

Code of Ethics

The American Alliance of Museums outlines a few key elements that should be considered in the Code of Ethics created for any museum

<http://www.aam-us.org/docs/continuum/developing-a-code-of-ethics-final.pdf?sfvrsn=2> .

Mission Statement

To foster an understanding of man's first civilization.

Our goal is to promote the history of the early Mesopotamian people. We owe a lot to these ancient people, who gave birth to civilization, who created the art of writing, and founded the first codes of law. The museum aims to put its visitors in the place of the pioneers into a brave new world, never before experienced by mankind.

Guiding Principles

Athenæum Babylonia's mission states that it wishes to foster an interest and understanding of the Ancient Mesopotamian people. This mission will not, however, lead to slandering or discrediting of historical fields in "competition" with Assyriology (i.e. Egyptology, Iranology, Hellenism, etc.). The museum will take history from a secular perspective without the intent of insulting modern religion.

Ethical Duties

Athenæum Babylonia and its staff are bound by ethical rules. In no way will any artifacts obtained be intentionally put in danger. All artifacts *must* be preserved. Any exhibits involving modern religion or modern religious figures will present the secular evidence. In these exhibits if modern religion is a source it shall be stated. The only case in which a religiously biased text is presented is when a viewpoint is being shared by a non-affiliated guest. Athenæum Babylonia and its staff must take into consideration the offensiveness of exhibits and comments to modern religions. However, the secular historical evidence is the most important and will be exhibited as such. If a case is to arise where the museum and its artifacts are in danger, the course of action to be taken is in the interest and safety of the history being threatened.

Governance

Leadership of Athenæum Babylonia must oversee that no religious bias is present in the museum. Staff are free to have their personal beliefs about artifacts but cannot express their beliefs as fact, that is for the historians to decide.

Conflict of Interest

All decisions made must be for the benefit of the collection. If there is an offer made for the collection it must be taken into consideration how the benefactor would care for the collection. Any items of religious significance on display will be accompanied by a secular explanation. A religious explanation can be presented as well, but only so long as it does not create a bias. All sides must be shown (i.e. An exhibit about Abraham/Ibrahim has both Judeo-Christian & Islamic presentations.).

Collections

Any image presented on Athenæum Babylonia will be acquired legally with permission from the copyright holder. Decisions made on artifacts must be made in the best interest of the artifact. (i.e. should Athenæum Babylonia acquire an actual physical artifact it shall be securely stored or loaned to a physical museum.) To be free of bias, the exhibits of Athenæum Babylonia will be purely secular unless all applicable religions donate their view on the exhibited item. Any money received by Athenæum Babylonia will only go towards maintenance and the acquisition of new artifacts/or production of new exhibits.

Museum Management Practices

Anything sold by Athenæum Babylonia profits solely the museum itself. Any publication sold by Athenæum Babylonia will have its profit split between the contributors and the museum itself.

Compliance with Laws

All artifacts will be collected and presented within the limits of the law. No copyrighted image shall be used unless the museum has acquired permission from the owner.

Forms

Include here any forms or publications (e.g. a statement of ethics) that you will provide staff or visitors.

Athenæum Babylonia upholds the duty to preserve and inform Mesopotamian culture. Are foremost allegiance is to history itself, and protecting the history from any danger it may be put in. While Athenæum Babylonia is a secular institution it likes to deliver all sides of a controversy, and should a controversy arise (involving religion) then all major religious viewpoints will be shared in addition to the secular account.

Implementation

The integrity of Athenæum Babylonia must be held to the highest standard. Should someone see that the museum's integrity is lost, it is their duty to report it and for the community to hold the museum staff accountable. Should Athenæum Babylonia have employees they will held accountable by the museum's curator. If the curator is the one who has become corrupt it is the ethical duty of the employees and community to hold them responsible and come to a resolution to the conflict.

