

# Cambridge Elements

Elements in Critical Heritage Studies

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## GLOBAL HERITAGE, RELIGION, AND SECULARISM

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**Abstract:** Religion and spirituality have been scarcely addressed in heritage preservation history, discourse, and practice. More recently, increased interest in the intersections between the study of religion and heritage preservation in both academic studies and institutional initiatives highlights obstacles that the field has yet to overcome theoretically and methodologically. This Element surveys the convergences of religious and heritage traditions. It argues that the critical heritage turn has not adequately considered the legacy of secularism that underpins the history and contemporary practices of heritage preservation. This omission is what has left the field of heritage studies ill-equipped to support the study and management of a heritage of religion broadly construed.

**Keywords:** heritage, religion, secularism, sacred, expertise

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