Statement of Intent on the Handling of Unpublished Inscriptions[*]

As an international open scholarly community for the purpose of providing a collaborative environment for digital epigraphy, *Epigraphy.info* encourages codes of conduct that serve the *good scholar practice*, correspond to the *tried and tested approach of electronic data archives for epigraphy*, and meet the *public interest in the timely publication* of epigraphic heritage.

The handling of unpublished inscriptions relates to three categories: (**1**) *new finds*, (**2**) *unpublished old finds* in public and private collections, and (**3**) *stolen objects* and *objects on the black market*.

Epigraphy.info follows the principles set out herein:

1

1.1 The privilege for the first publication of *new finds* remains with the rightful owner(s) (be it private or sovereign depending on the respective national legal regulations).

Epigraphy.info therefore does not support any form of unauthorized preliminary publication.

1.2 Notwithstanding 1.1., *Epigraphy.info* encourages the practice of assigning standard identifiers to new finds even prior to their first publication, thereby indicating their existence to the scholarly public.

Furthermore, *Epigraphy.info* advocates the improved discoverability of new finds by providing basic metadata, lemmas and photos in agreement with the rightful owner(s).

1.3 In order to promote legal, timely, and scholarly editions of new finds and, by this, to remedy any form of delay in the publication of epigraphic evidence, *Epigraphy.info* participants will cooperate with the rightful owner(s) and provide any possible form of professional support.

2

2.1 With regard to *unpublished old finds* already entered in public and private collections at any date, *Epigraphy.info* participants adhere to the principles for *new finds* outlined in 1.1 and 1.2 above.

2.2 As per 1.3. above, *Epigraphy.info* believes it to be in the public interest to encourage the rightful owner(s) to undertake the publication of *unpublished old finds*, in a reasonable time, and *Epigraphy.info* participans will cooperate with the rightful owner(s) and provide any possible form of professional support.

3

3.1 *Epigraphy.info* advocates the unrestricted protection of cultural property; it is not a platform for *stolen objects* or those circulating on or deriving from the *black market*.

3.2 Participants in *Epigaphy.info* systems will report to the relevant authorities objects of illegal and/or unclear origin as soon as they become known as such. Where relvant, these will be withdrawn from publication, removed from relevant systems, or (esp. in the case of looted objects in war zones) marked as objects believed to be stolen.

3.3 These requirements outlined under 3.2 do not relate to objects that are legally sold on the antiquarian market.

_____

[*] Based on a text from Francisca Feraudi-Gruénais, discussed at the *3rd Epigraphy.info workshop* in July 2019, revised and completed in collaboration with Peter Kruschwitz, Silvia Orlandi, and Jonathan Prag, and approved at the *4th Epigraphy.Info workshop* in February 2020.

(02/2020)