of objects, including widely studied works of cultural heritage such as the Sumerian. We also acknowledge previous National Science Foundation support under grant numbers 1246120, 1525057, and 1413739.

15.7: Documenting and protecting cultural heritage

Influenced by the Lieber Code, they ingrained these same concepts of protection into international law.

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