

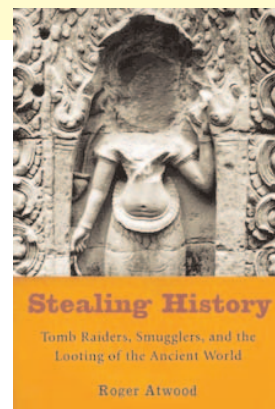
**SAFE PRESENTS ROGER ATWOOD IN BOOK SIGNING**

**DATE: Thursday, December 2nd**

**TIME: 6:30-8:30 PM**

**LOCATION: The Puffin Room, 435 Broome St, NYC**

Roger Atwood, author of *STEALING HISTORY*, will discuss and sign copies of his new book at a reception sponsored by SAFE (Saving Antiquities for Everyone), and St. Martin's Press. SAFE is a non-profit organization dedicated to increasing awareness of the looting of cultural antiquities worldwide and the illicit antiquities trade. More information is at [www.savingantiquities.org](http://www.savingantiquities.org).



**STEALING HISTORY**

**Tomb Raiders, Smugglers, and the Looting of the Ancient World—Roger Atwood**

“This vividly written, well-researched book is a great primer for anyone interested in the ongoing struggle by archaeologists, law enforcement officials, and national governments to curb the illegal antiquities trade....”

—*Archaeology Magazine*

“A disturbing tale of greed and cultural demolition, robust in the telling, scorching in its indictment.”

—*Kirkus Reviews*

In *STEALING HISTORY*, journalist Roger Atwood documents how the antiquities trade has become a streamlined, efficient industry that is slowly tapping out the last physical remains of ancient civilizations around the world. He also shows how major American museums such as New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art have become complicit in the destruction by accepting donations of pillaged objects. Atwood, a Reuters reporter for 15 years who now writes for *ARTnews*, *The Washington Post*, and *Archaeology* magazine, among others, has spent years studying the market for stolen artifacts throughout South America and in Iraq, from the moment they are dug out of the earth until they become encased in museums or placed on the auction block.

Beginning with the systematic looting of the National Museum in Iraq after the fall of Saddam Hussein, Atwood explains how the initial reports about the looting were more bogus than real and diverted attention from a real cultural disaster, the wholesale devastation of Sumerian archaeological sites in Iraq to feed the international antiquities market. Atwood also focuses on Peru, following tomb-raiders and smugglers as they take looted antiquities from ruins and graveyards to museums and galleries in America. In *STEALING HISTORY*, Atwood takes readers on a journey through the sad, strange world of looters, smugglers, and dealers in illegal artifacts. He recounts the incredible story of the largest known extant piece of pre-Columbian gold, an 1,800-year-old artifact looted from a monarch's tomb in Peru in 1987 and shuffled through a cast of antiquities dealers until it wound up in the trunk of a smuggler's car in New Jersey.

The result of this looting, wherever it happens, is a distortion of the historical record. Those who are more interested in profit than in history destroy the sites they raid, and thus any chance that a site's significance will be properly documented and understood by future generations. Tomb-raiding has a long history—but Atwood shows how the process has lately accelerated and become both more sophisticated and more devastating.

Chapter by chapter, this highly readable expose reveals both the extent of the robbing, the vast sums of money involved, and the market forces that are driving the hunt for stolen artifacts.

SAFE is sponsored by the New York Foundation for the Arts (NYFA), a 501(c) (3) corporation. Any contributions made to the Foundation on behalf of SAFE are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law.

For further information, please contact Cindy Ho at [cho@savingantiquities.org](mailto:cho@savingantiquities.org), or 917-916-5748.

SAFE has no political affiliations.