



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF DEALERS IN ANCIENT ART
IADAA – Fachstelle für Kulturgüterschutz und Medienkontakte
Dr. Ursula Kampmann, Pestalozzistr. 35, 79540 Lörrach, Tel: 07621/47734, Fax: 07621/47737
Email: press@iadaa.org

20 years of IADAA

In the year 1993 some innovative dealers of ancient art joined together into the International Association of Dealers in Ancient Art. The association rules that they made at the time contained provisions that considered problems which nobody was yet talking about in the 80s: To this day IADAA members give a guarantee of authenticity for all of the objects sold, and deal exclusively in artworks whose origin they have verified with due diligence.

When the world's leading galleries for ancient art came together in 1993 to form the International Association of Dealers in Ancient Art they gave themselves innovative rules, which set unusually high standards for the time. One of the primary aims of the association is “to encourage the study and interest throughout the world of ancient art and to address issues exclusively concerning works of ancient art from the Mediterranean civilisations and other civilisations directly in contact with them.” At the same time IADAA obliges all of its members to only “purchase or sell objects” if they have “established to the best of their ability” that “such objects were not stolen from excavations, architectural monuments, public institutions or private property.”

This is not always simple, as for centuries no collector or dealer had thought of keeping old invoices for objects of art. There were no legal requirements regarding the documentation of origin. Thus the IADAA took on a pioneering role in the research of provenance both by their own efforts and also by active cooperation with the Art Loss Register. Today the purchase from an IADAA member gives every collector the security that their object is authentic and has a secured provenance.

Despite these rigid self-constraints and a strict selection process for new members IADAA has expanded steadily. Currently there are 32 members from 8 different nations who belong to the association. In particular young and committed dealers in ancient art are applying for membership because they value the prestige that is connected with it. Some IADAA members have initiated two fairs for ancient art which, because of the quality of their participants, have become market leaders. They are called the BAAF, the Brussels Ancient Art Fair, held annually in June, and the Basel Ancient Art Fair in November. Participation in these fairs is reserved for members of IADAA.

In the 20 years of its existence IADAA has lead the antiquities market in that the provenance of an object and the guarantee of its authenticity has become ever more important – as the founding fathers of the IADAA foresaw as early as 1993. Today IADAA members use their in-depth market knowledge to think innovatively, in order to make collecting a rewarding and pleasurable experience for all lovers of the ancient world in the future.