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NCPH ETHICS GUIDELINES

Because of several recent requests for our code of ethics, we have placed them on the web. The code originally appeared in *The Public Historian* volume, Winter, 1986.

Ethical Guidelines for the Historian.

I. Historians' Relationship to Sources

A. Historians work for the preservation, care, and accessibility of the historic record. The unity and integrity of historical record collections are the basis for interpreting the past.

B. Historians owe to their sources accurate reportage of all information relevant to the subject at hand.

C. Historians favor free and open access to all archival collections.

II. Historians' Relationship to Clients (Employers)

A. Historians owe their employers the historical truth insofar as it can be determined from the available sources.

B. Historians at all times respect the confidentiality of clients, employers, and students. Information gained through a professional relationship must be held inviolate, except when required by law, court, or administrative order.

C. Historians seek to perform professional quality work in accordance with their employment agreements or research contracts.

III. Historians' Relationship with Colleagues

A. Historians share knowledge and experience with other historians through professional activities and assist the professional growth of others with less training or experience.

B. Historians handle all matters of personnel, including hiring, promoting, pay adjustments and discipline, on the basis of merit without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, political affiliation, physical handicap, age, or marital status.

C. When applying for employment or awards, historians submit applications and letters of recommendation, which are accurate as to

all pertinent details of education, experience, and accomplishment.

D. Historians give appropriate credit for work done by others.

IV. Historian's Relationship with the Community

A. Historians serve as advocates to protect the community's historical resources. Historians work to promote a greater awareness of and appreciation for history in schools, business, voluntary organizations, and the community at large.

B. Historians work to promote a greater awareness of and appreciation for history in schools, business, voluntary organizations, and the community at large.

C. Historians represent historical research to the public in a responsible manner and should serve as advocates of economic or political interests only when such a position is consistent with objective historical truth.

V. Historians' Responsibility to the Canons of History

A. Historians are dedicated to truth. Flagrant manifestations of prejudice, distortions of data, or the use of deliberately misleading interpretations are anathema.

B. Historians represent the past in all of its complexity.

NCPH welcomes everyone engaged in the public practice of history. Our members count on us to address important issues across a wide range of fields. Our members come to us from across North and South America, Asia, Canada, Europe and Australia. Join us today! For more information about memberships please contact us or visit our membership page.



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