

POST DATA:  
A PROPOSITO DEL REGLAMENTO

Mientras el Boletín se encontraba en prensa, la Sociedad ha recibido el primer comentario al Proyecto de Reglamento para Excavaciones y Prospecciones Arqueológicas, que fuera enviado a todos los socios en la Circular n° 2. El directorio considera que éste es un tema de gran trascendencia y transcribe aquí las opiniones enviadas por Thomas F. Lynch:

Dear Colleagues:

In response to the Circular N° 2, regarding the draft of rules for the regulation of archaeological investigations, I would like to make a distinction, such as they have done in Peru, between highly important and less important sites. While this would make it possible to protect the best known and largest sites with special regulations, it would also tend, in effect, to devalue the importance of the vast majority of "lesser" sites. As has occurred in Peru at the site of Chongos, the despoiler or commercial developer would argue that the site he wishes to destroy is of no great importance if it is not in the category of greatest importance. I believe that we should argue that all sites are potentially of great importance, that we cannot rank their importance, because we don't know in advance what they may contain, what problems we will want to study, and what new techniques of investigation that the future may bring. Although this absolutist posture is sometimes difficult to maintain in the face of practical reality, the other system (of ranking sites) invites the rapid loss of small or poorly known sites.

The proposed requirements for solicitudes are admirable, equitable, and well phrased. Nevertheless, you might consider again whether it is necessary to know the source and amount of financing at the time the solicitude is written. Some foundations will not consider a proposal or solicitude unless the investigator can show that he has already secured a permiso for the investigation. One or the other must go first. Perhaps we could require only that the investigator state where he intends to seek financing.

Finally, under article V (permisos a los investigadores extranjeros) I would hope that the "convenio legalizado" would have to be legalized only within the Chilean national system. I have found that it is virtually impossible to get my large, decentralized, bureaucratic and politically conscious university to enter into legal contracts with South American institutions. The University will write letters of support, but asks me to make contracts as a private individual.

It is good to see that there will soon be uniform regulations, internally promulgated, for the Chilean archaeological community. I applaud your efforts and hope that my suggestions are useful.

Sincerely,

Thomas F. Lynch