

ON THE IRAQ MUSEUM AND OTHER ASSAULTS: BRIEF NEWS ABOUT THE PLUNDERING OF IRAQI MUSEUMS AND THE SYSTEMATIC LOOTING OF IRAQI ARCHAEOLOGICAL HERITAGE

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In their introduction, Don Ignacio Ripstein and Don Fernando Vitoriano,
former Spanish Ambassadors to Iraq,
who helped the Spanish archaeologists mission in Iraq,
and supported the struggle to defend the cultural heritage of Iraq

ABSTRACT

CURRENT EVENTS

The looting of the Iraq Museum is seen as an additional consequence of an illegal and unjust military intervention. In the author's opinion, the looting of Iraq's cultural heritage, although dramatic, was not the most harmful damage inflicted upon the heritage of Iraq. Much more serious is the fact that thanks to the indifference of international bodies in charge of protecting Iraqi heritage, over twelve years several regional museums have been emptied, and archaeological sites have been plundered by international gangs, and the seizure of cultural products has made restoration of the stolen items virtually impossible. During these twelve years, different publications and efforts were ignored or even ignored. Moral conviction, political cynicism and diversion of responsibility triggered the massive appearance of illegally obtained items on the international market of antiquities, thus encouraging dealers to continue their activities. The disastrous collapse of Iraqi heritage has, in the end, been partly alleviated, if not avoided, through the initiative and commitment of the Iraq Museum curators and employees. However, the power imbalance of international justice and the inequality with which antiquities are being trafficked remain as a permanent response from specialists in defense of Iraqi heritage.

KEY WORDS

Iraq Museum looting, illegal trade in antiquities and antiquities

RESUMEN

El saqueo del Iraq Museum se ve como una consecuencia más de una intervención militar ilegal e injusta. En opinión de la autora, aunque dramático, no por los daños sufridos y las pérdidas económicas, el saqueo del museo iraní de Bagdad es el más grave de los daños sufridos al patrimonio iraní. Mucho más grave es que durante doce años, el saqueo de varios museos iraníes, incluido el Museo Bagdad, por las tropas internacionales en apoyo de los intereses geopolíticos, y la destrucción sistemática de los bienes culturales iraníes, se ignoraron o incluso se ignoraron. La falta de convicción moral, el cinismo político y la evasión de la responsabilidad provocaron la aparición masiva de objetos ilegalmente obtenidos en el mercado internacional de antigüedades, lo que alentó a los traficantes a continuar sus actividades. El colapso catastrófico del patrimonio iraní ha sido, al menos en parte, aliviado, si no evitado, gracias a la iniciativa y el compromiso de los curadores y empleados del Iraq Museum. Sin embargo, el desequilibrio de poder internacional y la desigualdad con la que se trafican las antigüedades siguen siendo una respuesta permanente de los especialistas en defensa del patrimonio iraní.

PALABRAS CLAVE

Saqueo del Museo de Bagdad, tráfico ilegal de antigüedades y antigüedades

ON THE IRAQ MUSEUM AND OTHER ASSAULTS BRIEF NEWS ABOUT THE PLUNDERING OF IRAQI MUSEUMS AND THE SYSTEMATIC LOOTING OF IRAQI ARCHAEOLOGICAL HERITAGE

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*To their excellencies Don Ignacio Rupérez and Don Fernando Valderrama,
former Spanish Ambassadors to Iraq,
who helped the Spanish archaeological mission so much
and supported our struggle in defence of the cultural heritage of Iraq*

ABSTRACT

The looting of the Iraq Museum occurred as an additional consequence of an illegal and unjust military intervention. In the author's opinion, the looting of last April, although dramatic, was not the most harmful damage inflicted upon the heritage of Iraq. Much more serious is the fact that thanks to the indifference of international bodies in charge of protecting Iraqi heritage, over twelve years several regional museums have been emptied, many archaeological sites have been plundered by international gangs, and the seizure of chemical products has made restoration of the stored items virtually impossible. During these twelve years different publications and efforts were ignored or even silenced. Moral cowardice, political cynicism and abrogation of responsibility triggered the massive appearance of illegally obtained items on the international market of Mesopotamian antiquities, so encouraging dealers to continue their activities. The disastrous collapse of Iraqi heritage has, in the end, been partly alleviated, if not avoided, through the heroism and endeavour of the Iraq Museum curators and employees. However, the proven inability of international justice and the impunity with which antiquities are being trafficked requires a sustained response from specialists in defence of Iraqi heritage.

KEY-WORDS

Iraq Museum looting, illegal traffic of Mesopotamian antiquities

RESUMEN

El saqueo del Iraq Museum ha sobrevenido como una consecuencia más de una intervención militar ilegal e injusta. En opinión del autor, aunque dramático por los daños sufridos y las pérdidas ocasionadas, el saqueo del pasado mes de abril no es el más grave de los daños infligidos al patrimonio iraquí. Mucho más grave es que durante doce años, el vaciado de varios museos provinciales, el despojo organizado por las mafias internacionales en miles de yacimientos arqueológicos, y la degradación sistemática de los bienes custodiados en almacenes sin condiciones ni posibilidades de restauración por causa del embargo sobre cualquier tipo de producto químico, ha contado con la connivencia tácita de organismos internacionales llamados justamente a prevenir estos efectos. Durante doce años, publicaciones y esfuerzos diversos han sido ignorados o silenciados. Dejación de responsabilidades, cinismo político y cobardía moral han permitido la inundación del mercado internacional de antigüedades mesopotámicas con piezas de procedencia ilegal, y animando así la osadía de los traficantes, se ha abierto la puerta a la catástrofe. Si finalmente ésta no ha llegado a producirse en la magnitud temida ello se debe sólo al heroísmo y la valentía de los conservadores y empleados del Iraq Museum. La probada incapacidad de la justicia internacional y la impunidad del tráfico ilegal nos impone a los especialistas una acción pública y profesional de continuada denuncia en defensa del patrimonio de Iraq y de toda la humanidad.

PALABRAS CLAVE

Saqueo del Museo de Iraq, tráfico ilegal de antigüedades mesopotámicas.

On 11th of April of this year, press agencies began reporting on the looting of the Iraq Museum. The EP/AFP agency reported: *'the Archaeological Museum of Baghdad, the most important of the country with ancient items of incalculable value, has been one of the first victims of the looting spread in the city twenty-four hours ago. After crossing the entrance through the administrative area, the looters got inside the museum storerooms and then inside the public galleries. Pottery, Assyrian statues, the wooden gate of the Khorsabad palace of the king Sargon II (720 B.C.)¹, and many more ancient items belonging to Ancient Mesopotamia were stolen or simply broken into a thousand pieces by dozens of looters'*. Another letter of the same press agency pointed out that *'this afternoon the Museum has been taken by the looters, according to what a France Presse correspondent witnessed.....: apparently many items were relocated before the beginning of the war.....(but the) plunderers attacked without opposition several rooms of the Museum, whose administrative offices were fully looted. Pottery and statues were heavily damaged and the floors flooded with empty wooden boxes'*. Undoubtedly the news was extremely regrettable for all concerned with the subject, but it produced particular dismay and disbelief among all of us who are acquainted with the Museum and with its area. Nonetheless, on one hand we hoped that the damage could be repaired, bearing in mind the work of the restorers and the existence of large catalogues and storerooms developed over twenty turbulent years for the Baghdad Museum. On the other hand, it seems clear that the looting of the Museum would have never occurred if the occupation forces had protected it as they were supposed to.

Over the next few days an absurd chain of events occurred, fostered in part by the delayed intervention of the UNESCO, inactive during twelve years of sanctions. The UNESCO convened a conference in Paris the 17th of April without considering any official information regarding the sequence of events in Iraq and without the advice of any curator or specialist witness from inside of Iraq and the Iraq Museum. The day before, the USA forces prepared the Commission of Investigation overseen by Colonel M. Bogdanos, which began work six days later. The first results appeared with some limitations (videoconference with the Pentagon the 16th of May, afterwards transcribed in Washington File, May 27th. 2003. 24-30), despite its later availability in <http://usinfo.state.gov>. Finally, the Rencontre Assyriologique Internationale held in London between the 7th and 11th of July witnessed the presentation of the list of lost and damaged items of the public galleries of the Baghdad Museum (**Annex 1**), it being necessary to add them to the thousands of pieces lost in the storerooms of the museum. Much more should be borne in mind besides, and that is what I will do in the following sections.

1. TWELVE YEARS OF LOOTING AND NEGLIGENCE ON THE PART OF INTERNATIONAL BODIES

In 1991, when the Gulf War had just finished, the Iraqi government sent a letter to the General Director of the UNESCO notifying it of the negative consequences of the war on the historic and cultural heritage, the looting derived from internal conflicts, and the first results of the embargo. The letter requested the international aid needed to

¹ Actually, the correspondent must have been referring to the wooden gates of the Nabi Jarjis Mosque, dated from the XII century (IM A677). One of the gate leaves is still missing.

restore the monuments that were damaged and the recovery of the stolen pieces². Furthermore, the letter also included a report connected with the losses suffered by thirteen museums which required restoration and the re-organisation of their collections, the destruction of six scientific libraries, and the theft of antiquities in at least one relevant archaeological site and nine museums (five of them completely looted). Furthermore, it pointed out the resulting destruction of the bombing in eight archaeological sites and monumental buildings, and in eight historic neighbourhoods, it underlined as well the revolts witnessed in the north and the south, and its consequences. Paradoxically, the international institutions ignored the call for help, not sending any investigating commission at all, a fact that was barely mentioned in the media³.

Misleading news coverage and the lack of resources in Iraq encouraged the academic circles concerned with the historical and archaeological study of ancient Mesopotamia, to work on the compilation of data regarding the more than one thousand items stolen from regional Iraqi museums. The first publication on the issue, made by Mc. G. Gibson and A. Mac Mahon (*Lost Heritage. Antiquities Stolen from Iraq's Regional Museums. Fascicle 1. American Association for Research in Baghdad, Chicago 1992, 54 pp.*) was soon followed by another volume by H.D.Baker, R. J. Matthews and J. N. Postgate (*Lost Heritage. Antiquities Stolen from Iraq's Regional Museums. Fascicle 2. British School of Archaeology in Iraq, London 1993, 153 pp.*), efforts proved ineffective because of the scant help received from Interpol and UNESCO. Since 1994 the economic pressure imposed by the embargo was already visible, and so all levels of Iraqi state offices began to implode, carrying with them the moral values and the social structure of the country. As a result, clandestine looting of archaeological sites, excavated or unexcavated, soared drastically. In addition, the worrying economic landscape and the crisis of the government allowed organized gangs of dealers to act with impunity, selling illegally archaeological materials with the complicity of international institutions, responsible, ironically, for the protection of the heritage, but unable to stop the trafficking of antiquities.

The same year, an international conference was held in Baghdad the 10th, 11th and 12th of December, sponsored by The Institute for Cultural Studies of Ancient Iraq at Kokushikan University of Tokyo (Prof. H. Fuji), the General Direction of Antiquities and Heritage of Iraq (Dr. M. Said Damerji) and the Ministry of Culture of Iraq (Mr. H. Yusuf Hammadi). A considerable number of scholars representing several universities and research institutions from all over the world and the directors of archaeological

² The letter mentioned the following sites: 1°.- List of damaged museums: Iraq Museum, Qadisiya Panorama, museums of Bashra, Maysan, Nasiriyah, Qadisiyah, Kufa, Ta'amin (Kirkuk), Ethnographic Museum in Kirkuk, Mosul, Dohuk, Arbil, Suleimaniyah. 2°.- Missing museum libraries: the libraries of Basrah, Maysan, Kikuk, Kufa, Arbil and the library of Jacob Sarkees in Kirkuk Museum. 3°.- Missing antiquities: in the archaeological site of Ur, by the military occupation, all the antiquities of the museums of Basrah, Maysan, Kirkuk, Ethnographic of Kirkuk and Kufa, part of the antiquities of the museums of Qadisiyah, Dohuk, Suleimaniyah and manuscripts housed in Kirkuk Museum. 4°.- Archaeological sites and buildings affected from direct and indirect bombardment: Al Mustansiriyah, Abassid Palace, Al Qiblaniyah Mosque, Khan Merjan, Al Kawaz Mosque at Basrah, ziggurat of Ur, North-Western Palace of Nimrud, Al Tahirah Church at Mosul. 5°.- Historical dwelling and areas affected by direct bombardment: Al Maydan at Mosul, Old Basrah, Al Kremat Area-Karkh side of Baghdad, Al Nahtha Area-Rusafa side of Baghdad, Al Sefinah-Adamiyah at Baghdad, Al Qushla building at Baghdad, Al Shuhada bridge at Baghdad and the historical building of the Ministry of Defence at Baghdad. 5°.- Areas affected by riot: Historical houses at Arbil, Al Qushla building at Kirkuk, the historical market at Maysan.

³ A-Ch. Lefevre and L. Faton.- "Irak. Notre enquête", *Archeologia* 274 (1991), 10-21.

missions in Iraq attended the conference, but representatives of UNESCO and Interpol were not present. Those attending confirmed the cultural loss, the absence of the expected international aid and the worsening of the situation. The final conclusions were supported by every participant and, with some limitations, were made known to the general public. These conclusions were the letter that was to be given to the UNESCO General Director, the 'Baghdad International Appeal', aimed to the protection of the heritage, the 'Appeal to Surrounding and Nearby Countries', against the illegal trafficking of antiquities, and the 'Code of Ethics for Professionals concerned with the Antiquities of the Near and Middle East'. Reading these documents, enclosed here in the second annex, should make us think about the smoke curtain which for twelve years has hidden and supported the continued looting of one of the richest heritages in the world.

In the remainder of that year and in the years following, the situation worsened. In 1994, plunderers killed Mr. Haddad, guardian of the archaeological site of Larsa. At the same year some pieces of Assyrian reliefs appeared in London, and later, thousands of clay-tablets, sculptures and other items filled the displays of the receiving countries. At the same time, scholars and academic institutions continued their own struggle unabated. Thus in 1996 H. Fuji and K. Oguchi published a new volume with a list of the stolen antiquities (*Lost Heritage. Antiquities Stolen from Iraq's Regional Museums. Fascicle 3. Institute for Cultural Studies of Ancient Iraq, Kokushikan University, Tokyo 1996, 43 pp.*), and the same year the Turin Excavation Center (Centro di Scavi di Torino. Prof. G. Gullini) created the BRILA (Bureau for Recovering and Investigating Iraqi Looted Antiquities). Also, on 16th and 17th of December that year the 'International Court on Crimes against Humanity Committed by the UN Security Council in Iraq' took place in Madrid. Among others, the topics referred were the nutritional (P. Lewis Pellet) and the health situation (Kh. D. Al-Bakri) of the population, the effects of the impoverished uranium (S-H. Günther) and the effects on the cultural and archaeological heritage (J. M. Córdoba)⁴.

Some time later, when the 'Oil for food' programme was launched, there was a relative improvement in the situation, and thus the resumption of Iraqi and European archaeological research improved the defence of previously unprotected areas as well. In the south the Umm Al-Aqareb (Donny George) was a crucial point because the rural population co-operated again in the defence of national heritage: in the north, in sites such as Qalat Sherqat-Assur (P. Miglus) and Tell Mahuz (J. M. Córdoba), the field work helped rural people and re-established scientific co-operation and the protection of unexcavated materials. In the central area, the continued work of the Turin Institute Center (G. Gullini) in several sites and the Institut für Sprachen und Kulturen des Alten Orients of Innsbruck University (H. Trenkwalder) in Borsippa, extended the work it had pursued alone even during the worst years of the war and the embargo.

As a result, the Deutsches Archäologisches Institut (Margarette van Ess) and the Institut Français d'Archéologie du Proche Orient (Ch. Kepinski-Lecomte) both prepared to resume field work in Iraq. Although this was significant for the protection of the archaeological wealth and the struggle against looting, it could not counter factors such as the porous borders, the existence of areas in the north and the south outside government control and the impunity of illegal international trafficking in antiquities. Thus, in 1997, in Khorsabad a gang of looters beheaded a monumental *lamassu* to allow

⁴ J. M. Córdoba.- "Consecuencias de las sanciones sobre el patrimonio histórico-cultural de la humanidad en Iraq", in C. Varea and A. Maestro (eds.).- Guerra y sanciones a Irak. Naciones Unidas y el "nuevo orden mundial". Los libros de la Catarata, Madrid 1997, pp. 141-148.

its illicit export. A depiction of the sad reality was to appear in 1998 in J. M. Russell's book *The Final Sack of Nineveh*, in which the vast destruction and plundering of the reliefs of the Niniveh palace of Sennacherib is described as follows: 'today the Sennacherib Palace Site Museum at Nineveh represents a world heritage disaster of the first magnitude'⁵. We must not forget another incident that reflected the extremely complicated situation experienced in Iraq either. This was the attempt by the international mafia in illegal trade to murder Dr. Donny George Yukhana, well-known spokesman and soul of the legal and scientific fight against plundering.

Another consequence of the embargo on Iraq over twelve years to have been overlooked is the progressive deterioration of the archaeological heritage held in the museums. For more than one decade, the conditions under the embargo made impossible the import of any chemical product required for the restoration process, such as acetone, alcohol, solvent, resin, etc. Except for some publications on the issue⁶, this is a scarcely mentioned problem that has damaged hundreds of manuscripts and ivories, as well as metal and glass objects, pottery, fabrics and clay-tablets. However, this situation is not only caused by the measures taken by The Security Council of the UN, but also by the laziness and negligence of the UNESCO, which, as I was informed by a leading figure of the Iraq Museum, did not send even one commission of investigation during the twelve years to evaluate the problems and needs of the Iraqi heritage, and only approved 2 % of the import licenses requested which were essential for the restoration of the items and the activities of the State Board of Antiquities of Iraq.

Consequently, when in 2002 people started considering the possibility of a new war against Iraq, the excruciating situation of the historical and cultural heritage of Iraq did not change. The catalogued items stolen from the regional museums in 1991 were not recovered, thousands of pieces looted *in situ* from archaeological sites filled illicit markets in Switzerland, USA, United Kingdom, France, Germany, Israel and Japan, among other countries. Furthermore, materials intercepted as illegal exports by the Customs Service of the USA were deposited in New York museums instead of being returned to their countries of origin and the few cases which were submitted to the Courts were often postponed. While all this happened, the items held in Iraqi Museums continued to suffer slow decay.

2. BEHIND IMPUNITY: THE TARGETS OF THE 2003 ASSAULT

Surprisingly, the course of the events in Iraq has not been common knowledge among international public opinion. For twelve years, a silent conspiracy, real censorship has silenced the most prestigious media, which by acting that way have become accomplices of a true crime against the heritage of humanity. Hence well aimed news reports, such as the one published in 2001 in the magazine *Science* (Vol. 293, N. 5527)⁷, have been lost among noisy everyday news in a world where information is carefully uninformed. This atmosphere of informative cowardice, moral laziness, and the negligence of international bodies have encouraged the beneficiaries of the

⁵ John Malcolm Russell.- *The Final Sack of Nineveh. The Discovery, Documentation, and Destruction of King Sennacherib's Throne Room at Nineveh, Iraq*. Yale University Press, New Haven and London 1998, p. 49.

⁶ J. Farchakh.- "Irak. 10 ans d'archéologie sous embargo", *Archeologia* 374 (2001), 22-41.

⁷ Andrew Lawler.- "Destruction in Mesopotamia", "Iraq Opening Sets Off Scramble for Sites", "New Digs Draw Applause and Concern", and "Banished Assyrian Gold to Reemerge from Vault", in *Science*, vol. 293, No. 5527 (6 July 2001), 32-35, 36-38, 38-41 and 42-43 respectively.

international trafficking in antiquities, unpunished for twelve years, a fact which partly explains the brazen boldness of the Iraq Museum assault, organised in April of 2003.

The highly sensationalist attitude adopted by a part of the press, the analysis of experts, who frequently did not know the social, cultural or politic realities of Iraq, as well as the hasty intervention of the UNESCO -perhaps motivated by its bad conscience- have had a negative influence on proper understanding of the disaster suffered by the Iraqi heritage, disaster that goes further than the Iraq Museum looting and the effects of the last war. Thanks to the brave personal involvement of people such as John Curtis, British Museum Curator, and Donny George, Director of the Investigating Department of the State Board of Antiquities, a primary report on the theft and damage inflicted on the non-evacuated items, which were still at the public galleries when the looters entered the museum, was announced to the public in London at the end of April. The report also confirmed the looting of the museum storerooms⁸.

Donny George pointed out wisely that we should distinguish between two main kinds of looters: on one hand, the common criminals who take advantage of every conflict, and, on the other, well-organised groups with pre-determined and precise targets who acted under orders from the international mafia in illegal trafficking in antiquities, who were fully conscious of the importance of destroying the files and documents on the items they had planned to steal, in order to avoid subsequent prosecution. The weeks that followed the London conference, as a result of the start of an official investigation undertaken by the military authorities of the USA, the availability of trustworthy information was halted until the publication of the 'M. Bogdanos Report' that we will mention briefly.

Having been selected by the occupying military authorities, Colonel Matthew Bogdanos began a process of investigating the museum the 22nd of April, leading a commission of fourteen military members. M. Bogdanos and its commission made the results public the 16th of last May⁹, and that is why we know that the museum restorers stayed there until the 8th of April, when the battles for Baghdad became dramatically serious. Between the 8th and the 12th of April, while the museum personnel was coming back, the looters acted without opposition in front of USA troops, located in the nearby square –although the report does not include this fact.

The report confirmed that fortunately the vaults of the Central Bank had been spared, where, according to the restorers, the treasures uncovered from the graves of the Assyrian queens had been in storage since 1990. Furthermore, the report underlined the existence of protected storerooms hidden in secret locations, where a considerable number of the exhibited items were carried out. The report also showed the return of 915 items stolen during the first few days. Finally, the consequences of the assault were estimated: 28 of the 451 display cases broken in the display rooms, the theft of 42 pieces left in the galleries of exhibition and restoration rooms for different reasons and purposes –nine of them were recovered when the report was published-, and the disappearance of thousands of items taken from three of the five storerooms of the museum, the accuracy of which has yet to be corroborated. Another consequence must of course also be borne in mind: the damages suffered by statues and reliefs on display in the museums.

⁸ Information signed by the journalist Guillermo Altares and published by the newspaper *El País*, 30th of April of 2003, p. 36. See too, J. Curtis, "The Cultural Heritage of Iraq", *British Museum Magazine* 46, Autumn (2003), 22-28.

⁹ "Transcript: U.S. team gains ground in recovering missing Iraqi artifacts" EUR508, 05/23/2003, Washington File, May 27, 2003, 24-30.

So far, the situation has not witnessed any change of relevance. The reports presented on the course of the last RAI, held in London last July, have been nothing but a repeat of the first one, although, taking advantage of the opportunity, an accurate list of the items stolen from public galleries was distributed, a list that we include here as 1st Annex, enclosing with it the images that we were able to find.

However, the first news available to a wider audience –such as the article published the 10th of September of this year in *The New York Times*– tended to simplify the events, noting the original exaggerations, and, as it is logical, trying to play down the disaster and overdo the significance of the commission, as when M. Bogdanos tells the journalist in an interview that the recovered Sacred Vase of Warka – in spite of being returned anonymously, and in need of restoration– was ‘arguably the most significant piece possessed by the museum’. Also, M. Bogdanos pointed out in this interview that “30 display quality, irreplaceable pieces” were still missing¹⁰.

The news given before is completed with the information suggesting that the US government with the help and advice of archaeologists and experts from the museums of USA, United Kingdom and Italy, have recovered around 3.500 artefacts, previously stolen from the Iraq Museum. This last report, handed to the press the 10th of September at the Pentagon, which includes a new inventory of the lost objects, shows more clearly the fact that 10.337 items were stolen from the cellar, 3.138 from the first and second floor storerooms, and approximately 40 from the public galleries and the restoration room. Except for the items returned in the last months, M. Bogdanos considers that, as a result of the looting¹¹, around 10.000 items or more are still missing, also taking into account thirty especially remarkable pieces, such as the ‘Lady of Warka’ and the ‘Akkadian Statue of Bassekti’.

Nevertheless, when the attention is focused on the Iraq Museum, it is easy to infer the odd omission in any analysis of the terrible conditions suffered by the Iraqi archaeological sites nowadays, once again victims of uncontrolled and continued looting. Furthermore, the new assaults on several regional museums did not receive any comment either. But, the worst thing is that obviously nobody realises the state of deterioration to and theft of mankind’s heritage. After more than a decade of abandonment the situation in Iraq is especially critical due to the impunity with which illegal trafficking in Mesopotamian antiquities is conducted. In my opinion, the reason behind the deliberate blurring of this information is that these facts themselves constitute the real assault on the Iraq Museum and the cultural heritage of humanity, much more relevant and scandalous than the damaging assault suffered by the museum between the 8th and 12th of April of 2003.

3. EPILOGUE

The sectors interested in playing down the suffering of the Iraqi people and minimizing the harmful consequences for civilians and cultural heritage of the system of sanctions imposed by the UN Security Council over the last twelve years are eager to point out the mistakes of the sensationalist media in order to avoid criticism for the abuses committed.

¹⁰ “Team and Amnesty recover thousands of antiquities for Iraq” (*The New York Times* 09/10/03 article by Brian Knowlton) (1130). In Washington File, September 12, 2003, 4-5. Vid. p. 4.

¹¹ “Transcript: Thousands of missing artifacts from Iraqi Museum recovered” (Chief U.S. military investigator briefs on recovery efforts Sept. 10) (8460), in Washington File, September 11, 2003, 5-14.

However, it is up to us to compensate for the laziness of the international institutions through our unflinching criticism and our own professional activity, acting as scientists concerned with history and the memory of Humanity. So, as Prof. Winfried Orthmann wrote in a message sent to the professional community the 16th of April last, 'it is not enough that we express our anger and our grief, caused by the loss of such a large part of the cultural heritage we have been studying most part of our lives'. Thus, in conclusion, we must do everything possible to prevent the defence of the history and memory of mankind from falling into the hands of unworthy governments and international bodies which lack any moral legitimacy.

ANNEX N° 1

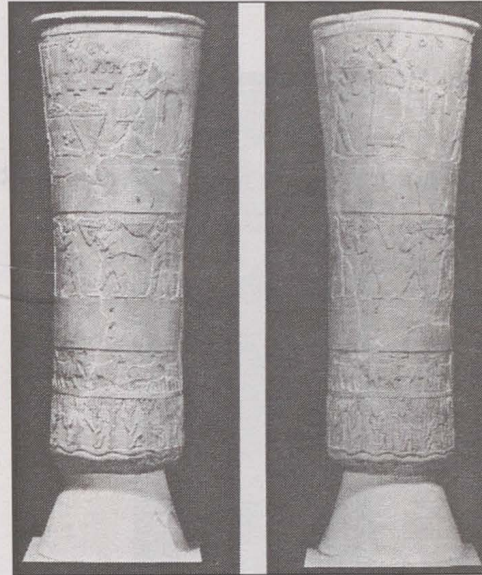
Master List of Confirmed Missing or Damaged Antiquities

I. Prehistoric Rooms: nothing missing, nothing damaged, no display cases broken.

II. Sumerian Rooms: 15 pieces missing, 2 pieces damaged, 2 display cases broken.

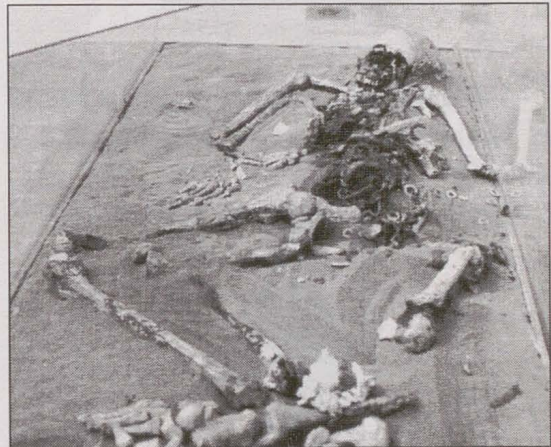
1.- IM 19606.- The sacred vase of Warka.
A votive bowl in white limestone with
engraved ritual scene representing the
goddess In-nin, the Lady of Heaven,
receiving offerings. From 3000 B.C.

1.- Photo: F. Basmachi, Baghdad 1976, 31.



2.- IM 5572. Upper part of a sumerian
stone statue. No photo available.

3-12.- IM unknow. Single burial site:
skeleton and skull intact. 7 pieces of
pottery, necklace of agate beads with
string, leather or metal slippers, and one
white cylinder seal missing from exhibit.
3-12.- Photo: Magazine Clío, 20 (2003),
74.



13.- IM 5.- Diorite statue representing
Entemena, ensi of Agash in natural size,
without head. Cuneiform inscription
engraved on back and shoulder, from Ur, c.
2430 B.C..

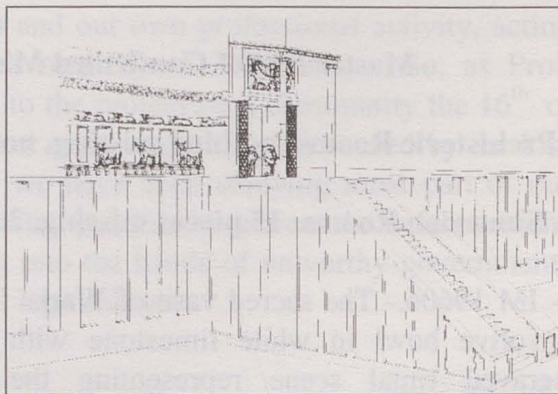
13.- Photo: F. Basmachi, Baghdad 1976,
58.



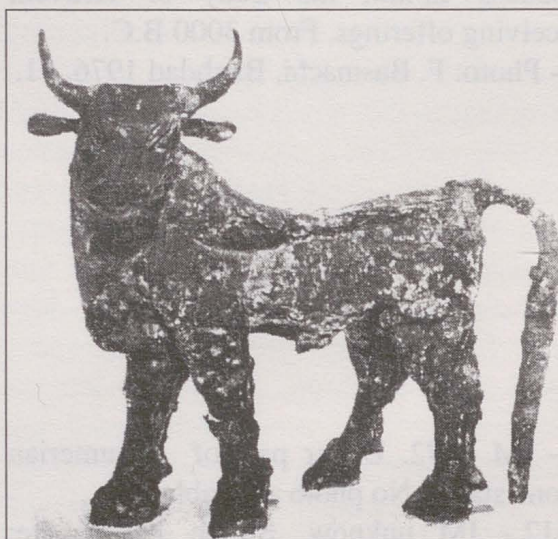
14.- IM 513.- Bronze bull in bas-relief

from façade of Ninhursag temple.

14.1.- Drawing: H. Crawford 1991, 4.17.

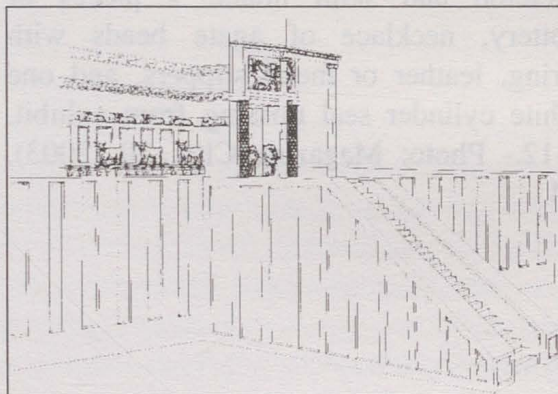


14.2.- Photo: similar to A. Spycket 1981, plate 90.



15.- IM unknow.- Rosetes from façade of the Ninhursag temple. 1 missing and 2 damaged.

15.- Drawing: H. Crawford 1991, 4.17.



III. Old Babylonian Rooms: 10 pieces missing, 2 pieces damaged, 3 display cases broken.

16.- IM 77823.- The Bassetki Statue, with an Akkadian Royal inscription of Naram-Sin of Agade (2291-2255 B.C.).

16.- Photo: H. Klengel, 1989, 98.



17-25.- IM 24730, 14168. 9 Babylonian

Cuneiform bricks from single exhibit.

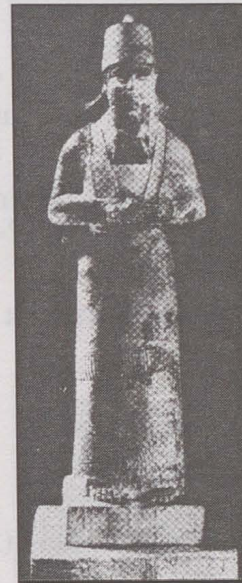
- IM unknown. Of 3 lion statues, 1 was damaged.
- IM unknown. Of pair of lion statues, head of one damaged.

IV. Assyrian Rooms: 1 piece missing, 4 pieces damages, 1 display case broken

26.- IM 54075.- Middle Babylonian boundary stone. No photo available.

- IM 60496.- Restored statue of Shalmaneser III damaged.

Photo: F. Basmachi 1976, 144.



- IM 84075.- 1 of 3 Old Babylonian model houses on tower damaged.

- M 25963.- Large statue of the god Ea, the god of water and sea, found at the entrance of Sin Temple at Khorsabad damaged.

· Photo: F. Basmachi 1976, 140.



V. Sassanian Roms: nothing missing, nothing damaged, no display cases broken

VI. Assyrian Ivory Room: nothing missing, nothing damaged, no display cases broken

VII. New Babylonian Rooms: nothing missing, nothing damaged, 9 display cases broken

VIII. Pre-Islamic (Roman) Rooms: 5 pieces missing, 2 pieces damaged, 1 display case broken

27.- IM 580886.- Marble statue of a seated female deity holding in her hand a palm tree frond and wearing a crown-like headgear. Only head missing.

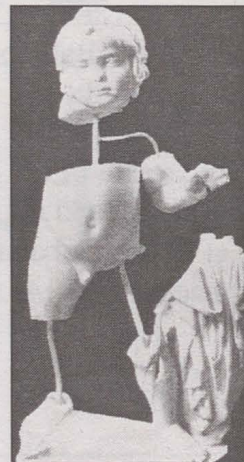
27.- Photo: F. Basmachi 1976, 245.



28.- IM unknown. Copper statue of Goddess of Victory from Hatra (200 A.D.). Only head missing.

29.- IM 7041.- Marble statue of Eros-Cherub. The Greek god of love. Roman copy (c. 160 A.D.) after a Greek original, dating to the 4th cent. B.C. Discovered at Hatra. Head is missing.

29.- Photo: F. Basmachi 1976, 201.



30.- IM 73004.- Marble statue of Apollo, the god of the youth and wisdom. Roman copy (c. 160 A.D.) of a Greek original dating to the 4th cent. B.C. Discovered at Hatra. Head is missing.

30.- Photo: F. Basmachi 1976, 200.



31.- IM unknown. Money box of marble found at Hatra. No photo available.

IM 73005.- Statue in fine marble representing Poseidon the god of the seas with the dolphin beside him. Roman copy (c. 160 A.D.) after a Greek original of the 4th cent. B.C. Discovered at Hatra. Damaged

· Photo: F. Basmachi 1976, 199.

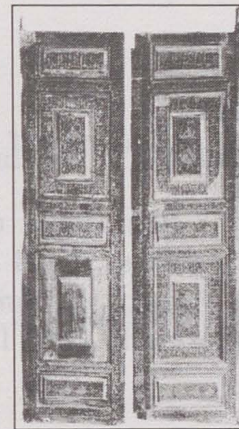


· IM unknown. Sarcophagus lid cracked.

IX. Islamic Manuscript room: nothing missing, nothing damaged, 1 display case broken

X. Islamic Room: 6 pieces missing, nothing damaged, no display cases broken

32.- IM A677.- A two-leaf wooden door decorated with flora and geometrical designs and various inscriptions from the Mosque of Nebi Jarjis at Mosul (6th cent. A.H./12th cent. A.D.). Left door is missing.
32.- F. Basmachi 1976, 277.



33-34.- IM unknown.- 2 Islamic tombstones.

35-37.- IM unknown.- 3 Stucco ornaments from Kufa.

XI. Corridor Room: nothing missing, 8 damaged, no display cases present.

· IM unknown.- Of 25 clay pots, 7 were damaged.

· IM unknown.- Of 9 Sarcophagi, 1 was damaged.

XII. Old Magazine Entry Room: nothing missing, 2 damaged, no display cases present.

· IM unknown.- Of 9 clay pots, 1 was damaged.

· IM unknown.- Of 7 Sarcophagi, 1 was damaged.

XIII. Restoration Room: 5 pieces missing, 3 pieces damaged, no display cases present.

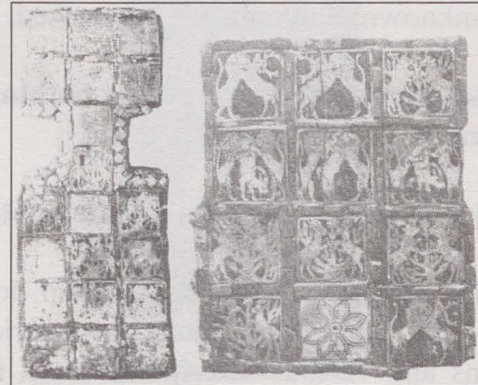
38.- IM 45434.- White marble head of a Sumerian women from Warka, datable to c. 3000 B.C.

38.- Photo: A. Moortgat 1967, 26.



39-40.- IM 8221 and IM 78205.- Two plates inlaid with shell depicting ritual scenes from Ur. Found small piece of one, both may be in debris.

39-40.- Photos; F. Basmachi 94.



41.- IM 118622.- Metal part of chariot. No photo available.

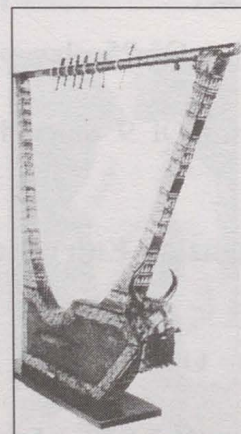
42.- IM 65219.- Ivory piece depicting a man carrying a lioness found at Nimrud, 8th century B.C. May be in debris.

42.- Photo: F. Basmachi 1976, 171.



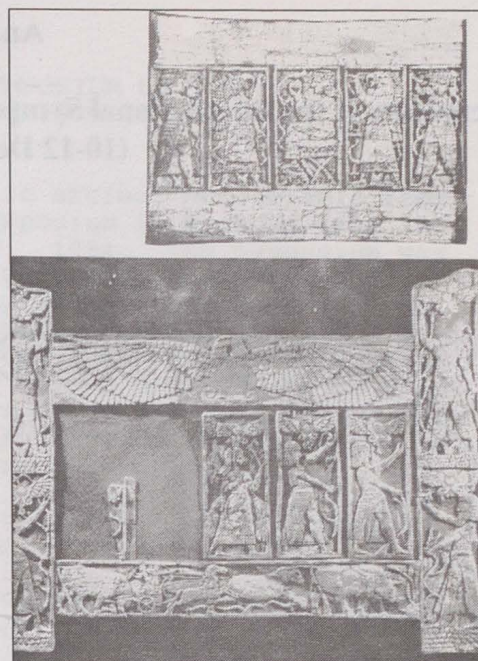
· IM 8694.- Golden Harp of Ur: eleven strings inlaid with shells, precious stone and gold, Ur, 2450 B.C. In pieces, head secured in vault.

· Photo: F. Basmachi 1976, 82.



· IM unknown.- Of 2 ivory reliefs, one is damaged. Similar to IM 62722 and IM 61898.

· Photo: similar to F. Basmachi 1976, 177-178.



· IM unknown.- Of 2 skulls with jewelry, only one is damaged.

Photos from

F. Basmachi

Treasures of the Iraq Museum. Ministry of Information. Directorate General of Antiquities, Baghdad 1976.

H. Crawford

Sumer and the Sumerians. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge 1991.

F. Gracia Alonso, G. Munilla Cabrillana

“Saqueo a la arqueología”, *Clío* 20 (2003), 74-79.

H. Klengel (dir.)

Kulturgeschichte des alten Vorderasien. Akademie-Verlag, Berlin 1989.

A. Moortgat

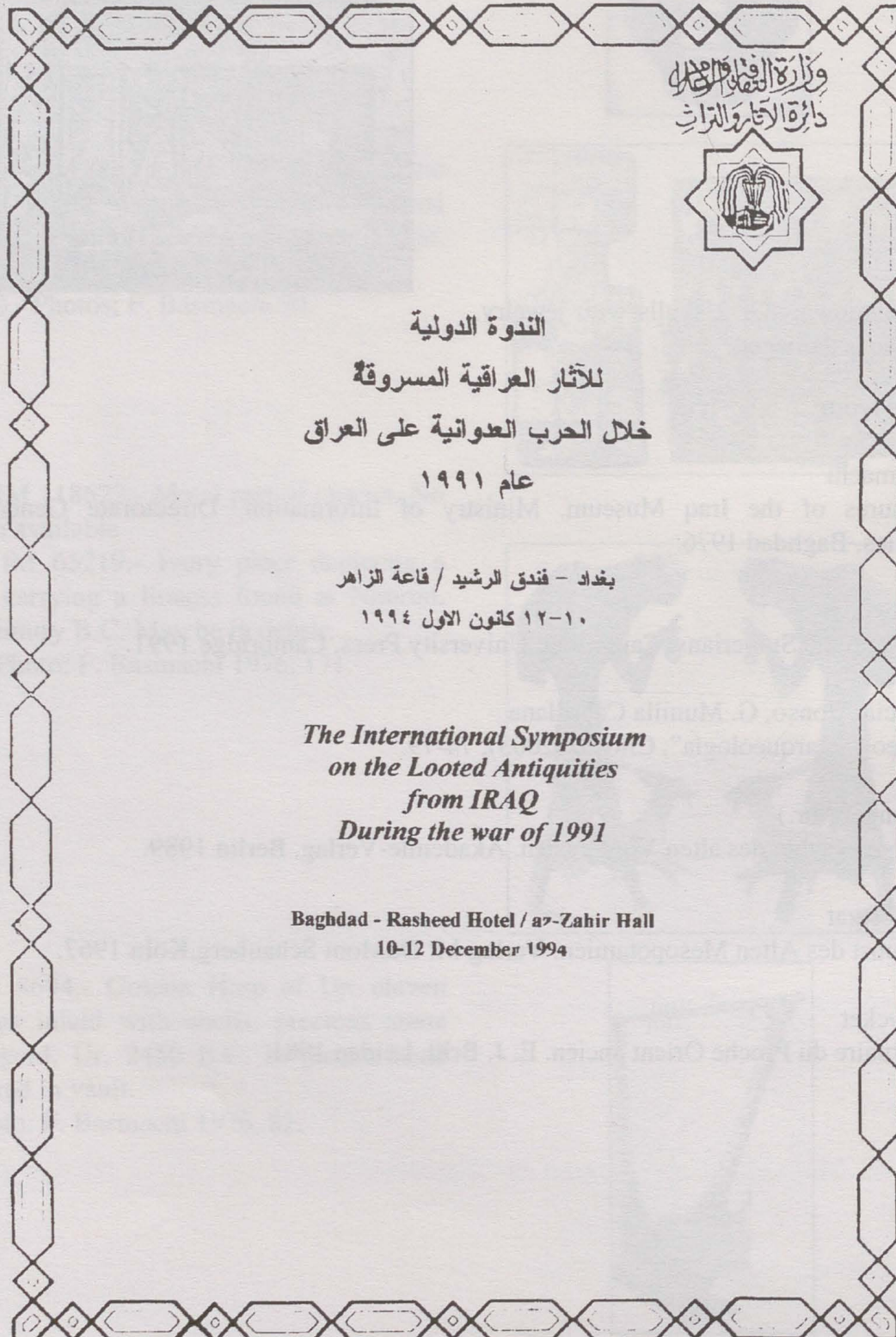
Die Kunst des Alten Mesopotamien. Verlag M. DuMont Schauberg, Köln 1967.

A. Spycket

La statuaire du Proche Orient ancien. E. J. Brill, Leiden 1981.

Annex n° 2

Documents of the International Symposium on the Looted Antiquities from Iraq
(10-12 December 1994)



THE INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON THE
LOOTED ANTIQUITIES FROM IRAQ

Archaeologists and specialists in ancient Mesopotamia from around the world attended a Symposium in Baghdad from the 10th to the 12th of December, 1994. The Symposium was convened by the Minister of Culture, Mr. Hamid Yusuf Hummadi, the Director General of Antiquities and Heritage, Dr. Muayad Said Damerji, and Professor Hideo Fujii of the Institute for Cultural Studies of Ancient Iraq at Kokushikan University in Tokyo. The purpose of the meeting was to draw attention to the large numbers of antiquities stolen and looted from museums and sites in Iraq during and after the war of 1991. The following persons were present:

Dr. Hideo Fujii, Institute for Cultural Studies of Ancient Studies of Ancient Iraq, Kokushikan University, Japan

Dr. Ken Matsumoto, Institute for Cultural Studies of Ancient Iraq, Kokushikan University, Tokyo

Dr. Erica Hunter, University of Cambridge

Prof. Nicholas Postgate, Trinity College, Cambridge

Dr. John Curtis, The British Museum, London

Mrs. Leri Davies, London

Prof. McGuire Gibson, American Association for Research in Baghdad

Dr. Augusta McMahon, American Association for Research in Baghdad

Prof. Elizabeth Stone, State University of New York at Stony Brook

Dr. Michael Muller-Karpe, Romisch-Germanisches Zentralmuseum, Mainz

Dr. Peter Miglus, Berlin

Prof. Herman Gasche, University of Ghent

Prof. Michel Tanret, University of Ghent

Prof. Giorgio Gullini, University of Turin

Prof. Giovanni Pettinato, University of Rome "La Sapienza"

Dr. Roberto Parapetti, Turin

Dr. Franco D'Agostino, University of Rome "La Sapienza"

Dr. Silvia Chiodi, University of Rome "La Sapienza"

Dr. Fiorella Ippoliti, University of Rome "La Sapienza"

Prof. Rauf Munchaev, Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow

Prof. Joachin Cordova Zoilo, Autonomous University of Madrid

Prof. Helga Piesl-Trenkwalder, University of Innsbruck

After an overview of the present state of antiquities in Iraq and the smuggling of looted and illegally excavated objects out of Iraq, a disturbing video documentary showing regional museums after looting was presented. The following regional museums were affected by theft and vandalism:

Dohuk : 240 objects stolen
Kirkuk : 748 objects and 484 manuscripts stolen
Kufa : 198 objects stolen
Qadissiyah (Diwaniyah) : 94 objects stolen
Misan (Amara) : 723 objects stolen
Basra : 947 objects stolen
Sulaimaniyah : 22 objects stolen
Wasit (Kut) : 74 objects stolen
Assur : 30 objects stolen
Sinjar : 4 objects stolen

In addition, parts of statues and relief slabs have been recently removed from the sites of Hatra and Nimrud. About twelve additional sites have been extensively looted by illicit digging, including the site of Umma, which was invaded by hundreds of armed looters who dug up a cuneiform archive. Only a few of these objects stolen from museums or illegally excavated have been recovered within Iraq and many have been smuggled out of the country and are appearing on antiquities markets around the world.

Measures undertaken so far have included the production of a list of items missing from museums, along with their museum inventory numbers and photographs. This list was produced by the Department of Antiquities in Iraq and was given to UNESCO but was not acted upon. However, the list served as the basis for two fascicles of "Lost Heritage: Antiquities Stolen from Iraq's Regional Museums" (Fasc. 1 by M. Gibson and A. McMahon, American Association for Research in Baghdad, Fasc. 2 by J.N. Postgate, H. Baker and R. Matthews, British School of Archaeology in Iraq). In spite of these measures, only one tablet has been recovered from abroad.

This symposium recommended the following measures to amend this appalling situation (see attached documents) :

1. A general appeal to be distributed through UNESCO to all relevant institutions, including Interpol, the International Union of Customs and the International Union of Antique Dealers, to help prevent the illegal trade in Iraqi antiquities.
2. An appeal to the Director General of UNESCO, asking him to intervene to stop the continuing destruction of the cultural heritage of Iraq. This appeal is to be delivered by Prof. H. Fujii, Prof. H. Gasche, Prof. J. Zoilo and Prof. J.-L. Huot.
3. A Code of Ethics for all scholars interested in the culture of the ancient and Islamic Near and Middle East.
4. An appeal to the countries neighboring Iraq for aid in preventing the illicit trade in antiquities.
5. Production of a third fascicle of Lost Heritage, to include more complete information and better photographs of missing items.
6. A reply in the name of Prof. Fuji to the Director of the International Standards Section of UNESCO noting the failure of UNESCO to take positive action and encouraging him to give his full support now and in the future.
7. Investigation of the possibility of a project which would encompass the general register of all artifacts in the Iraq Museum, providing complete photographic documentation and descriptive data. This project will be paralleled by the new project (Tuppu, "Tablet"), which the University of Rome will support and direct in collaboration with the Iraqi-Italian Institute of Archaeology. The purpose of this project is to produce a descriptive inventory catalog, with photographic documentation, of all the cuneiform tablets and other inscribed objects in the Iraq Museum. The combination of these two projects would provide a complete computerized data base of the Iraq Museum collection and would aid in the dissemination of information about any items stolen now or in the future.
8. Due to the present difficulty in communication from Iraq, a working group will be established outside Iraq which will track the progress of UNESCO actions on stolen and illegally exported Iraqi antiquities and will disseminate additional information on artifacts illegally exported from Iraq as such information becomes available.
9. Future meetings shall be called every one or two years to review the problem of illegal trade in antiquities and to report on any changes and progress made.

10. The formation of a consultative group to discuss all issues relating to Mesopotamian archaeology.

Dr. Federico Mayor Zaragoza,
Director-General,
UNESCO.

Dear Dr. Mayor Zaragoza,

You will certainly be aware that in the aftermath of the hostilities in 1991 in addition to damage to archaeological sites and monuments, several of the provincial Iraqi museums were ransacked and their contents lost. Moreover, more recently, as a result of the difficulty experienced by the proper authorities in exerting control in some parts of the country, especially the south and the north, there has been a marked increase in illicit pillaging of sites and export of antiquities. This is especially sad because until 1991 Iraq had a remarkably good record of conserving its heritage and of suppressing illegal trafficking in antiquities.

In view of this, in March 1994 the Iraqi Ministry of Culture and Information agreed with Prof. Hideo Fujii, Director of the Institute for Cultural Studies of Ancient Iraq, Kokushikan University, Tokyo, to arrange an international symposium to discuss possible measures to overcome some of these problems. This symposium met in Baghdad on 10-12 December 1994, and was attended by specialists from various countries who are signatories to this letter. In the course of our discussions it was agreed to address you as Director General of UNESCO in order to present our joint opinions, as set out in the accompanying communique, and to request the adoption of certain specific measures. We make this approach to UNESCO as the international guardian of the world's cultural heritage, on behalf of the international community, because as scholars and experts working in the field of the antiquity of Iraq we are acutely conscious of its great importance in the history of human civilization.

Therefore, in addition to its regular procedures, we urge UNESCO and its affiliated organizations

1. to act jointly with Interpol, the International Union of Customs, the International Council of Museums, and the International Union of Antique Dealers, and any other appropriate bodies, to take all available effective measures to prevent the transfer and sale of antiquities from suspect sources, and to establish that they are not stolen from Iraqi museums, or clandestinely excavated or illegally transferred, and to notify the Iraqi authorities of any such cases, so that Iraq can prepare and submit the documentation necessary for their restitution.
2. to give all possible assistance in publicizing and distributing information about the stolen antiquities supplied to it by the Iraqi authorities, or by any agency outside Iraq

authorized by the Iraqi Directorate General of Antiquities to coordinate the exchange of information.

3. to act as far as possible as an intermediary between the Iraqi authorities and other appropriate organizations, and in particular to appeal to those states which have no diplomatic relations with Iraq, and with which communication is hindered by the economic and cultural embargoes, to make any specific exceptions needed to enable procedures to prevent the marketing of stolen Iraqi antiquities, by which such states should inform the Iraqi authorities either directly or through a third party.

4. to give all possible support in the efforts needed to restore the museums, laboratories and storerooms to a satisfactory condition for the preservation and conservation of Iraq's antiquities (details of which will be submitted shortly by the Directorate General of Antiquities), and to assist with the technical expertise and specialist materials required for this work, and we ask UNESCO to intercede with other international bodies to facilitate the transfer of such expertise and materials, which is now extremely difficult because of the ongoing embargo.

5. to assist in distributing the accompanying communique internationally to all concerned bodies.

We have asked Prof. Hideo Fujii, Prof. Joaquin Cordova Zoilo, Prof. Hermann Gasche and Prof. J.-L. Huot to deliver this letter, and to convey to you the warmest regards and gratitude of all the participants.

Yours sincerely,

LEAH GILWINE DAVIES
L. Gilwine Davies

Richard R. Munchaell

McGuire Gibson — McGuire Gibson

John Curtis (J.E. CURTIS)

MICHAEL DANREI

Michael Heller-Klarer (MICHAEL HELLER-KLARER)

Helga Trenkwalder (HELGA TRENKWALDER)

Joaquin M. Cordoba

Augusto M. Manan

Peter A. Min

KEN MATSUMOTO

ABDUL QADIR H. ALI
A. Q. H. Ali

HIDEO FUJII

H. GASCHE

Muayads. Dawerji

G. GULLINI

G. PETTINATO

S. CHICO

F. DIAGOSTINO

R. PARAPET

J.N. POSTGATE

ELIZABETH C. STONE

BAHIJA KH. ISMAIL

Department of Antiquities and Heritage, Baghdad

Usama Naqshabandi

ABDUL-KADER M. SAID

D. G OF POLICE

INTERPOL BAGHDAD

BAGHDAD INTERNATIONAL APPEAL

Foreign scholars of archaeology, architecture, philology, and art history, long involved in research on the cultural heritage of Iraq, met in Baghdad at the invitation of the Ministry of Culture and Information from December 10th to 12th, 1994. On this occasion, they became acutely aware of the magnitude of the loss of cultural property due to the looting of antiquities from Iraq's regional museums in the aftermath of the Gulf War. The most impressive documentation was a video film on the looted local museums at Kufa, Kirkuk, Dohuk, Maysan, Basrah, Wasit, Suleimaniah, Ashur and Qadisiyah, where not only buildings, fittings and furniture were destroyed, but more importantly the registers and artifacts were stolen.

The discussion of the looting made it clear that the list of stolen items, prepared by the Dept. of Antiquities of Iraq, which formed the basis of the two fascicles published first by the American Association for Research in Baghdad and secondly by the British School of Archaeology in Iraq, represented only a small part of the loss. In view of this fact, it is imperative that a cooperative effort be made to publish a comprehensive list with as many illustrations as possible.

The conference has highlighted a new and potentially much greater threat that is posed to the cultural record by the clandestine excavation and smuggling of artifacts, activities that have grown steadily during the period of the embargo. The wide-spread illicit excavations in the southern and northern areas of Iraq are a new phenomenon for this country, having resulted directly from the hardships imposed upon the populace by the war and the embargo. The Department of Antiquities has also suffered, experiencing drastic reductions in funds and staff which reduce its ability to carry out its functions. Thus, the onerous consequences of the economic sanctions have resulted in a cultural embargo, affecting the most elementary requirements for the protection, conservation and preservation of cultural artifacts.

We, the participants in the conference, believe that an embargo legitimately can never include a cultural component, since culture and the cultural heritage of any country are the common property of all human beings. Any action which harms the cultural heritage of Iraq, as the current embargo does, damages the cultural heritage of the entire world. The cultural sphere, including antiquities, must be freed from the embargo. We would emphasize action to address the most urgent needs: a) practical intervention to stop the smuggling and the trading of stolen antiquities from Iraq and b) helping the responsible Iraqi authorities in the

rehabilitation of the Iraqi Museum system, starting first with the Iraq Museum in Baghdad; this unique repository of Mesopotamian culture must be reopened as soon as possible. A high priority must also be given to the assessment of damage due to illicit excavations, followed by the establishment of a system for monitoring the areas under greatest risk.

We appeal to the Director General of UNESCO, Dr. Federico Mayor, to ask that UNESCO carry out in Iraq its constitutional task: the protection of a heritage belonging not only to the Iraqi people but also to mankind.

The Symposium calls for a world appeal urging the Director General of UNESCO, the international committees, governmental and non-governmental, which are affiliated to UNESCO, Interpol, the International Union of Customs, and the International Union of Antique Dealers to join together to take effective measures that would prevent the selling of antiquities whose sources are suspect and to make sure that they are not stolen from Iraqi museums or are not clandestinely excavated. These international bodies should inform Iraq about any stolen or illegally excavated and exported items and then facilitate their restitution to Iraq.

We call upon the Director General of UNESCO to appeal to all states which are imposing economic sanctions and a cultural embargo, encouraging them to make exceptions by promoting bilateral relations concerning procedures relating to the prohibition of selling stolen Iraqi antiquities. Those states should be required to inform Iraq, either directly or through a neutral third party, about the selling of Iraq's stolen antiquities.

We request UNESCO, through its member states, to intervene and halt any sale of objects of recent Iraqi origin. We recommend that all sellers of antiquities should be encouraged to provide information about the provenance of each piece, the circumstances of its finding, and the means by which it entered their possession. We also suggest that names of any buyers of antiquities should be made available upon request.

As the International Committee of Museums (ICOM) maintains direct relations with many museums all over the world, as well as with National Committees of museums in countries which are member states to the U.N. and UNESCO and the national committees of UNESCO and of ICOM, we call upon it to lead the effort to convince nations:

Usama Nayshabandi *Uf*
BAHJA KH. ISMAIL

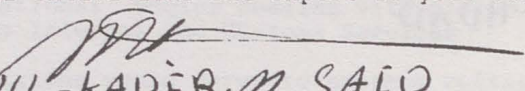
Uf
ABDUL-KADIR M SAID

D. G. OF POLICE

INTERPOL BAGHDAD

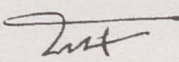
APPEAL TO SURROUNDING AND NEARBY COUNTRIES

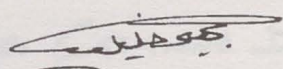
We, the undersigned scholars, representing international institutions involved in the study of ancient Iraq, appeal to the governments of all surrounding and nearby countries to aid in the suppression of the illegal trade in antiquities. This trade harms not only Iraq, but also your own countries, since the continuing ability to export Iraqi material from your countries must also lead to increased illegal excavations and export of your own heritage.


ABDULL-KADER M SAID

D. G OF POLICE

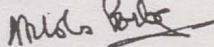
INTERPOL BAGHDAD

Usama Negshabandi 

BAHIJA KH. ISMAIL 

ELIZABETH C STONE

R. Munchaen

JNPOSTGATE 

R. PARAPETTI

T. D'AGOSTINO

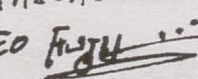
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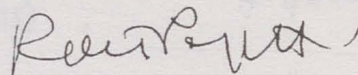
G. GULLINI

M. Damerji

H. GASCHÉ

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ABDUL-QADIR H. ALI


Reza Pournazer

Franco M. H. H.

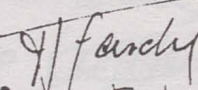
Ilse Chiodi

F. D. P.

F. P.

Muhammad S. Damerji

E. C. D. H.


F. J. P.

F. IPPOLITONI STRIMA

KEN MATSUMOTO

Peter A. Morgan

Agnes M. Mohr

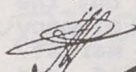
Joaquin M. Córdoba

HELEN TRENNWALDER

MICHAEL MILLER-KARP

John Curtis (J.E. CURTIS)

McGuire Gibson (McGuire Gibson)



MICHAEL TONNET

L. Gwynne Davies - LERI GYNNNE DAVIES

Code of Ethics for Professionals Concerned with the
Antiquities of the Near and Middle East

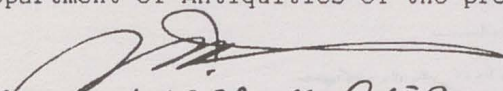
This code of ethics was developed on the occasion of the Symposium on the Looted Antiquities of Iraq held in Baghdad in December 1994 and is aimed at all professionals concerned with cultural heritage, most particularly those specializing in the ancient and Islamic Near and Middle East, including archaeologists, art historians, philologists, architects, and scientists and support workers working in connection with archaeological sites or materials. It has been developed in recognition of the enormous destruction to the cultural heritage of this region that has resulted from clandestine digging and looting of archaeological sites and museums and the resulting illegal export and trade in objects, cuneiform tablets and other inscribed items, manuscripts and architectural elements. Not only are such objects removed from their archaeological contexts but the illegal antiquities trade leads to the destruction of many more artifacts and antiquities than are brought to market, since imperfect objects and tablets are discarded and illustrations separated from manuscripts. This destruction is directly encouraged by those, whether as individuals or institutions, who participate in any way in the illegal trade in antiquities. As a first step in stemming this haemorrhage of the cultural heritage of the Near and Middle East, this code of ethics takes as its starting point an affirmation of the Code of Professional Ethics developed by the International Council of Museums, which is appended to this document. The most important paragraphs in the above code which should be extended to include all professionals involved in cultural heritage are 2.11, 3.2, 3.3, 4.2, 4.4, 5.2, 6.3, 6.4, 6.5, 7.1, 7.3, 8.3, 8.5 and 8.6.

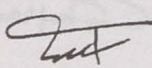
Critical principles whether enunciated in that code or agreed by the present symposium are:

1. No professional concerned with the ancient and Islamic Near and Middle East should acquire, whether by purchase, gift, bequest or exchange, any object, tablet, manuscript or architectural fragment unless that individual can acquire a valid title and can demonstrate that the object was not acquired in or exported from its country of origin and/or intermediate country in which it may have been legally owned, in violation of that country's laws.
2. No professional concerned with the ancient and Islamic Near and Middle East should be involved either directly or indirectly in clandestine excavation.
3. No professional concerned with the ancient and Islamic Near and Middle East should identify, authenticate or evaluate material there is reason to believe has been illegally excavated and/or exported.

4. Since no materials should be published or exhibited without permission from the legal owner, no professional concerned with the ancient and Islamic Near and Middle East should publish or exhibit material that there is reason to believe has been illegally excavated and/or exported.

5. No museum or other institution should participate in the sale or transfer of antiquities without informing the Department of Antiquities of the presumed country of origin.


ABDULL-KADER M. SAID
D. G. OF POLICE -
INTERPOL - BAGHDAD

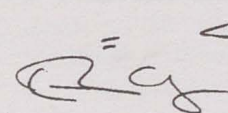
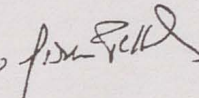
Usama Nagshabandi 
Department of Antiquities and Heritage, Baghdad

BAHJA KH. ISMAIL

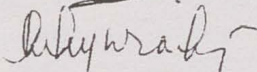
ELIZABETH C. STONE

JN POSTGATE

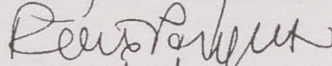
Nicola Pizzini


G. PETTINATO 

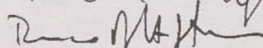
R. Munchaert



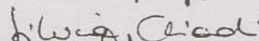
R. PARAFETI



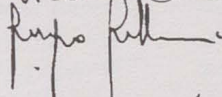
F. MAGOSTIN



S. CHIONI



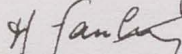
G. GULLINI



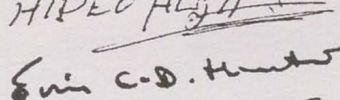
M. Damerji

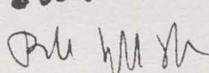
Muayad S. Damerji

H. GASCHÉ



~~HIPOFILITI~~

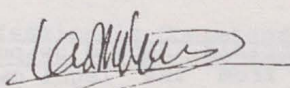
 (ORION C. D. HUNTER)

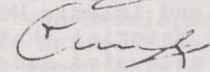


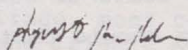
F. IPPOLITONI STRIKA

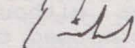
ABDUL-KADER H. ALI

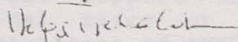
A. D. H. ALI

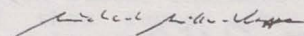
KEN MATSUMOTO 

Peter A. Minkin 

Augusta M. Minton 


Joaquin M^e Coadoba 

Helmut Tremmel 

Michael Stiller-Karpe 

John Curtis (J.E. CURTIS)

McGuire Gibson (McGUIRE GIBSON)

 MICHAEL TANRET

L. Gwynne Davis - LERI GWYNNE DAVIES