

Fraudulent claims of prehistoric artifacts provenance and false attribution of ownership

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Fabrication of Australian prehistory

In my earlier articles I mentioned a number of examples of the methods used by the Aboriginal industry to fabricate Australian prehistory.

I presented a number of cases that illustrate the tactics used over the last 50 years – from the deliberate destruction of archaeological material and censorship of any research results that do not fit the current paradigm, to vilification and bullying of politically incorrect researchers.

After half a century of step-by-step implementation of this well planned falsification of our prehistory, the Aboriginal industry had achieved most of its goals – as illustrated by Bruce Pascoe case (PCN#63).

Every time I look at a case of someone who suffered a terrible injustice and/or abuse by either Aboriginal groups or the associated Aboriginal industry – I am dismayed, often horrified, thinking that this situation of ideological tyranny could not get any worse.

But it can. And it does.

The targets of the ongoing witch hunt that I mentioned in earlier articles have included archaeologists, anthropologists, geneticists and other inter-disciplinary professionals, such as researchers, historians, artists, art critics, and journalists who refused to toe the party line.

But I failed to mention ordinary Australians, even though I have mentioned many of them in other publications. Over the last decade, a great number of people have contacted me to tell me about their personal experience. Ordinary people, who were leading quiet lives, until the moment when some Aborigine – either real or fake – took a dislike to them. And started claiming to be “offended” by something they had said or done. It seems incredible that any spurious claim, made by anyone who claims to be of Aboriginal descent, immediately sends the entire Aboriginal industry into overdrive, with but a single goal – to silence, punish, or destroy the “offender”.

In most cases the target of Aboriginal rage is quickly dealt with, never to be heard of again. A few bricks thrown through the windows or burning down the target’s house is often enough to do the trick. In some cases, the target might put up a fight, but then the Aboriginal industry steps in, with their own methods of harassment, and it usually ends up in the same way – the “offender” is silenced.

As if my own first-hand experience with the dirty tactics of the Aboriginal industry wasn’t enough, other people’s stories made it absolutely clear to me that we, non-Aboriginal Australians, are held to ransom by the powerful and immoral lot now referred to as the “Aboriginal industry”. Which has been using exactly the same methods as those used by communist regimes.

Archaeological finds used in a politically-driven fraud

One such case, that attracted my interest, concerns a Sydney collector called John Kolettas. This school teacher had a lifelong passion for collecting all sorts of things, including archaeological artifacts. Mr Kolettas inherited a significant archaeological collection from his uncle, who had put it together over decades. Kolettas was bitten by the collector's bug and kept adding to his collection, purchasing items from other collectors in Australia and overseas, and showing his collection to anyone who was interested.

In 2017 he put a couple of Paleolithic stones from his collection up for sale on ebay. According to the media, an unnamed Aborigine in Tasmania alerted the Tasmanian Department of Environment, claiming that the items were "sacred" and belong to Aboriginal people.

How that anonymous Aborigine would know what those Old Stone Age stones were is anybody's guess. Even professional archaeologists often struggle while trying to figure out whether a stone is a genuine Paleolithic stone tool or just a broken piece of stone. Usually, interpreting an Old Stone Age tool depends on the site and the context in which it was found. Without this context, e.g. if a stone were found lying on a beach, no-one can say anything for sure about its age or its use – whether it was indeed a prehistoric tool, or just a broken rock.

After that arbitrary claim of "Aboriginal ownership", a number of illegal steps were taken in order to rob John Kolettas of his collection. A search warrant was issued in Tasmania by a Justice of the Peace – apparently, in Tasmania a JP can sign warrants, whereas in our State, New South Wales, warrants can only be issued by a court. In any case, a warrant issued in Tasmania cannot be exercised in New South Wales. But Mr Kolettas home was raided by a group of people without a NSW or Federal warrant, as is required by law. They kept citing Tasmanian laws – but Tasmanian laws are only for Tasmanian jurisdiction and are not applicable in NSW.

Long story short, the raid and seizure were carried out by seven public servants working for the Tasmanian Department of Environment and NSW Office of Environment and Heritage, which forms part of the NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service – all without a proper warrant.

This group of bureaucrats seized about 150 stones from Tasmania, and claimed 450 additional items clearly labelled as being from NSW.

It mattered little that Mr Kolettas tried to explain that the collection is his personal property, most of it inherited from his uncle, who collected the items before the Heritage Act of 1975, and that as a result nobody has the right to confiscate them.

It also did not help when he explained that the 450 Paleolithic stones they had decided to confiscate were from NSW, not from Tasmania. And that the large choppers made of dark obsidian were not Australian and certainly not Aboriginal, because they were from Texas [Fig. 1]. He purchased them legally, online, from the USA.

But all his explanations were ignored and the Texan prehistoric stone tools were included in the photo of seized stones labelled as items from Tasmania [Fig. 2].

Fake news propagated by the Australian media

It was all quite bizarre. A questionable warrant, issued by a JP in Tasmania, public servants posing as police officers (as defined in the media), out of their jurisdiction usurping the authority to confiscate someone's personal property without the police being involved. No police was involved in this case at any point, as they refused to be involved with the dodgy warrant.

But the Australian media were happy to publish outright lies. It was reported that the raid was carried out by the police, that the items were stolen, and that all items seized were Tasmanian Aboriginal artifacts (https://www.sbs.com.au/nitv/nitv-news/article/2017/09/14/police-seize-stolen-aboriginal-artefacts-raid?fbclid=IwAR2EZd_A5vSidXRHVrdqPXNg-FsIJC8x8Bx2CqdImRuKRYYYOnbhQ-qKczY).

I found the entire story quite intriguing, but decided not to dwell on whether it was an illegal raid and an unjustifiable seizure, nor did I consider the morality (or the lack of it) of the public servants involved in the raid.

My focus is on the newspaper articles published about John Kolettas, and not on the skewed, tendentious, deliberate misreporting and misrepresentation of the case, nor on the smear campaign, public shaming, and character assassination – such as calling the artifacts “stolen” before any investigation was done, instead of “acquired”, “inherited”, “bought”, or “collected”. My focus is on the fake news and dishonest reporting. The SBS article made a number of untrue statements, such as: “A police raid in Sydney has netted more than 150 stolen Aboriginal artefacts which were being illegally offered for sale online” which is completely false. No police was involved, the artifacts were not stolen, and it is not illegal to sell them on ebay if those were legally acquired prior to the Heritage Act.

The same article also states that “An expert with the team during the raid assessed the items and helped confirm they were from Tasmania” – which simply cannot be true. There is no expert who would be able to make such a determination on the spot, just by looking at Paleolithic stone tools.

While going through Mr Kolettas' collection of over 2,000 items from all over the world, the team's “expert” kept pointing at various stones saying “these might be Tasmanian”. And this expert turned out to be not an independent archaeologist at all.

As every archaeologist knows – or should know – especially those of us specialised in prehistory, for many of the archaeological finds, the Paleolithic tools and implements such as hatchets, hand axes, choppers, and scrapers that have been collected privately over the last two centuries, and which have gone through the hands of a number of owners before finding their way into museums or being offered for sale via public auction, the exact location and circumstances of their production, as well as exactly who produced them, can not be established.

But even more interesting is the paragraph which reads: “The items will be held as evidence but ultimately are likely to be surrendered to the Crown and then returned to Aboriginal custodians.”

Aboriginal custodians of Texan artifacts?

That made me laugh, in disbelief. Because the most interesting artifacts in Koletta's collection were the choppers made of dark obsidian. From Texas. And those were added to the stones from Tasmania. The labels placed next to them were put there by the bureaucrats at the Tasmanian Department of Environment. Kolettas kept telling them that these are Texan artifacts. But they are now part of all the stones seized in that bungled raid, and will be given to "Aboriginal custodians", with fake labels. And displayed somewhere in Tasmania, as "Aboriginal sacred stones".

That is how archaeology is falsified in Australia. What the public is led to believe are scientific facts, is most often untrue, just a fraud committed by bureaucrats who are flagrantly inventing lies. They operate with a lot of impunity, and are so drunk on power that they don't even care if their lies are exposed. Knowing that every bit of truth will quickly be lost in the sea of lies they have created.

The Aboriginal industry – which includes the ABC and SBS, Australian media giants owned by the Australian Government and funded by the taxpayers to the tune of 1.2 billion dollars every year – can and is doing that in order to maintain the monumental lie that Aborigines are the first and only people in Australia's prehistory. They ascribe anything found anywhere in Australia – including in personal collections – to be a product of our "first people". These days, almost nothing relating to Aborigines is based on evidence and proper investigation.

Two years later, the people who raided John Kolettas' home could not make a case and no charges have been laid against him. Cold comfort.



Fig. 1



Fig. 2