

Palmyra-Talks

Protecting our Heritage

The Future of Underwater-Exploration

Lecture

Dr. Peter B. Campbell, British School of Rome

**Thursday June 14, 2018, 6 pm
Kunsthistorisches Museum Wien, Bassano-Saal**

Rsvp: www.icom-oesterreich.at

Attacks targeting historical sites, including the ancient city of Palmyra by the Daesh/IS highlight contemporary threats to culture worldwide. The widespread looting of archaeological sites for the international art market is an even larger threat – and in this field, the looting of underwater-cultural heritage is less recognized.

This talk examines efforts to understand trafficking networks, as well as the race to identify and protect sites. Campbell's research examines the illicit antiquities trade as a network stretching between sources and markets, connecting participants from a wide variety of backgrounds. Shedding light on the black market phase of the trade, Campbell shows how subsistence diggers connect to organize crime and terrorist groups, who in turn connect with corrupt officials and ruthless dealers. Using fake provenances these objects are put up for sale at auctions and galleries in major western cities. Campbell's field research in the Mediterranean has sought to identify at risk sites, including shipwrecks and sunken cities.

But is there anything left to discover? Campbell argues, "The Great Age of Discovery is happening right now!" This moment in time has enormous potential for new discoveries about our past. The seas may be the greatest museum of human history, containing well preserved sunken cities, shipwrecks, ritual offerings, and ancient landscapes from early human history. Despite the enormous importance of underwater sites, they have been largely overlooked and are poorly monitored compared to archaeological sites on land. Science and politics have shown that underwater exploration will play an important role in the future through uncovering sites important for cultural identity, generating economies based on sustainable tourism, addressing issues like climate change, and managing marine resources for the future.

The world is increasingly globalized, which offers increased opportunities for both threats and protection of cultural heritage. The race is on to preserve culture from those who would destroy it or profit from its theft.

The 7th ICOM Palmyra-Talk in cooperation with the Kunsthistorische Museum Vienna and the European Year of Cultural Heritage 2018.



PROGRAM

Welcome

Dr. Georg Plattner, Director of the Greek and Roman Antiquities Collection & Ephesos Museum, Kunsthistorisches Museum Vienna

Mag. Elke Kellner, Managing Director, ICOM Austria

Introduction

“OSCE Initiatives against trafficking of cultural objects”

Dennis Cosgrove, Head of the Border Security Unit (BSMU), OSCE

Keynote

“Protecting our Heritage – The Future of Underwater-Exploration”

Dr. Peter B. Campbell, Maritime Archaeology Research Fellow, British School of Rome

Peter Campbell is Maritime Archaeology Research Fellow, British School at Rome and archaeological director of the Albanian Center for Marine Research, underwater archaeologist for the Cave Archaeology Investigation & Research Network and a research associate with RPM Nautical Foundation. He has served on ethical boards such as the Society for American Archaeology’s Committee on Ethics and Institute for Archaeologists’ Maritime Affairs Group.

Supporting-Program

Exhibition “Recovered Treasures“

(curated by the OSCE in cooperation with the Kunsthistorische Museum Vienna)

The exhibition displays objects that had been stolen or illicitly exported from their country of origin and were recovered by the Italian Carabinieri Department for Protection of Cultural Heritage, in synergic collaboration with Police Forces and Judicial Authorities of other countries. OSCE is committed to prevent and combat illicit trafficking in cultural property, which is experiencing a dramatic upsurge in the unlawful looting of archaeological sites and illicit smuggling of priceless stolen artwork and antiquities. This trend stems from a wide range of enabling factors, to include economic crisis and political instability in some areas, vulnerable and exposed border regions in others, and finally, an overall lack of awareness and understanding in the countries faced with this phenomenon. In an effort to better respond to this serious transnational threat, the OSCE, as a regional security organization, is committed to adopt a holistic approach and partner with all relevant stakeholders to strengthen the collective response to this transnational crime.

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