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Discussion

An ancient Egyptian mummy called Shep-en-Isis who was the daughter of a priest lies in the St Gallen Abbey Library. But does she really belong in St Gallen? While she is silent on the matter our readers had a lot to say on this sensitive issue.



Shep-en-Isis and the thorny question of repatriation

JOËLLE TAILLANDIER, SAINT-LOUIS, FRANCE

Shep-en-Isis belongs in her country of origin. This is obvious to anyone who condemns colonialism and the theft of cultural heritage and identity. Like Milo Rau and many others, I hope Switzerland and all countries that have illegally and illegitimately acquired cultural property from elsewhere give the artefacts back. Every country, every people and every civilisation has the inalienable right to protect and showcase its own history, heritage and wealth – including art, culture, natural resources, human expertise, etc.

ERICH BAUMANN, PEMBERTON, CANADA

If it is important to the Egyptians, Shep-en-Isis's mummy should be returned to Egypt – no question. The time is long gone when European countries keeping cultural objects from foreign lands could be acceptable.

ADNANE BEN CHAABANE, TUNIS

Should we return all these cultural artefacts? Or can we just accept that some cultural property will always end up elsewhere around the world? In my opinion, having some artefacts outside their country of origin can act as a cultural conduit. Nor do I think it is a bad thing to be able to view and admire such artefacts without having to travel halfway around the world. Doing so can also make people want to discover more about their own country.

ARYE-ISAAC OPHIR, ISRAEL

Luckily, I have never come across a noisy Egyptian mummy. But wow, do they attract a lot of outside noise.

Getting on the electoral register is simple and straightforward

RUDOLF WEBER, SOMERSET WEST, SOUTH AFRICA

Simple and straightforward? Not without e-voting. And not when voting papers arrive months later or not at all! E-voting needs to be introduced as quickly as possible – for the Swiss Abroad at least. I don't see what the big issue is.

FERNAND VOUTAT, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Where I live, you are lucky to receive anything at all by post. In 15 years, I have not received my voting papers once! E-voting is, therefore, the only way for me to participate in elections and popular votes.

ROBERTO SCHIBLI, SANTA MARTA, COLOMBIA

Here in Colombia, I receive my voting papers months after the actual vote has taken place!

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MARC LETTAU, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

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