

Revisiting and Reinvigorating: Examining NAGPRA's Shortcomings and the Renewed Push for Repatriation

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What is NAGPRA?

The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) of 1990 became federal law on November 16, 1990



Historical Problems Leading to Delays

- Legislative ambiguities, particularly with:
 - “Cultural affiliation”
 - “Consultation”
- Institutional Resistance
- Systemic Barriers
 - Non-recognition of Native American traditional knowledge

REGULATIONS

- In 2010 and 2024 the regulations underwent transformations
- New regulations implemented in January 2024






Case Study: The Henry Ford (THF)

- Collecting was founder-led
- No professional museum staff until the 1980s
- Unstructured recordkeeping history
- Compliance & working in the spirit of the law
- My experience preparing a NAGPRA summary for THF

Object Page View



Object ID:	29 1548.1
Object Name:	Spur
Title:	Spur
Current Location:	[MSB AZ 17C] Collections Storage - Main Storage Building - Arizona - 17C - [P 2022.6.9.5]
Remarks:	Spur used by donor's father when he was riding mules during the Civil War.
Creator:	Unknown
Material:	Metal
Dimensions:	Height 1.5 in Width 3.25 in Depth 5 in
Subject (Genre terms):	Spurs (Costume accessories)
Subject (Topical terms):	Mules (Mammals)
Subject (Local terms):	American Civil War, 1861-1865

Object Page View

Object ID: 60-3-186

Condition: MD-645

Object Name: Spur

Class: Spur

Subclass: Spur

Remarks: Remains of a spur-shaped brooch made of
gold. Found in a tomb.

Photo: 11.10.50

Subject: Spur

Old wood pear-shaped club.

Appraisal No. 10000

Appraisal No. 10000

Location: Unit 1, Table 10

Photo No. 10000

Evolution of collection catalog records at THF

Thank you!

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