

The INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL of the FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES

A Resolution Supporting the Current Southeastern Archaeological Conference (SEAC) Image Policy regarding the Publication of Photographs of Funerary Objects

Resolution No. 23-22



Chuck Hoskin Jr.
Principal Chief



Bill Anoatubby
Governor



Gary Bolton
Chief



David W. Hill
Principal Chief



Lewis J. Johnson
Principal Chief

WHEREAS, the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes (ITC) is an organization that unites the tribal governments of the Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Muscogee (Creek) and Seminole Nation, representing over 815,000 Indian people throughout the United States; and

WHEREAS, the ITC represents the largest federally recognized body of descendants of the original inhabitants of the Southeast region of the United States; and

WHEREAS, the ITC recognizes and affirms the following: the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA); the National Museum of the American Indian Museum Act (NMAI); the American Indian Religious Freedom Act (AIRFA); the Archeological Resource Protection Act (ARPA); the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA); the Executive Order for Indian Sacred Sites; the Executive Order for Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments; and other related laws and regulations; and

WHEREAS, the ITC strongly supports the sovereign rights of its member Nations to determine measures that address the treatment and protection of our ancestral cultural legacy, including rights under NAGPRA that provide for consultation on ancestral remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, and items of cultural patrimony; and

WHEREAS, the ITC strongly supports policies aligned with NAGPRA that involve Tribal consultation with federally recognized Tribal Nations about the treatment of sacred objects, including consultation prior to the publishing or the use of photographs, line drawings, or other representations of funerary objects and belongings in academic journals and supplemental materials; and

WHEREAS, the ITC supports the current image policy for *Southeastern Archaeology*, the journal of the Southeastern Archaeological Conference (SEAC), which fosters consultation between the research community and Tribes where appropriate. The current policy expands its observance from no longer publishing photographs of ancestral remains to also include funerary objects. For funerary objects, the current policy requires consultation with Tribal governments and Tribal Historic Preservation Offices before use of

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any graphics that may affect the cultural and spiritual welfare of the objects and our citizens; and

WHEREAS, the ITC opposes rescission of the current SEAC image policy and the petition for a referendum vote by researchers who have the potential to affect federal and Tribal policies with regard to our sovereign rights and culture; and

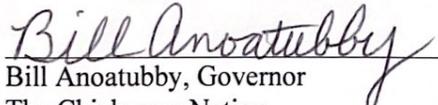
WHEREAS, the ITC encourages researchers to establish early communication, robust Tribal consultation, and collaborative work with Tribal Nations; and

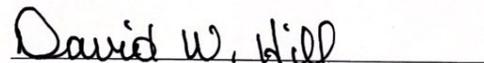
WHEREAS, research on NAGPRA collections should not hinder NAGPRA law which mandates Museums and Federal agencies to return expeditiously such remains and associated funerary objects.

NOW THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT, the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes hereby adopts this Resolution supporting the current SEAC image policy. Furthermore, ITC calls upon the membership of SEAC to vote to keep the current image policy in place during the referendum vote scheduled to take place in November 2023.

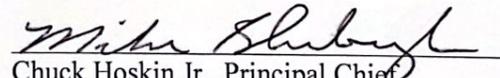
CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes meeting in Catoosa, Oklahoma on the 20th day of October 2023, by a vote of 24 for 0 against and 0 abstentions.


Bill Anoatubby, Governor
The Chickasaw Nation


David W. Hill, Principal Chief
Muscogee (Creek) Nation


Gary Bolton, Chief
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma


Chuck Hoskin Jr., Principal Chief
Cherokee Nation


Lewis J. Johnson, Principal Chief
Seminole Nation of Oklahoma