

**Resolution concerning the scholarly study  
of manuscripts, inscriptions, etc. of uncertain provenance  
and/or title of ownership**

The following resolution was adopted unanimously by the Board of the International Association of Buddhist Studies at their meeting on Aug. 29, 2005 :

"It is resolved that when manuscripts, inscriptions, art works or other documents and materials relevant to Buddhist studies are available in public or private collections, scholars in Buddhist studies should be free to undertake work on these materials for the purposes of research as well as publication and translation unless legally debarred from so doing in a specific case.

"No ethical opprobrium or stigma should attach to a scholar who engages in such work.

"It is understood that this scholarly work is conducted with due care and conscientiously. It is also understood that it is engaged in without prejudice to legal title of ownership to the said cultural materials, which may be subject to eventual determination in their respective jurisdictions by the competent judicial authorities and courts of law.

"This resolution is therefore not intended to impinge on binding laws or international agreements and conventions concerning legal title to cultural material, its export and import, or transfer of its ownership."