

Program Recap

On January 13th, Author and former *New York Times* Culture Correspondent, Sharon Waxman, discussed her book, “Loot: The Battle over the Stolen Treasures of the Ancient World,” at a luncheon at the Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens and at an evening presentation for nearly 500 people at UNF’s University Center. Among those attending the luncheon, were Council Sponsors and Ambassador’s Circle members and members of the Cummer’s Ponce De Leon Society.

Waxman discussed why ancient European and Asian treasures are in Western museums and not in those of their home countries. She said in the past many artifacts were illegally removed and smuggled out of their source countries later being acquired by Western museums. Now, as countries are rediscovering their past and realizing their rights, they want their most famous treasures returned. Do we strip Western museums of their collections? Or is there a compromise?

Waxman says that, while there are competing agendas, people on both sides are realizing the value of cultural exchange and that work toward an era of collaboration between museums and source countries is necessary.

Gail Sterman