

# Introduction to Nautical Archaeology I

Wednesday 13-May-2015 16:10-17:00



Ethics and the Underwater Cultural Heritage

**Ethics**, sometimes referred to as moral philosophy, is a branch of philosophy that involves systematizing, defending and recommending concepts of right and wrong conduct, often addressing disputes of moral diversity.

**Utilitarianism** is a theory in normative ethics holding that the proper course of action is the one that maximizes utility, usually defined as maximizing total benefit and reducing suffering or the negatives.



The planet's cultural heritage is continuously being destroyed and rebuilt.







Every generation, every culture, region, and country reinvents its past continually.

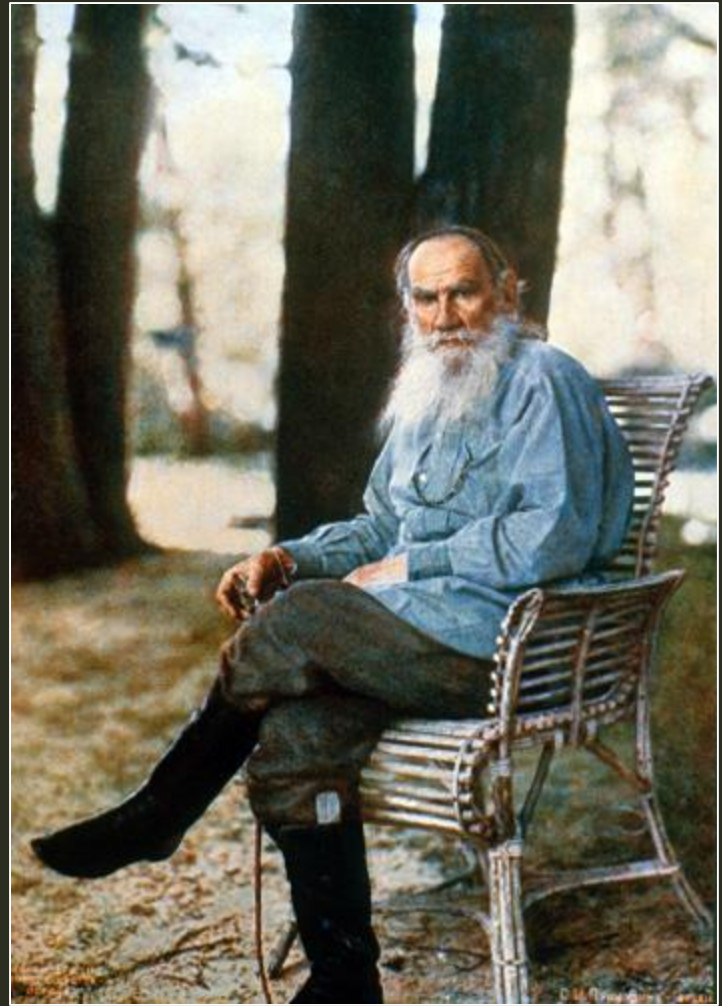




Memories are constantly being embellished,  
invented, and forgotten.



As Tolstoy noted, it is  
very difficult to tell  
the truth.





The “past” is tremendously important  
for everybody, in every society.





It is difficult to imagine a healthy society that is completely oblivious about its past.



The value of History was summarized by Howard Zinn: *"If we don't know our past, we will have to trust our politicians!"*



Identity, community feelings, a sense of meaning and continuity, are important values for society.



Studies show that most people are happier in the environment on the left.

Some urban planners claim that the cultural heritage is the “soul” of a landscape.

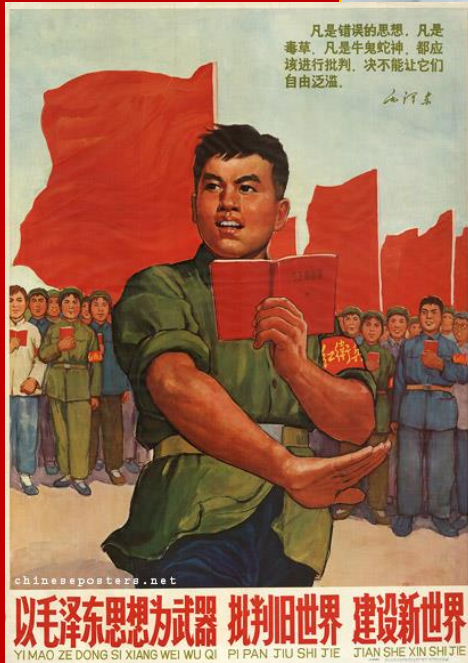






The “past” is important for society.

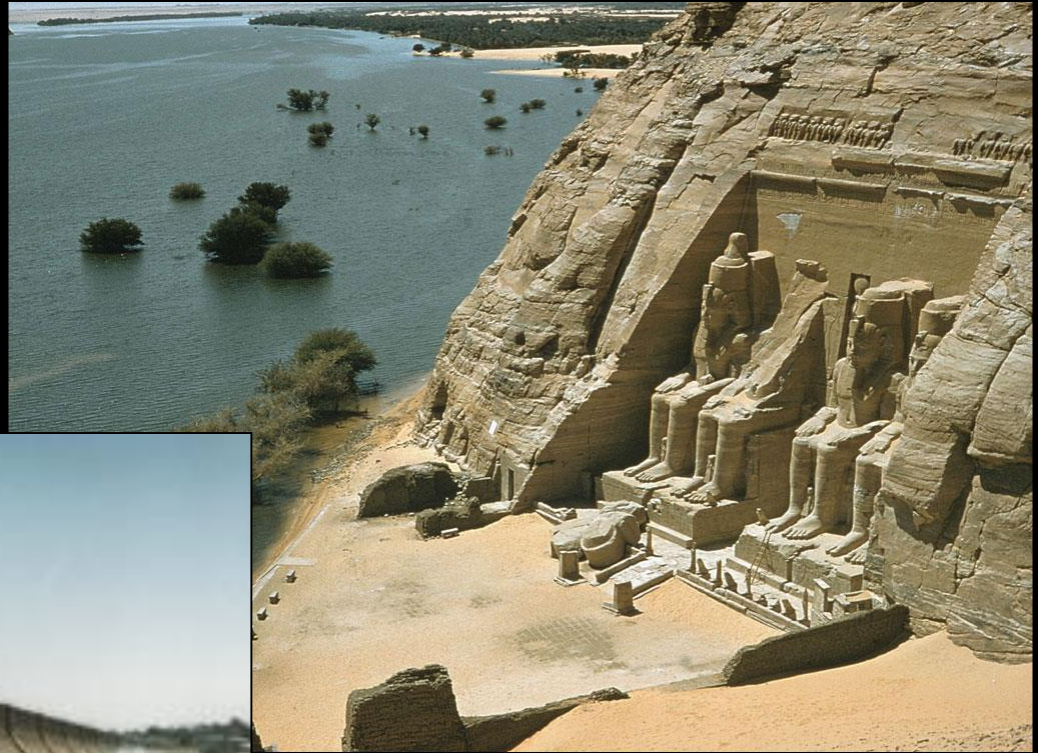




Yet the planet's cultural heritage is continuously destroyed...



Economic development is an important cause of the destruction of past material culture.



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## The 7000 Year Pardis Site: Bulldozed for a Factory Project

### 8,000 year old site destroyed by bulldozers

Posted by TANN  ArchaeoHeritage, Bulgaria, Europe, Heritage, Southern Europe  
3:30 PM

An archaeological site in Bulgaria, including remnants of a village said to date back 8000 years, has been destroyed by bulldozers, allegedly the work of a construction company building part of a new road from Bulgaria to Greece.



The destruction means that archaeologists have lost thousands of years of history. Bulgarian National Television reported.

A special commission from the Ministry of Culture is inspecting the site, near Momchilgrad, and police are investigating.

The 7000-year-old mound of Pardis in the Qarchak region has been bulldozed to make way for a brick factory. This has been reported by the Iranian based news sites of Mehr on September 10, 2008 (in English), the English language Tehran Times on September 11, 2008 and CHN (in Persian) which is primarily with Iran's cultural and archaeological affairs.



XL PIPELINE | March 7, 2012 | [ADD A COMMENT](#)

### TransCanada Plans to Destroy 71 Archeological Sites and 22 Historical Structures



**Brenda Golden**

Native American Community Examiner

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By Guest Writer: Fannie Bates and courtesy of the "Oklahoma Citizen"

While the governors of Oklahoma and Texas may have given in to TransCanada and Exxon, millions of Americans continue to stand in solidarity against the Keystone XL pipeline and the tarsand oil (laced with benzene and arsenic) which it will bring carry across our state.

According to an article by Paighen Harkins in the OU Daily, the Oklahoma Archeological Survey worked with American Resources Group and Steven W. Carothers and Associates Environmental Consultants to examine the likelihood of the proposed route damaging cultural heritage. Their results showed that there were 88 archeological sites and 34 historical structures along the Keystone XL's Oklahoma route, but the government has decided that it is okay to preserve only 17 of the sites and 12 of the structures. The government is willing for the remaining 71 archeological sites and 22 historical structures to be bulldozed. And for what? Just what are we getting in exchange?

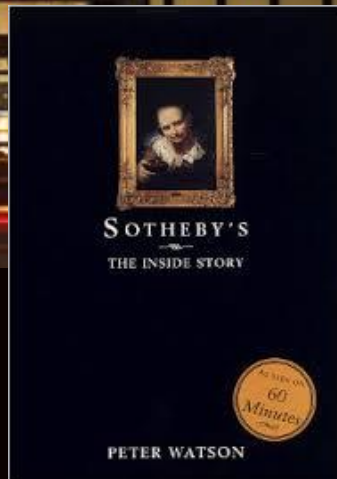
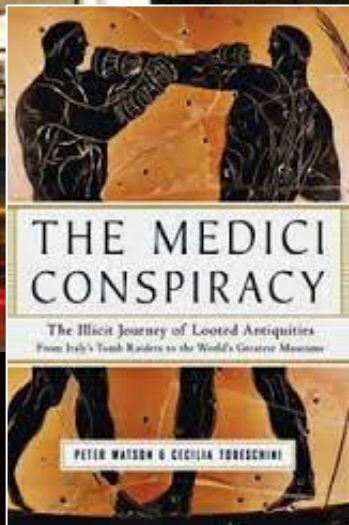
of the Archaeology Research Center of Iran (ARCI), and officials of the illegal excavations activities at the site. The CHN in Persian a few days before the report by





Sotheby's

Greed is another





The planet's maritime cultural heritage is continuously being destroyed as well...



Roman shipwreck dredged at Foz do Arade, 1982. Its cargo of amphorae was salvaged and sold in the 1970s (pers. Inf. Robert Marx).



...by trawling,



**APRÈS**

LE PASSAGE DU CHALUTIER

**AVANT**

POUR 3 POISSONS PÊCHÉS, PLUS DE 100 ESPÈCES SACRIFIÉES, REJETÉES MORTES À LA MER. PARMI ELLES, DES ESPÈCES MENACÉES D'EXTINCTION.

...harbor works,





...dredging,





...looting...



Early 16<sup>th</sup> century Portuguese shipwreck in Madagascar before being looted by sport divers.



Same shipwreck after the divers intervention. The copper ingots were melted





# ...treasure hunting,

**The Telegraph** Wednesday 15 August 2012

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## German treasure hunters strike gold with English shipwreck

The wreck of a 19th century English ship loaded with gold and silver worth millions of pounds has been found by German adventurers in seas off Indonesia.



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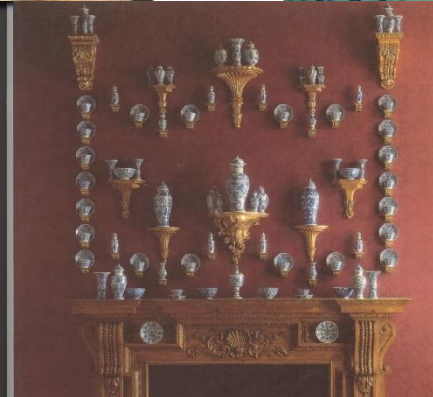
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**The Vung Tau Cargo**  
Chinese Export Porcelain

Amsterdam  
Tuesday, 7 April 1992  
at 10.30 a.m. and 2.00 p.m.  
Wednesday, 8 April 1992  
at 10.30 a.m. and 2.00 p.m.

**CHRISTIE'S**

**CHRISTIE'S**  
Amsterdam

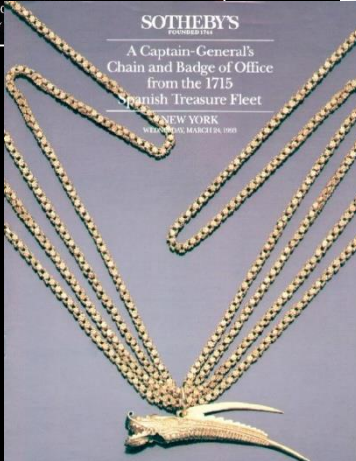


**San Sebastian Wreck**  
19th Century Portuguese Porcelain Wreck

**SOTHEBY'S**  
FOUNDED 1744

A Captain-General's Chain and Badge of Office from the 1715 Spanish Treasure Fleet

NEW YORK  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21, 2012



www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/treasure-500-year-old-shipwrecked-spanish-galleon-2965133

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## Treasure from 500-year-old shipwrecked Spanish galleon fetches £250,000 at auction

Dec 28, 2013 00:00 By Vicky Smith 0 Comments

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Divers recovered it from a ship that sank off the present-day Dominican Republic in 1540 as it transported an ambassador to the island, then known as Hispaniola




**Find: A diver uncovers a long-lost bowl**

Fancy dinner plates and bowls from a lost Spanish galleon have sold for a mouthwatering £250,000.

The 230 English-made pewter pieces – salvaged after nearly 500 years on the bed of the Caribbean – are claimed to outshine relics from the Mary Rose.

Divers recovered them from a ship that sank off the present-day Dominican Republic in 1540 as it transported the Spanish ambassador to the island, then known as Hispaniola.

Onboard were dining sets for his mansion. Around a third bear the mark of Sir Thomas Curtis, regarded as the most important London pewterer of the 16th century.



**Key: English pewter recovered from the wreckage**

The mark appears on items from the Mary Rose, Henry VIII's flagship, lost in 1545.

Six octagonal plates made by Sir Thomas sold for £27,000.

David Wilkinson, of Yorkshire-based Wilkinson's, which handled the auction, said: "The story is that the ambassador, the only survivor, had to swim to shore leaving his treasures.

These items are as good if not better than pewter in the Mary Rose."

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**CCTV**  
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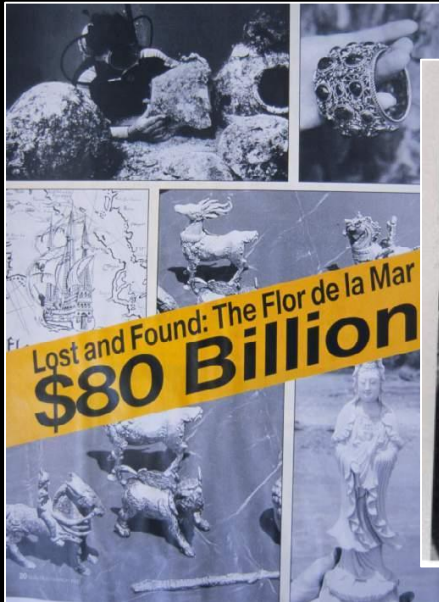
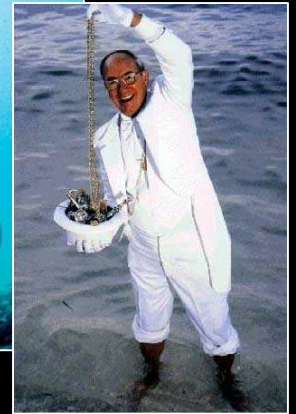
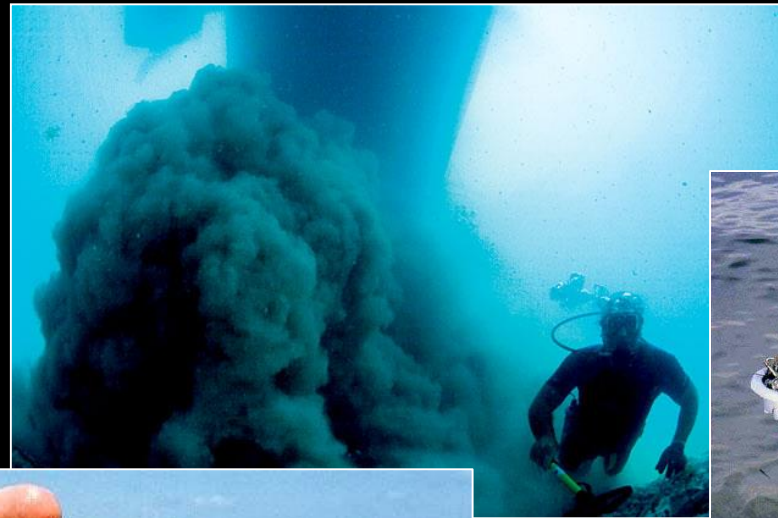
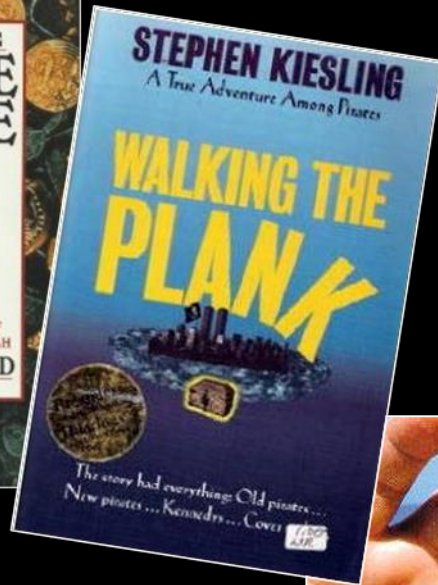
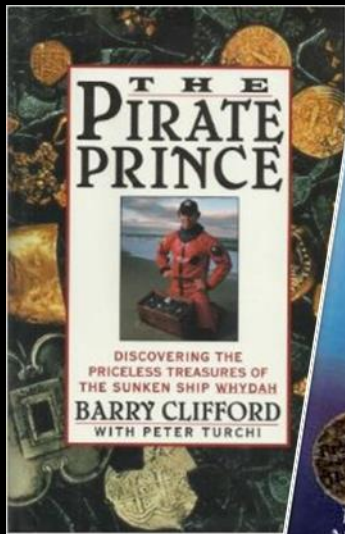
**BENEVOLENT**  
Benefit cuts blind man committed suicide after Atos ruled him fit to work

**WEDDING RING**  
Woman reunited with wedding ring more than 40 years after losing it in her garden

**RAILWAYS**  
At least 23 people including two children killed as train bursts into flames

**FUNERALS**





...and archaeology.







Archaeologists publish less than 25% of the sites they dig (destroy).



The 1980s salvage of the steamboat *Arabia* (1853-



Treasure hunting is any action perpetrated on an archaeological site with the intent of retrieving artifacts for sale.



Keep in mind that treasure hunters are not looters.





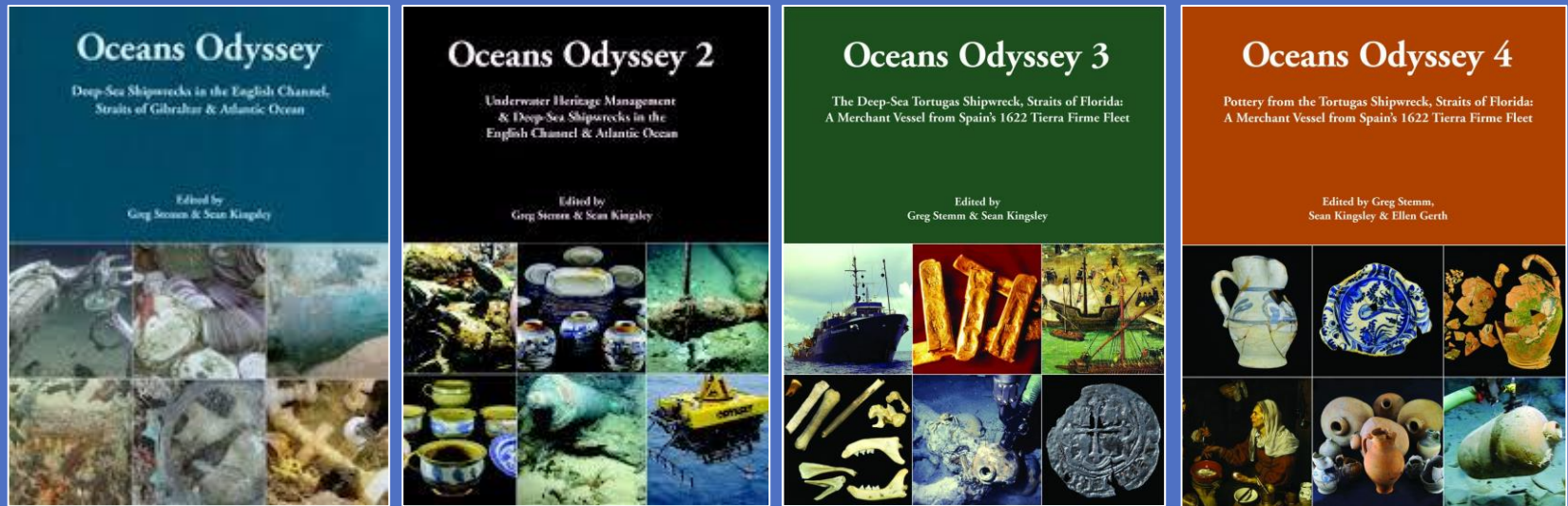
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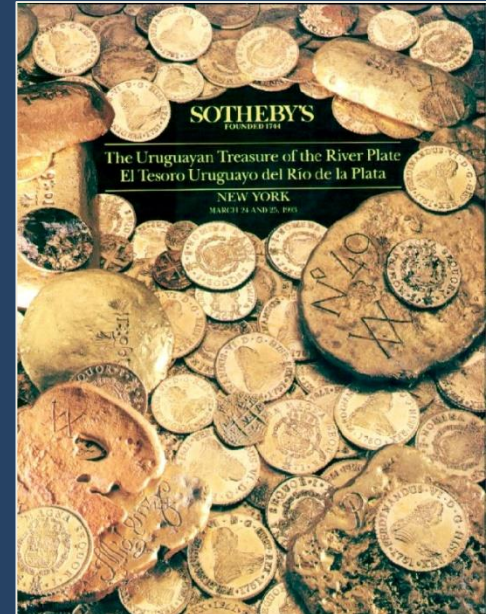
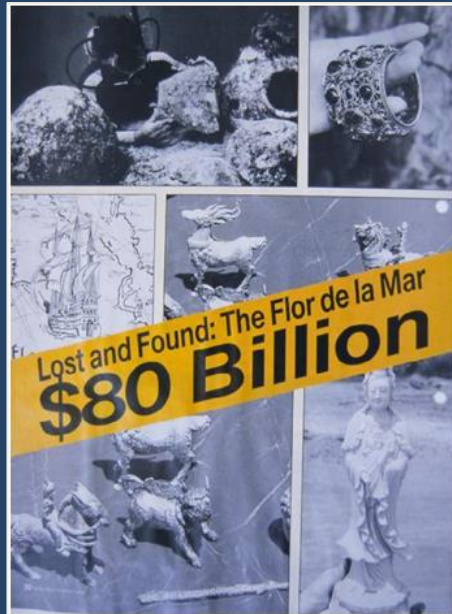


By definition, treasure hunters work legally.

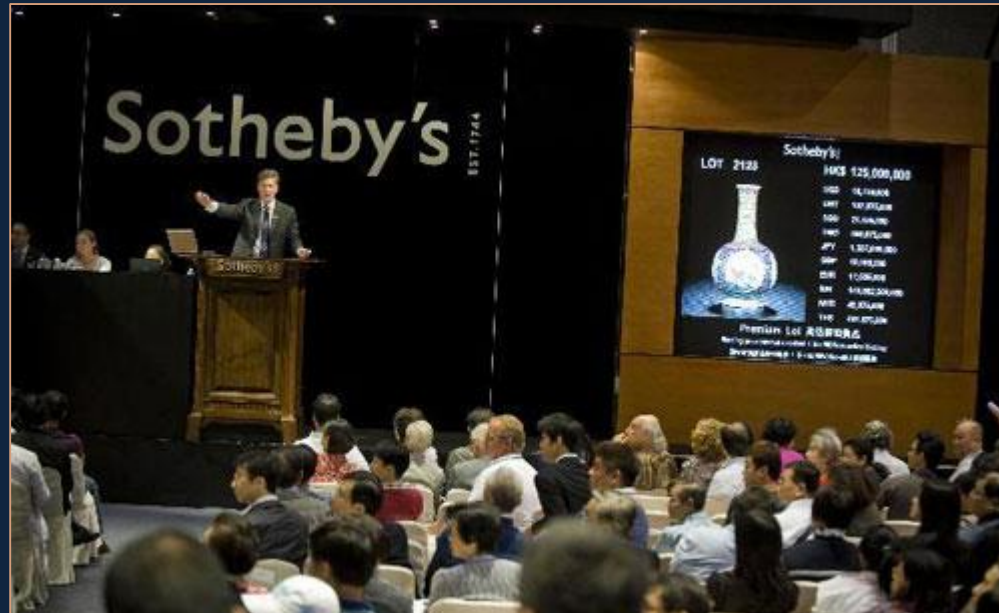


Treasure hunters have the support of the law and the governments for whom they work.





Treasure hunters sell dreams. This is not a dangerous business.



Treasure hunters work legally, and are respected by journalists, politicians, and art collectors – aristocrats and millionaires.



Treasure hunters fill a large and important cultural gap in society, something that archaeologists refuse to do: they entertain the public.



# Treasure hunting is seldom profitable. Treasure hunters income is drawn from their investor's pockets.

Citigroup Ex-Hedge Fund

www.businessweek.com/articles/2014-01-15/citigroup-ex-hedge-fund-chief-out-1-million-in-deep-sea-treasure-hunt

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### Citi's Ex-Hedge Fund Chief Loses \$1 Million in Deep-Sea Treasure Hunt

By Vernon Silver | January 15, 2014

f t in 8+ SEND TO kindle



Photograph by Stephen J Krasemann/Getty Images

The deal started with a treasure map, supposedly bought from a drifter at a saloon in Key West for \$500.

What could possibly go wrong?

For Dean Barr, who ran Citigroup's (C) hedge fund unit until 2007, investing in the X-marks-the-spot Emerald Reef venture has cost him more than \$1 million, he said at a trial this week in the Florida island's federal courthouse. "I lost a significant amount of money," Barr testified, [according to the Key West Citizen](#), a newspaper. "I want to get to the bottom of why and who is responsible."

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\$53.4 USD -1.11 -2.08%

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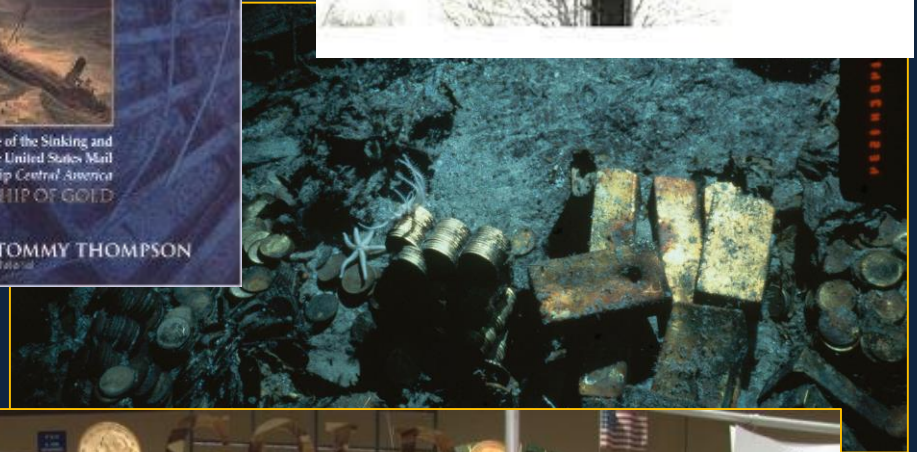
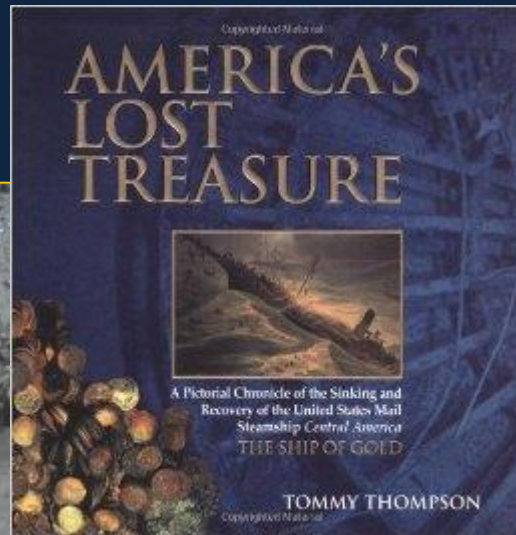


The first president of Arqueonautas SA., a Portuguese treasure hunting company, was the duke of Bragança. Now their spokesperson is an actor named Kevin Costner.



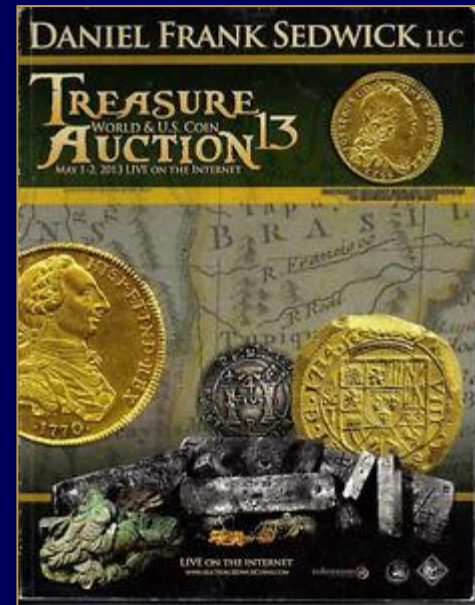
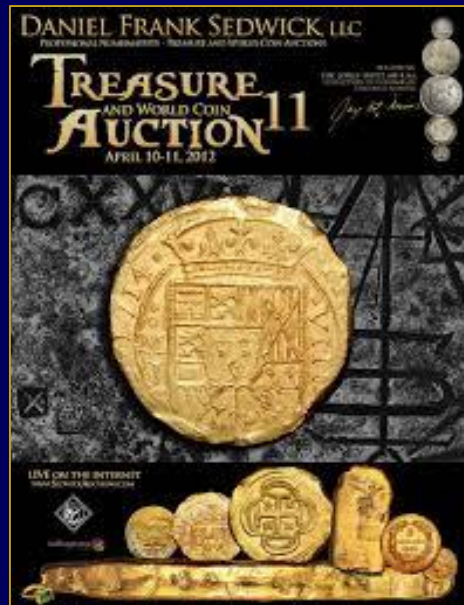
Most treasure hunting investors have money to spend, and enjoy spending it in treasure hunting ventures, mostly if they get to rub shoulders with people that make them dream. Treasure hunters sell adventures.





Treasure hunting is a socially acceptable activity.



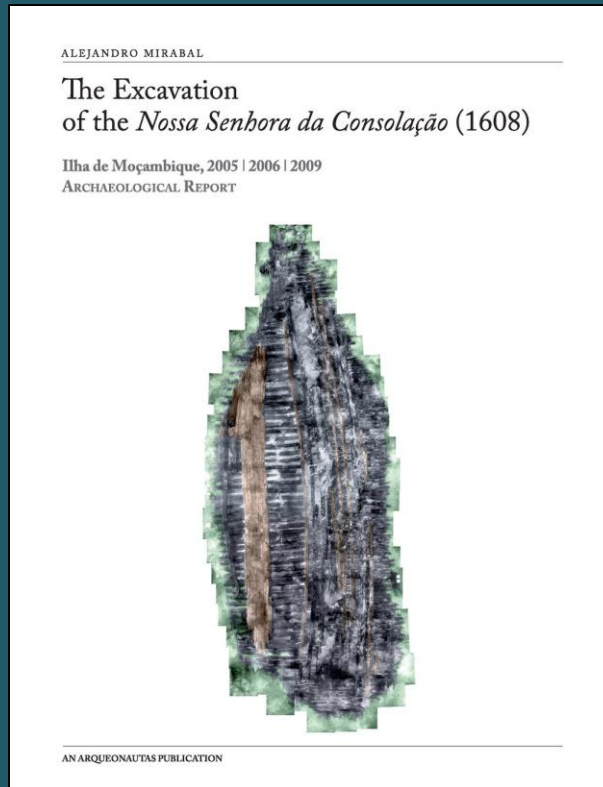


There are three main arguments against the sale of artifacts from archaeological excavations.



1. Artifact collections should stay together because new questions and new analyzing techniques are always being developed.



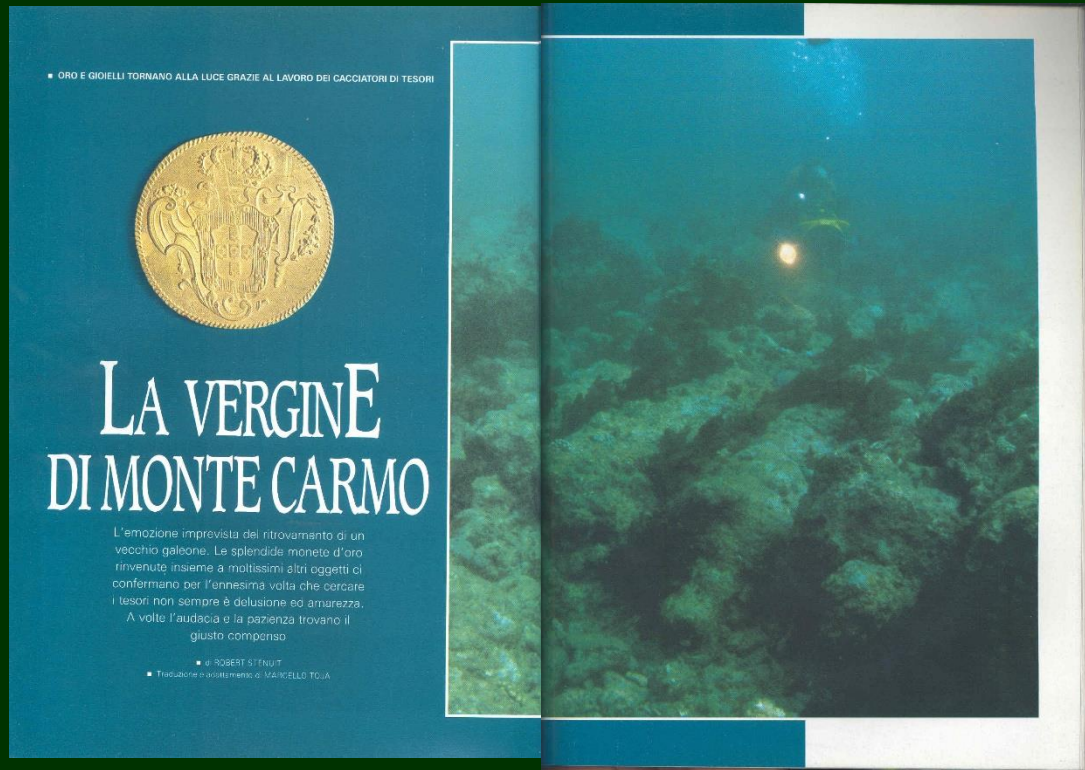


2. If profit (through the sale of artifacts or not) is the goal of an excavation, data gathering becomes an hindrance: time is money and conservation is expensive.



Deassessing artifacts after an excavation is acceptable; to excavate with the intent of retrieve artifacts with market value is incompatible with the goals of archaeology.





3. Publishing costs time and money. For profit projects NEVER produce acceptable publications.



Archaeologists that don't publish their excavations are criminals and should be treated as such.





Many archaeologists spend their time fighting between them, and don't have time to publish.





Even when they publish, many archaeologists don't share what they know with the media: they think that the public is beneath them.





Many European archaeologists with power today grew up in fascist and communist regimes.

They believe in ruling by legislating,  
regardless of the perceived fairness of the law.







In 2001 archaeologists and politicians managed to write a much needed UNESCO Convention for the UWCH.

# Four problems with the UNESCO Convention for the Underwater Cultural Heritage



It was designed by a generation that cannot cope with the challenges of the globalized world.





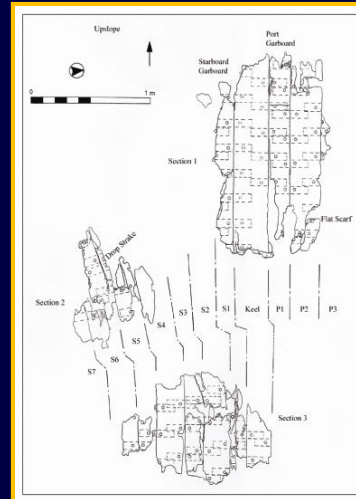
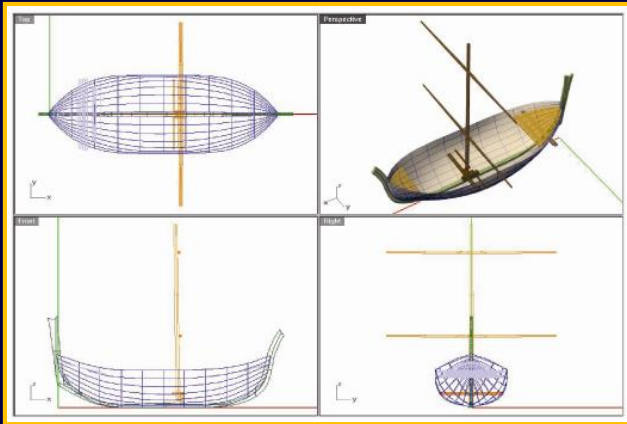
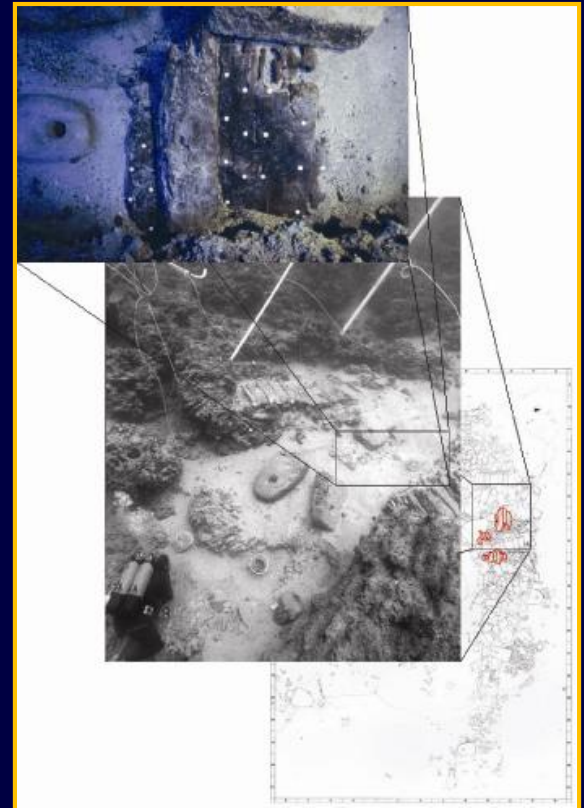
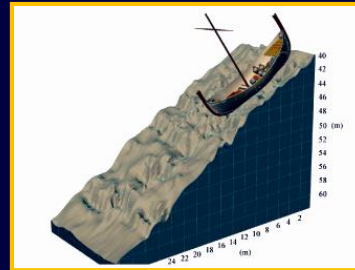
1. It relies on centralized government agencies to set policy and manage the underwater cultural heritage.



It dangerously emphasizes *conservation in situ* as a panacea to apply everywhere and to every situation. *Conservation in situ* is expensive and requires large state agencies.



Annex Rule 1 says that intrusive investigations should never be allowed unless "*for the purpose of making a significant contribution to protection or knowledge or enhancement of underwater cultural heritage.*"



Who is to determine what is *a significant contribution*?

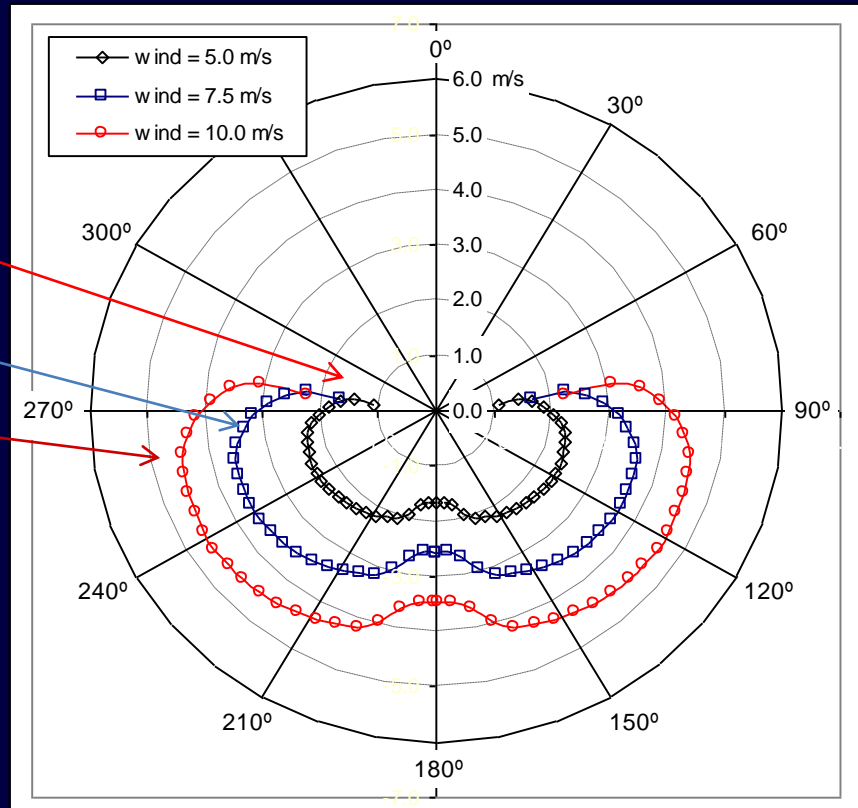
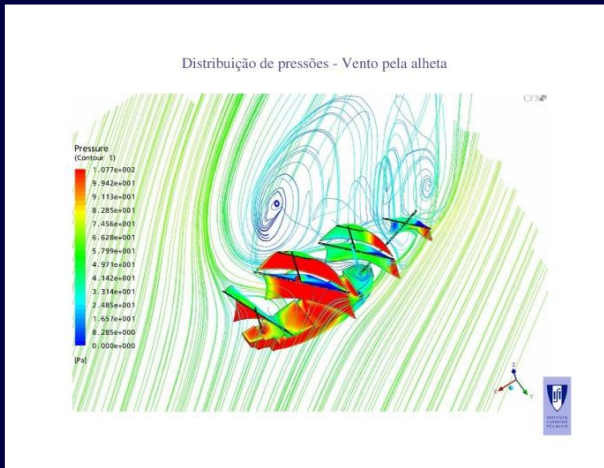






Is “the purpose of making a significant contribution” always absolutely clear at the starting line?

Beaufort: 3 – 8/12 knots (3.4/5.4 m/s)  
 Beaufort: 4 – 13/18 knots (5.5/7.9 m/s)  
 Beaufort: 5 – 19/24 knots (8/10.7 m/s)



$$1 \text{ knot} = 1852/3600 \text{ m/s} = 0.514 \text{ m/s}$$

The fanatic endorsement of *conservation in situ* could put a stop to many archaeology projects and prevent a **new generation** of scholars from excavating shipwreck sites.





2. It emphasizes the power of the authorities over that of the citizens.



**UNIFORMITY**

SO EVERYONE KNOWS WHO THE GOOD GUYS ARE





Once, in Portugal, I was asked if I had a permit to measure this anchor!



For all intents and purposes, it was there rotting away without proper care, abandoned by the same cultural authorities who wanted me to ask for a permit to measure it ...



The UNESCO Convention empowered a group of archaeologists/bureaucrats that have a rather particular view of the public administration role.



**Neglect:** some don't like to delegate, some find it difficult to give way to their younger colleagues, and some sometimes act as if it is difficult to see their colleagues enjoying success.

# The Mediterranean Public Administration Leadership Model:

## Early life:

Enthusiastically writing grants, starting projects, reaching out internationally...





# The Mediterranean Public Administration Leadership Model:

## Middle life:

Overwhelmed, without time for anything, incapable of delegating power, they become paranoid and dedicate the rest of their lives to screwing their younger colleagues.



# The Mediterranean Public Administration Leadership Model:

## Late life:

They find meaning in a new version of the famous religious poem:

*If I should die before I wake,  
I pray to God my toys to break...  
...so that the other kids can not have them!*





3. It endorses a nationalistic approach. Will most shipwrecks be subject to **ownership claims** based on historical links to multiple nations?





I think that **nationalism** should have been watered down before being introduced in the Convention.



4. It is based on the premise that archaeologists are good managers.





Picasso's Gertrude Stein

The best level of leadership is to get great things done within a **diffuse power structure.**

It only works with smart people...



Cultural agencies  
report to politicians.



Politicians are not specialists, and like the media, they are **just passing by**.

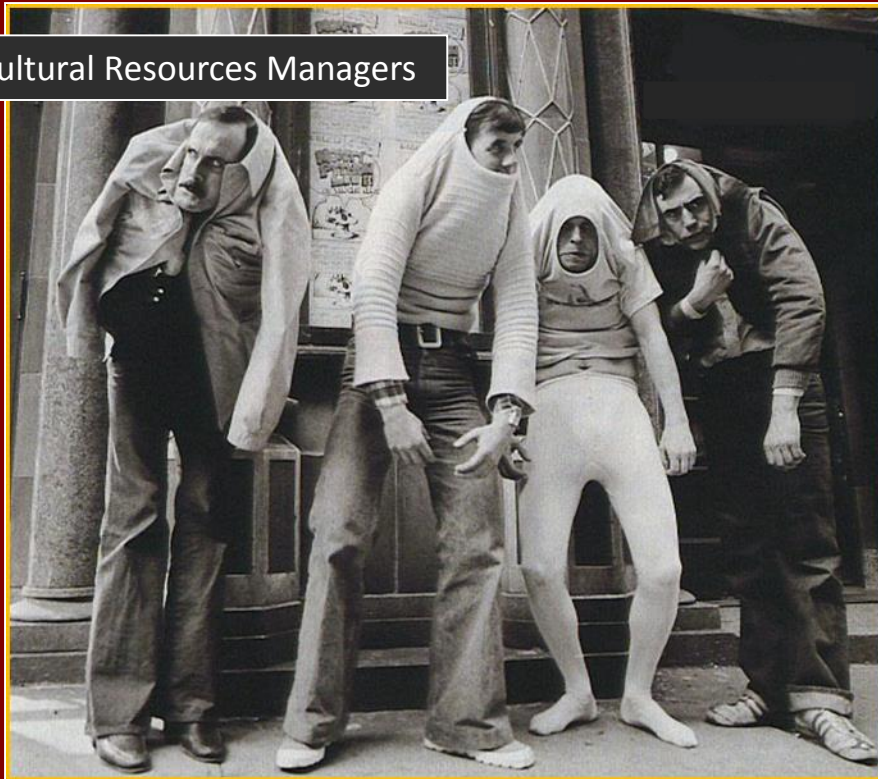


They must be confronted with situations already analyzed, **handled to them with clear prognostics and budgets** for each type of action chosen.



The situation is complicated, because the survival of the cultural heritage depends on politicians and cultural resources managers...

Politicians & Cultural Resources Managers



...two groups of people that are not there to help us...

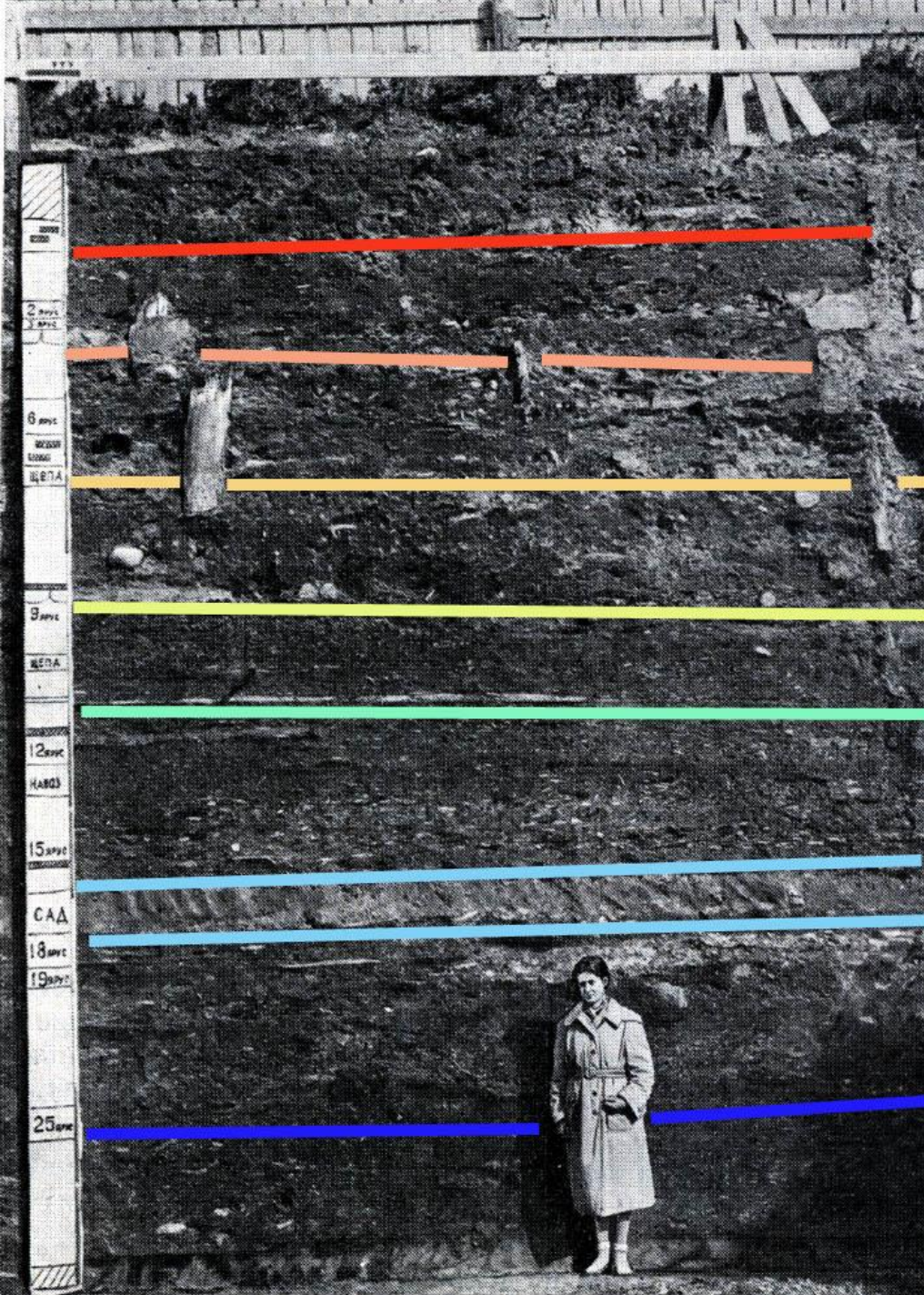




...I will come back to these people if we have time:  
citizenship and social responsibility.



If we have time I would like to talk about the role and the *value of knowledge and science*, both hard and soft, in society.



## a) Inventory

It is imperative to know what we have before discussing how it can be protected, studied, valorized, and shared.



Most UCH inventories are two folded:

1) A GIS database of archaeological sites  
(Shipwreck Sites Database);



2) A database of historical data pertaining  
to shipwreck events  
(Shipwreck Records Database).



## b) Diagnostic

Each site in each database **should be classified in terms of threats**, mediate and immediate.

Most sites are threatened by:

1) Natural factors:

Continuous chemical and biological degradation;

Storms and other catastrophic events;

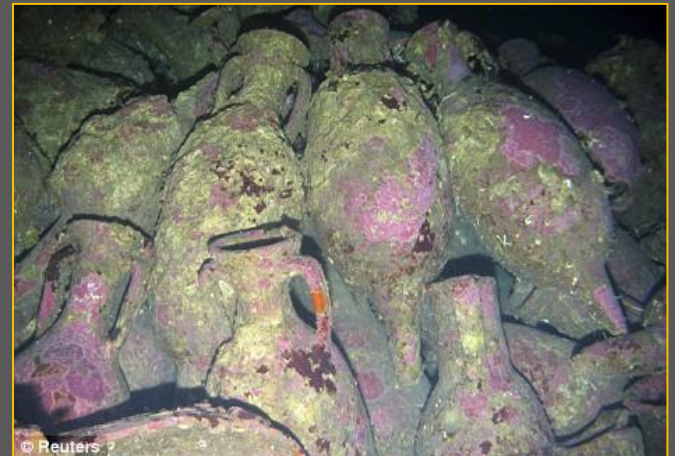
2) Anthropogenic factors:

Fisheries;

Sand extraction;

Harbor works,

Looters...





## c) Prognostics

Once all known sites are inventoried and assessed in terms of stability and possible threats, prognostics must be made and the cost of each action plan estimated.



Some managers call this SWOT analysis (for Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats).

Cost is frequently not  
the biggest problem  
managers have to  
face: urgency  
(preparedness) is  
often the key  
success factor.





Some countries are looking at their cultural heritage as part of the environment, and treating it as such.



Regarding its economic value, *Vasa* is worth many millions of Euros in tourism per year, and so is the Bodrum Museum of Underwater Archaeology.

The most important ethical problem regarding archaeology today is the **dissemination** of information among peers and to the general public.





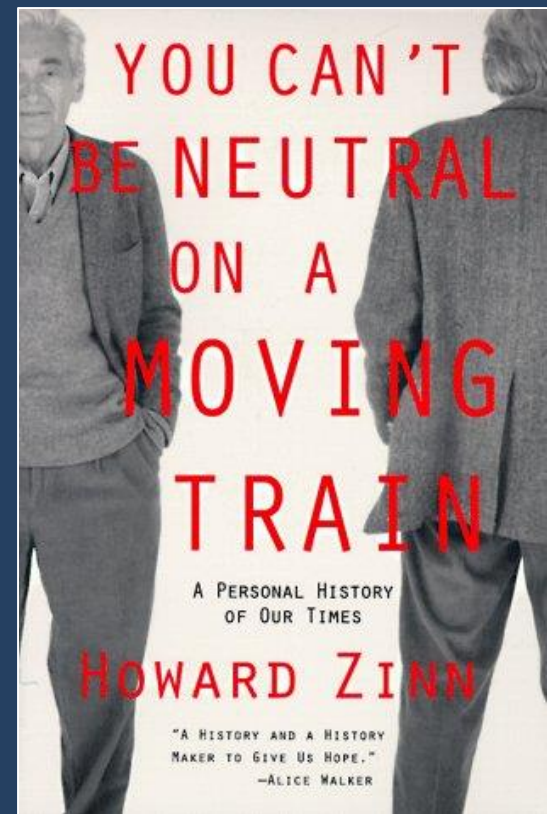
## XIV. Dissemination

Rule 35. Projects shall provide for **public education** and popular presentation of the project results where appropriate.

Rule 36. A final synthesis of a project shall be:

- (a) **made public as soon as possible**,  
having regard to the complexity of the project and the confidential or sensitive nature of the information; and
- (b) **deposited in relevant public records**.

Historians and archaeologists make the past present. To do it right is an enormous ethical responsibility.





Sometimes politicians, journalists, and the public want national epics.





Sometimes they want to forget painful facts.

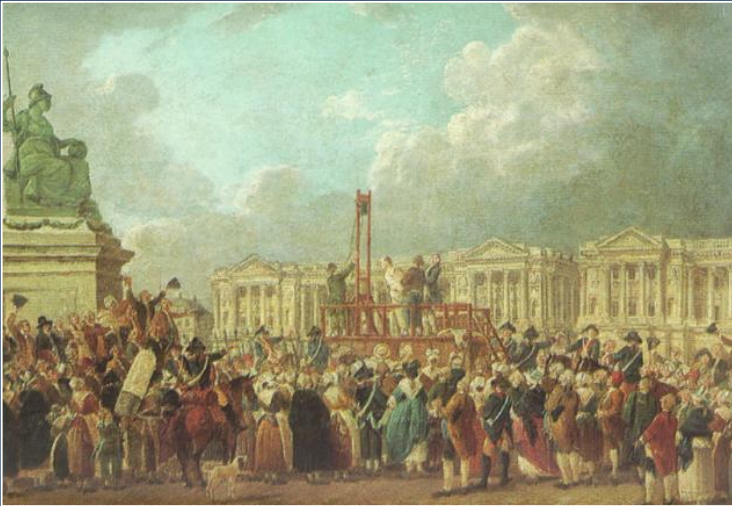


Photo: G. BALLARD





Anthropology studies cultural change. The goals of archaeology are the goals of anthropology: to understand the human adventure.



Place de la Concorde, 1793



Place de la Concorde, 1837



Place de la Concorde, 1993

Let's go to  
the third  
topic of this  
session...