Congratulations to Roger Atwood

The trustees and administration of the Alicia Patterson Foundation are honored that Roger Atwood, who was a fellow of the foundation in 2002, has won a SAFE Beacon award this year.

Roger researched the topic “Loot: The Global Trade in Plundered Artifacts” during his Alicia Patterson Foundation fellowship year. The foundation, named for the founding editor and publisher of Newsday, is the nation’s oldest journalism writing fellowship.

His reports became part of the research for his book, “Stealing History: Tomb Raiders, Smugglers, and the Looting of the Ancient World,” which was published in hardcover and paperback by St. Martin's Press.

Congratulations, Roger!
is a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving cultural heritage worldwide. We raise public awareness about the irreversible damage that results from looting, smuggling and trading illicit antiquities. We promote respect for the laws and treaties that enable nations to protect their cultural property and preserve humanity’s most precious non-renewable resource: the intact evidence of our undiscovered past.

By creating educational programs and media campaigns in partnership with academia and the communications, legal and law enforcement communities, SAFE encourages ethical behavior to stop the trade in illicit antiquities from destroying the history that belongs to us all.

SAFE envisions a world in which looting and destruction of cultural heritage sites and the marketing and collecting of undocumented artifacts from such sites will be unthinkable.
Congratulations
to the
Beacon Award Winners

The American Academic Research Institute in Iraq (TAARII), promotes scholarly research on and in Iraq. The Institute, a consortium of American universities and museums is establishing a multidisciplinary American scholarly research center in Iraq, as conditions permit. TAARII raises funds for graduate and post-graduate fellowships for Americans and Iraqis, initiates its own conferences and research projects and is especially interested in fostering joint projects between American and Iraqi academics. For more information contact info@taarii.org.

The **SAFE BEACON AWARDS** recognize outstanding individuals who enlighten the public about the devastating consequences of the illicit antiquities trade and the looting of ancient sites.

This evening, SAFE presents our first Beacon Awards to the authors of three outstanding books. With different geographic emphasis, thematic approaches, and personal perspectives, each book proposes measures to curb the illicit antiquities trade and recommends ethical collecting practices.

Thank you for celebrating with us,

BEACON AWARDS Committee

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**PROGRAM**

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Congratulations

Peter Watson
Cecilia Todeschini
Matthew Bogdanos
and
Roger Atwood

on receiving
the Beacon Award from SAFE

Peter Watson is an investigative journalist and Research Associate at the Illicit Antiquities Research Centre at the McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research (University of Cambridge).

Cecilia Todeschini is a researcher and translator who has worked for the BBC, ITV, CBS, ABC, and NBC. She has covered papal conclaves as well as the great mafia trials in Italy among many other subjects.

With consummate knowledge of the topic, inside access to an important investigation in Italy and the fruits of his own investigation of Sotheby's antiquities department in London, Mr. Watson and Ms. Todeschini document the network of tombaroli, middlemen, smugglers, and rogue dealers, collectors and museums that have all played a role in, or turned a blind eye to, the plundering of ancient sites and theft of ancient artifacts from Italy and other parts of the Mediterranean region. They have given us a work of astonishing scope and depth. Their prose and eye for detail rivet our attention on every page. Yet their summary of the role that museums play in the illicit antiquities trade may be the most important seven sentences in the entire book:

The antiquities underworld is far more organized, far more venal, far more deceitful, involves far more money, does far more damage, concerns many more objects, and corrupts far more people — and far more “respectable,” “professional” people — than anyone ever imagined. Bluntly, the situation is much worse than has been envisaged. Yet the world's museums — many of them rogue until now — have it in their power to curtail this unfortunate trade. The fact is that, until now, and as this book has shown, the world's rogue museums have been the real looters. It is the demand for ancient objects that begins with them, that induces collectors to acquire objects they can subsequently donate to museums, either for social advancement or for tax breaks. Copies of this book are being sent to all the trustees of the world's museums that have dealt in these items. They are perfectly placed to clean up this regrettable business and to staunch the enormous drain of beautiful and important objects out of Italy and elsewhere.

More than a description of individual wrongdoing, The Medici Conspiracy is an indictment of a culture — an influential and well-connected international network of dealers, collectors and museums — whose attitudes and practices, once revealed, cannot be allowed to continue.
Matthew Bogdanos has served as an assistant district attorney at the New York County District Attorney's Office since 1988. He holds a bachelor's degree in classics from Bucknell University, a law degree and a master's degree in classical studies from Columbia University, and a master's degree in Strategic Studies from the Army War College. A colonel in the Marine Reserves, he was recalled to active duty after 9/11, served one tour of duty in Afghanistan, for which he received a Bronze Star, and two tours of duty in Iraq, for which he received the National Humanities Medal in 2005 for leading the team that investigated the looting of the National Museum of Iraq and recovered more than 5,000 artifacts. In the process, he discovered something more disturbing than theft, which he described in the Afterword to the paperback edition:

As discussed in the first edition, U.S. Marines in northwest Iraq in June 2005 arrested five insurgents holed up in underground bunkers filled with automatic weapons, ammunition stockpiles, black uniforms, ski masks, and night-vision goggles. Along with these tools of their trade, were 30 vases, cylinder seals, and statuettes that had been stolen from the Iraq Museum. Since then, the scenario has been repeated many times. It does not take a counter-terrorism expert to detect the sinister adjustment that has taken place. In 2003, while pursuing leads to find antiquities, we usually came across weapons and, sometimes, links to violent, radical groups. Now, as our troops pursue leads specific to the trail of weapons and insurgents, we find antiquities. In short, the relationship between the dog and the wagging tail has been reversed. As the 9/11 commission noted, international law enforcement has effectively squeezed radical groups by freezing assets, neutralizing charities that served as fronts for jihadists, and by otherwise cutting off traditional means of financing. But terrorists are nothing if not adaptive... Like the Taliban leaders in Afghanistan who have learned to finance their activities through the opium trade, insurgents in Iraq have discovered a new source of income in Iraq's cash crop: antiquities.

We do not have hard numbers — this traffic in art for arms is still too recent a phenomenon... But this illicit trade has become a growing source of revenue for the insurgents.... Iraq is a war zone, but it is also the cradle of civilization, with 10,000 poorly guarded archaeological sites. Given this almost limitless supply of antiquities, the insurgency appears to have found an income stream sufficiently secure to make any Chief Financial Officer sleep well at night.

Thieves of Baghdad serves as a rallying cry for law enforcement, policymakers and professionals to take action.
Aldo [a collector] believed that certain ancient Peruvian cultures, Chancay for example, were essentially finished. There were no more sites left to excavate, looters had rifled through the last of them, and many more coastal civilizations, including the Moche, were headed in the same direction. That was a familiar bleat from archaeologists, but it surprised me to hear it from a man like Aldo who had a businessman’s dispassionate sensibility and a deep, genuine knowledge of the market’s supply side.

“I would say that eighty to ninety percent of the total is now outside Peru.”

“You mean, eighty to ninety percent of what is currently on the market?” I asked.

“No, no. Ninety percent of all valuable, pre-Columbian Peruvian art ever created.”

Ninety percent of everything. “You can go for two or three years now without seeing anything new that’s top-quality. That is because no more than ten percent still remains in the ground. All over the country, it’s all running out.”

Looting on this scale results in nothing less than the erasure of the historical record, destroying any chance that a site and the culture that created it can be documented and understood by future generations. Stealing History is a beacon whereby Roger Atwood announces how we must combat archaeological plunder before our history is stolen.
The Restoring Ancient Stabiae (RAS) Foundation has the mission to excavate, study and transform the 150-acre archaeological site of ancient Stabiae featuring the best-preserved group of seaside Roman villas ever discovered, into the world’s most innovative archaeological park to date.

Located only three miles away from Pompeii and Herculaneum, gate to the Sorrento-Amalfi Coast, the multi-functional archaeological park of Stabiae will present to the public all facets of the Roman villa culture on the Bay of Naples before Vesuvius’ eruption in 79 A.D. The park will connect all Vesuvian archeological roman sites into a cultural circuit and will feature major new excavations, panoramic promenades, on site museums, visitor centers, lodging, outdoor theaters, and the Vesuvian Institute of Archeology and the Humanities. The park will be the first showcasing the villas’ stunning frescoes, swimming pools, gardens, and porticos; financial support from both private and state funds will be vital for excavations and continued preservation. This cultural enterprise for economic development integrated with tourist sites and amenities of the Campania Region will provide opportunities for public-private ventures and commercial investments.

The In Stabiano: Exploring the Ancient Seaside Villas of the Roman Elit exhibition, is currently touring American museums in its 2005-08 U.S. tour, bringing to the public 75 exclusive artworks and artifacts from the villas such as frescoes, stuccoes, statutes and marbles.

RAS website is where you can learn all about the villas, make donations, become a sponsor or partner and participate in the project. RAS has launched a new “Adopt-A-Fresco” campaign where you can even adopt and save a 2000-year old fresco in your name! Visit www.stabiae.org today!

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Technology at the service of cultural heritage
A Heritage in Peril.

While other countries benefit from International attention, receive funding, the latest technology in equipment and security for their sites and objects, Afghanistan remains in the dark. For the 25th year the country is being relentlessly looted, historical data is forever lost and an entire nation becomes disconnected from its roots, from its right to know. This must and can be changed. APAA is therefore a strong voice sounding internationally on behalf of the unique and rich archaeological heritage of Afghanistan.

APAA conducts scientific excavations in Bamiyan and works directly with the Afghan Ministry of Culture, Museums and archaeology institutions to assist in their successful scientific comeback. APAA provides teaching at University level, expertise and training in Afghanistan.

Help us Grow these Seeds of Knowledge, Be part of our future, Join Us and Help SAVE the Cultural Heritage of Afghanistan, NOW!

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congratulates

Peter Watson & Cecilia Todeschini

for

“The Medici Conspiracy”
Congratulations to Peter Watson
Cecilia Todeschini
Matthew Bogdanos
and Roger Atwood

Stephen J. Javaras
Private Chef Specializing in Dinner Parties
Martha’s Vineyard and New York
stephen.javaras@gmail.com

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Marina Papa-Sokal and Alan Sokal

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Stephen Javaras

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Cobblestone Publishing

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House of Burgundy

Object ID Checklist
International Council of Museums

Scented candles
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The House of Burgundy, Inc. has been importing fine wines since 1934. Robert F. Fairchild became a partner in the firm in 1971 and the owner in 1978. Over the years the distinguished portfolio has included Maison Prosper Maufoux, Domaine Ott, Opus One, Robert Mondavi, Burgess Cellars, Grant Burge, Champagne Salon, Schloss Vollrads and Chateau St. Georges just to name a few.

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