

## THE PENNSYLVANIA DECLARATION

### DECISION OF CURATORS OF THE UNIVERSITY MUSEUM UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA, APRIL 1, 1970

The curatorial faculty of The University Museum today reached the unanimous conclusion that they would purchase no more art objects or antiquities for the Museum unless the objects are accompanied by a pedigree—that is, information about the different owners of the objects, place of origin, legality of export, and other data useful in each individual case. The information will be made public. This decision was recommended by the Director of the Museum, Froelich Rainey, and also by the Chairman of the Board of Managers, Howard C. Petersen.

The action of the University staff is the result of an increasing illicit trade in cultural objects, particularly antiquities, which is causing major destruction of archaeological sites in many countries throughout the world. Practically all countries now have strict controls on the export of antiquities but it is clear that such controls do not stop the looting and destruction of archaeological sites, probably because high prices paid for antiquities in the international market make it impossible for the countries of origin to stop the movement across their borders.

The United Nations Organization, through UNESCO, is now discussing an international convention which proposes, among other things, that the major importing countries for these objects, such as the United States, West Germany, France and England, should introduce more rigid import controls in order to restrict the trade and protect the archaeological sites in countries such as Turkey, Iran, and Italy.

It is the considered opinion of The University Museum group of archaeologists and anthropologists who work in many countries throughout the world, that import controls in the importing countries will be no more effective than the export controls in the exporting countries. Probably the only effective way to stop this wholesale destruction of archaeological sites is to regulate the trade in cultural objects within each country just as most countries in the world today regulate domestic trade in foodstuffs, drugs, securities, and other commodities. The looting of sites is naturally done by the nationals of each country and the illicit trade is carried out by them and by the nationals of many countries. Hence the preservation of the cultural heritage for mankind as a whole is, in fact, a domestic problem for all nations.

The staff of The University Museum hope that their action taken today will encourage other museums not only in the United States but in other nations to follow a similar procedure in the purchase of significant art objects, at least until the United Nations succeeds in establishing an effective convention to control this destructive trade.

## THE UNIVERSITY MUSEUM ACQUISITIONS POLICY

MAY 2, 1978

WHEREAS, in the spirit of the April 1, 1970 decision of the Board of Managers of The University Museum of the University of Pennsylvania entitled "Regarding the Illicit Trade in Art Objects," The University Museum wishes to reiterate its support for the subsequent November 1970 "UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property"; and

WHEREAS, The University Museum wishes to strengthen its commitment in this area in the light of the 1970 resolution of the Archaeological Institute of America (*Archaeology* 24(2), p. 165, 1971), the 1971 resolution of the Society for American Archaeology (*American Antiquity* 36(3), pp. 253-54, 1971), the 1972 resolution of the American Anthropological Association (*AAA Annual Report 1972*, p. 60, 1973), the 1973 Joint Professional Policy on Museum Acquisitions resolution of the American Association of Museums (*Museum News* 52(1), p. 48, 1973), and the joint 1973 resolution of the ICOM Committee on Ethnography and the International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences (see Appendix, pp. 5-15).

NOW THEREFORE, the Board of Managers, Director, Curators and staff of The University Museum of the University of Pennsylvania reaffirm that they will not knowingly acquire, by gift, bequest, exchange or purchase, any materials known or suspected to be illegally exported from their countries of origin; nor will they knowingly support this illegal trade by authenticating or expressing opinions concerning such material, and will actively discourage the collection of such material, exhibiting such material in The University Museum, or loaning University Museum objects to exhibitions of illegally acquired objects in other museums.

MOREOVER, The University Museum reserves the right to refuse any loans to museums or museum departments that, in its opinion, knowingly violate the UNESCO convention;

AND, in the interests of conserving archaeological sites, gaining scientific information, and preserving our own prehistoric past, the Museum further affirms that it will not knowingly in the future acquire materials unscientifically or illegally excavated in the United States after World War II;

AND The University Museum also pledges that it will not knowingly acquire ethnographic specimens exported from those countries with newly established laws prohibiting the export of such material following the effective date of such laws; it will not knowingly acquire stolen ethnographic material or material known to be currently used for religious or ceremonial purposes, without the permission of the specific groups or individuals with jurisdiction over the material; and it will make every effort to make available loans, copies, or gifts of near duplicates, and to provide professional services relevant to these materials to the original producers, their heirs, or other properly constituted legal representatives.