

# THE EAA CODE OF PRACTICE



*The following text was approved by the members of the Association at the Annual Business Meeting, held in Ravenna (Italy) on 27 September 1997, and amended at the Annual Business Meeting in Riva del Garda (Italy) on 19 September 2009.*

## **Preamble**

The archaeological heritage, as defined in Article 1 of the 1992 *European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage*, is the heritage of all humankind. Archaeology is the study and interpretation of that heritage for the benefit of society as a whole. **Archaeologists are the interpreters and stewards of that heritage on behalf of their fellow men and women.** The object of this Code is to establish standards of conduct for the members of the European Association of Archaeologists to follow in fulfilling their responsibilities, both to the community and to their professional colleagues.

## **General**

**Members of the Association must adhere to high standards of ethical and professional conduct in their work, and must refrain from conduct which could bring the archaeological profession into disrepute.**

### **1. Archaeologists and society**

- 1.1 All archaeological work should be carried out in the spirit of the *Charter for the management of the archaeological heritage* approved by ICOMOS (International Council on Monuments and Sites) in 1990.
- 1.2 **It is the duty of every archaeologist to ensure the preservation of the archaeological heritage by every legal means.**
- 1.3 In achieving that end archaeologists will take active steps to inform the general public at all levels of the objectives and methods of archaeology in general and of individual projects in particular, using all the communication techniques at their disposal.
- 1.4 Where preservation is impossible, archaeologists will ensure that investigations are carried out to the highest professional standards.
- 1.5 In carrying out such projects, archaeologists will wherever possible, and in accordance with any contractual obligations that they may have entered into, carry out prior evaluations of the ecological and social implications of their work for local communities.
- 1.6 **Archaeologists will not engage in, or allow their names to be associated with, any form of activity relating to the illicit trade in antiquities and works of art, covered by the 1970 UNESCO *Convention on the means of prohibiting and preventing the illicit import, export, and transfer of ownership of cultural property.***

- 1.7 Archaeologists will not engage in, or allow their names to be associated with, any activity that impacts the archaeological heritage which is carried out for commercial profit which derives directly from or exploits the archaeological heritage itself.
- 1.8 It is the responsibility of archaeologists to draw the attention of the competent authorities to threats to the archaeological heritage, including the plundering of sites and monuments and illicit trade in antiquities, and to use all the means at their disposal to ensure that action is taken in such cases by the competent authorities.

## **2. Archaeologists and the Profession**

- 2.1 Archaeologists will carry out their work to the highest standards recognised by their professional peers.
- 2.2 Archaeologists have a duty to keep themselves informed of developments in knowledge and methodology relating to their field of specialisation and to techniques of fieldwork, conservation, information dissemination, and related areas.
- 2.3 Archaeologists should not undertake projects for which they are not adequately trained or prepared.
- 2.4 A research design should be formulated as an essential prelude to all projects. Arrangements should also be made before starting projects for the subsequent storage and curation of finds, samples, and records in accessible public repositories (museums, archive collections, etc).
- 2.5 Proper records, prepared in a comprehensible and durable form, should be made of all archaeological projects.
- 2.6 Adequate reports on all projects should be prepared and made accessible to the archaeological community as a whole with the minimum delay through appropriate conventional and/or electronic publishing media, following an initial period of confidentiality not exceeding six calendar months.
- 2.7 Archaeologists will have prior rights of publication in respect of projects for which they are responsible for a reasonable period, not exceeding ten years. During this period they will make their results as widely accessible as possible and will give sympathetic consideration to requests for information from colleagues and students, provided that these do not conflict with the primary right of publication. When the ten-year period has expired, the records should be freely available for analysis and publication by others.
- 2.8 Written permission must be obtained for the use of original material and acknowledgement to the source included in any publication.
- 2.9 In recruiting staff for projects, archaeologists shall not practise any form of discrimination based on sex, religion, age, race, disability, or sexual orientation.
- 2.10 The management of all projects must respect national standards relating to conditions of employment and safety.

### **Note**

Questions of professional ethics and professional conduct may be raised by contacting the Secretariat, which will put the matter to the Board if necessary. The Board may convene a group, composed of past EAA presidents, to advise on particular issues which may arise.