

Code of Ethics

The following Code of Ethics was approved by the Council at its December 29, 1990 meeting, and amended at its December 29, 1997 meeting and January 8, 2016 meeting.

The Archaeological Institute of America is dedicated to the greater understanding of archaeology, to the protection and preservation of the world's archaeological resources and the information they provide, and to the encouragement and support of archaeological research and publication. The AIA affirms the principle that archaeological data recovered in authorized projects should be made available for scholarly study and the results shared for the benefit of the public. In accordance with these principles, Society members of the AIA should:

1. Seek to ensure that the exploration of archaeological sites is conducted according to best practices under the direct supervision of trained personnel;
2. Refuse to participate in or support work on archaeological sites that is not undertaken under the supervision of trained personnel nor permit such work to be undertaken on property they own or control;
3. Refuse to participate in the trade in undocumented antiquities and refrain from activities that give sanction, directly or indirectly, to that trade, and to the valuation of such artifacts through authentication, acquisition, publication, or exhibition. Undocumented antiquities are those that are not documented as belonging to a public or private collection before December 30, 1970, when the AIA Council endorsed the UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export, and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property;
4. Inform appropriate authorities of threats to, or plunder of archaeological sites, and illegal import or export of archaeological material.