

EMERGENCY

RED LIST OF
IRAQI
CULTURAL OBJECTS
AT RISK

2015 Update



RedList
قائمة حمراء
ICOM



EMERGENCY RED LIST OF IRAQI CULTURAL OBJECTS AT RISK

Introduction

For decades the world has witnessed the ongoing disappearance of Iraq's diverse cultural heritage. This looting and destruction impoverishes our knowledge and understanding of Iraq's, and the region's, history as well as its many and varied contributions to the world both on a scientific and cultural level.

Following the successful seizures made possible thanks to the 2003 *Emergency Red List of Iraqi Antiquities at Risk*, the International Council of Museum's (ICOM) first Emergency Red List, and in view of the persisting threat to the Republic of Iraq's cultural heritage, ICOM concluded that an updated version of the List was necessary. This was effectively carried out with the generous support of the US Department of State.

The *Emergency Red List of Iraqi Cultural Objects at Risk* presents the country's cultural heritage currently threatened by destruction, theft, looting, smuggling and illicit trafficking.

Purpose

The fight against illicit trafficking in cultural goods requires the enhancement of legal instruments and the use of practical tools disseminating information, raising public awareness, and preventing illegal exportation.

The *Emergency Red List of Iraqi Cultural Objects at Risk* illustrates the categories or types of cultural items that are most likely to be illegally traded. It aims to help art and heritage professionals and law enforcement officials identify Iraqi objects that are at risk and protected by the legislation in force. Museums, auction houses, art dealers and collectors are encouraged not to acquire such objects without having carefully and thoroughly researched their origin and all the relevant legal documentation.

Due to the great diversity of objects, styles and periods, the *Emergency Red List of Iraqi Cultural Objects at Risk* is far from exhaustive. Any cultural good that could have originated from Iraq should be subjected to detailed scrutiny and precautionary measures.

The ICOM Red List series:

Red List of African Archaeological Objects, 2000

Red List of Latin American Cultural Objects at Risk, 2003

Emergency Red List of Iraqi Antiquities at Risk, 2003

Red List of Afghanistan Antiquities at Risk, 2006

Red List of Peruvian Antiquities at Risk, 2007

Red List of Cambodian Antiquities at Risk, 2009

Red List of Endangered Cultural Objects of Central America and Mexico, 2009

Emergency Red List of Haitian Cultural Objects at Risk, 2010

Red List of Chinese Cultural Objects at Risk, 2010

Red List of Colombian Cultural Objects at Risk, 2010

Emergency Red List of Egyptian Cultural Objects at Risk, 2011

Red List of Dominican Cultural Objects at Risk, 2012

Emergency Red List of Syrian Cultural Objects at Risk, 2013

Emergency Red List of Iraqi Cultural Objects at Risk, 2015

The cultural heritage of Iraq is protected by the following national legislation and international instruments and agreements:

NATIONAL LEGISLATION

Law No. 55 of 2002 on *Antiquities and Heritage* (18 November 2002).

Constitution of the Republic of Iraq, Article 113 (15 October 2005).

INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS

The Hague Convention of 14 May 1954 for the *Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict* (ratified, 21 December 1967) and the first Protocol (ratified, 21 December 1967).

UNESCO Convention of 14 November 1970 on the *Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property* (accepted, 12 February 1973).

UNESCO Convention of 16 November 1972 *Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage* (accepted, 5 March 1974).

United Nations Security Council Resolution 661, Article 3a regarding the import of commodities and products originating from Iraq (6 August 1990).

United Nations Security Council Resolution 1483 (2003) on the *Situation between Iraq and Kuwait* (22 May 2003).

European Union Council Regulation (EC) No. 1210/2003 *concerning certain specific restrictions on economic and financial relations with Iraq, and repealing Regulation (EC) No. 2465/96, Article 3* (7 July 2003).

Charter of the United Nations (Sanctions - Iraq) Regulations 2008, Select Legislative Instrument 2008 No. 45 as amended, Article 9 on the *Return of illegally removed cultural property of Iraq* and Article 10 on *Dealing with illegally removed cultural property* (18 May 2011).

United Nations Security Council Resolution 2199 (2015) on *Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts* (12 February 2015).

OTHER LAWS AND REGULATIONS

League of Arab States:
Riyadh Arab Agreement for Judicial Cooperation (6 April 1983).

Russian Federation:
Decree No. 968 on the *measures to implement the UN Security Council resolution 1483 of 22 May 2003* (18 August 2003).

Swiss Confederation:
By-law of 7 August 1990 on the *Economic measures regarding the Republic of Iraq*, Articles 1a, 2a and 4c, as amended by RO 2003 1887 on 28 May 2003 (25 June 2003).

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland:
Statutory Instrument 2003 No. 1519, *The Iraq (United Nations Sanctions) Order 2003*, Article 8 (14 June 2003).

United States of America:
Department of Homeland Security's *Import Restrictions Imposed on Archaeological and Ethnological Material of Iraq*, Committee of the Federal Register (CFR) Title 19 regarding Customs Duties: 12.104 - *Definitions* (27 February 1986).

The Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control, Committee of the Federal Register (CFR) Title 31 regarding Money and Finance: Treasury 575.204 - *Prohibited importation of goods or services from Iraq* (2 August 1990).
575.206 - *Prohibited dealing in property* (9 August 1990).
575.533 - *Certain new transactions* (23 May 2003).
576.208 - *Prohibited transactions related to certain Iraqi cultural property* (13 September 2010).
576.411 - *Prohibited transactions involving certain Iraqi cultural property* (13 September 2010).

Emergency Protection for Iraqi Cultural Antiquities Act, H.R. 1047 Miscellaneous Trade and Technical Corrections Act of 2004, Public Law 108-429, Title III - *Iraqi Cultural Antiquities, Sec. 3001-3003* (12 March 2004).

Should you suspect that a cultural object originating from Iraq may be stolen, looted or illegally exported, please contact:

State Board of Antiquities and Heritage (SBAH)

Relations department

Iraq

Tel.: +964 7 812 927 164 (mobile)

E-mail: relations_sbah@yahoo.com

International Council of Museums (ICOM)

22, rue de Palestro - 75002 Paris - France

Tel.: +33 1 47 34 05 00

Fax: +33 1 43 06 78 62

E-mail: illicit-traffic@icom.museum

IMPORTANT NOTE: A Red List is NOT a list of actual stolen objects. The cultural goods depicted are of inventoried objects within the collections of recognised institutions. They serve to illustrate the categories of cultural goods protected by legislation and most vulnerable to illicit traffic. ICOM wishes to thank all of the institutions and individuals who so generously provided the photographs presented in the 2015 Iraqi Emergency Red List.

The objects presented in the *Emergency Red List of Iraqi Cultural Objects at Risk* cover the following periods:

Ancient Mesopotamia (Hassuna, Samarra, Halaf, Obeid, Uruk, Early Dynastic, Akkadian, Babylonian, Assyrian periods) > 10,000 – ca. 539 BC

Mesopotamia or Classical Antiquity (Achaemenid, Seleucid, Parthian, Roman and Sasanian Empires) > 539 BC – AD 632

Islamic era (Rashidun, Umayyad and Abbasid Caliphates) > AD 632 – 1258

Mongol era > AD 1258 – 1534

Ottoman Iraq and Mamluk rule > AD 1534 – 1831

Writing

4th millennium BC – AD 1258

Clay or stone tablets: Circular, square, or rectangular, slightly pillow-shaped. Fragmentary sealed envelope. With cuneiform (wedge-shaped) writing. May have inscriptions and/or seal impressions on both sides and/or the borders. Size: 2-20 x 5-30 cm. [1–2–3]

Manuscripts, books and documents: Codices, Qur'ans and scientific texts. Paper or parchment, with Aramaic and/or Arabic inscriptions. Often with illuminations. [4]



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1. Clay tablet with cuneiform writing, Uruk, ca. 3200 BC, 5.7 x 4.3 cm. © Vorderasiatisches Museum – SMB, Berlin / Olaf M. Teßmer

2. Clay tablet with seal impression depicting two goats in front of a building, Ashur, 12th – 11th c. BC, 6.5 x 6.7 cm. © Vorderasiatisches Museum – SMB, Berlin / Olaf M. Teßmer

3. Clay cylinder in cuneiform writing with the name of Assyrian king Ashurbanipal, Babylon, 7th c. BC, Ø 17.6 cm. © Vorderasiatisches Museum – SMB, Berlin / Olaf M. Teßmer

4. Paper folio with ink, gold and opaque watercolours from a *Materia Medica* of Dioscorides showing a physician preparing an elixir, possibly from Baghdad, AD 1224, 33.2 x 24.8 cm. © The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York

Stamps and seals

6th millennium – 300 BC

Stone, terracotta, shell, bone. Engraved or carved, pierced through its centre or at the top. With geometric or figurative motifs (humans, animals, deities, buildings) in mythological, religious and/or daily life scenes.

Stamp seals and signet rings: Stamp seals may be ellipsoidal or animal-, gable- or pyramid-shaped. Rings have a flat top with motifs in relief. Size: pictures 1.5-3 cm, seals 2-4 cm. [5–6]

Cylinder seals: May have cuneiform inscriptions. Size: 2-7 x Ø 1-3 cm. [7]



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5. Banded calcite ram-shaped stamp seal, Tell Agrab, Uruk Period (ca. 4000 – 3100 BC). © Courtesy of the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago

6. Ellipsoid carnelian stamp decorated with a scorpion, Sasanian period (AD 224 – 677), 2.4 x 1.9 x 1.3 cm. © Musée du Louvre, dist. RMN-Grand Palais, Paris / Raphaël Chipault

7. Lapis lazuli cylinder seal, Babylon, 14th c. BC, 5 x Ø 1.6 cm. © Vorderasiatisches Museum – SMB, Berlin / Olaf M. Teßmer

Architectural elements

4th millennium BC – AD 1258

Foundation elements > Metal (bronze, silver, gold, alloys) figurines: Men carrying baskets or vases on their heads, lower body may be peg-shaped; animals; deities with horns and/or crowns. May have inscriptions. Height: 10-20 cm. [8]

Clay cones: With flattened base, may have cuneiform inscriptions. Average height: 15 cm. [9]

Architectural fragments > Pre-Islamic: Figurative or geometric motifs. Friezes with gold and/or mosaic inlays, coloured tiles and glazed bricks. Sumerian cone mosaics (stone, terracotta) with exposed coloured ends. Classical Antiquity mural paintings with religious, military or daily life scenes; figures may have their names written beside them. [10]

Islamic: Glazed tiles. Painted or carved, stuccoed or gilded bricks, stones and wooden beams and panels. With floral or geometric motifs, arabesques or stars, and/or Arabic inscriptions. [11]

8. Bronze foundation element figurine bearing a cuneiform inscription with the name of the Sumerian king Shulgi, Uruk, end of the 3rd millennium BC, 24.7 cm.

© Vorderasiatisches Museum – SMB, Berlin / Olaf M. Teßmer

9. Clay foundation cone with cuneiform inscription, Uruk, 19th c. BC, H 5.3 cm.

© Vorderasiatisches Museum – SMB, Berlin / Olaf M. Teßmer

10. Red, black and white painted mosaic terracotta cones mosaic (and detail), Uruk, end of the 4th millennium BC, 8-10 x Ø 1.5-3 cm (for a single cone).

© Vorderasiatisches Museum – SMB, Berlin / Olaf M. Teßmer

11. Carved teak doors, 9th c. AD, 221 x 104.8 cm.

© The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York



Figural sculpture

6th millennium – AD 632

Plaques and inlays: Bone, stone, ivory, shell. May be gilded or inlaid with semi-precious stones, and/or have engraved Phoenician letters on the back. Length: 8-20 cm. [12]

Reliefs > Carved or moulded figurative (kings and their entourage, animals, mythical creatures, deities with horned headdresses), floral or geometric motifs. Landscapes or religious, military or daily life scenes (feasts, hunts, sieges, construction).

Terracotta: Small plaques. Figures depicted with their heads and chests facing forward and legs sideways.

Stone (alabaster, marble):

Plaques: Pierced in the centre. Scenes depicted in horizontal rows. Min. height: 20 cm. [13]

Slabs and steles: Fragments. May have cuneiform inscriptions. Size of the full pieces: 1-2 x 2-3 m. [14-15]

12. Ivory plaque with ram-headed sphinx in Phoenician style, Neo-Assyrian period (ca. 9th – 8th c. BC), 7.8 x 8 x 0.8 cm. © The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York

13. Stone relief plaque illustrating a banquet scene, its preparations and frolicking, Khafajah, Early Dynastic II – III A (ca. 2700 – 2600 BC), 20.4 x 20 x 4.2 cm.

© Courtesy of the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago

14. Alabaster relief of a winged and bird-headed genius with royal inscription, Northwest Palace (Nimrud), reign of Neo-Assyrian King Ashurnasirpal II (883 – 859 BC), 220 x 163 cm. © Vorderasiatisches Museum – SMB, Berlin / Olaf M. Teßmer

15. Alabaster relief of the profile of King Ashurnasirpal II, Northwest Palace (Nimrud), Neo-Assyrian Empire (911 – 609 BC), ca. 61 x 61 cm.

© Courtesy of the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago



Sculpture in the round > Clay figurines (6000 BC – 4th c. AD): Human- or animal-shaped. Women with arms curved under their breasts; pregnant; broad, flat hips; large and incised pubic triangles. Figures with elongated skulls, serpent faces and coffee bean-shaped eyes. May be partly coloured. Height: 8-15 cm. [16–17]
Models and toys shaped as buildings, furniture, chariots, boats, etc. Height: 5-20 cm. [18]

Stone (gypsum, limestone, marble) votive statues (3000 BC – AD 632):

Ancient Mesopotamia: Figures with skirts or dresses with one shoulder bare; hands clasped at the chest or waist, or holding cups or branches. Inlaid or painted eyes, eyebrows and hair. Bearded and bald or long-haired men; women with headdresses or with their hair in heavy coils, braids or chignons. Height: 15-60 cm. [19]

Classical Antiquity: Figures wearing trousers or long robes (caftans) and jewellery. May have inscribed bases.

16. Clay figurine with a serpent's head, Uruk, end of the 5th millennium BC, H 9.6 cm. © Vorderasiatisches Museum – SMB, Berlin / Jürgen Liepe

17. Clay figurine of a bull, Uruk, ca. 5900 – 4400 BC, L 6.2 cm. © Vorderasiatisches Museum – SMB, Berlin / Jürgen Liepe

18. Clay chariot model, Ashur, 2500 – 2000 BC, 13.2 x 13.2 cm. © Vorderasiatisches Museum – SMB, Berlin / Olaf M. Teßmer

19. Alabaster votive statue, Ashur, 2400 BC, H 46 cm. © Vorderasiatisches Museum – SMB, Berlin / Olaf M. Teßmer



Vessels and containers

5th millennium BC – AD 1534

Ceramics > Jars, plates and pilgrim flasks: Squat, flat, rounded, elongated, animal-shaped, etc., with handles or lugs. May be plain, polychrome, and/or have figurative (humans, animals, buildings), floral and/or geometric motifs. Coloured Islamic era jugs and bottles with stamped, moulded or incised motifs. [20]

Bowls: With Aramaic inscriptions in black ink. May include geometric motifs. [21]

Glazed ware: May have Arabic inscriptions, polychrome lustre and/or blue or gold painting. Motifs are painted, stamped and/or moulded. [22–23]

Glass: Jars, miniature bottles, etc. May be coloured and iridescent and/or have moulded or relief motifs (animal, floral, geometric, arabesques) and Arabic inscriptions. [24–25]



20. Pottery jar, southern Iraq, early 2nd millennium BC, H 8 cm. © State Board of Antiquities and Heritage, Baghdad / Abdulmir al-Hamdani

21. Ceramic bowl with Aramaic inscription, southern Iraq, Ø 11.5 cm. © State Board of Antiquities and Heritage, Baghdad / Abdulmir al-Hamdani

22. Green-blue glazed jar, southern Iraq, AD 632 – 1258. © State Board of Antiquities and Heritage, Baghdad / Abdulmir al-Hamdani

23. Lustered plate, Samarra, Abbasid Caliphate (9th c. AD), 8.5 x Ø 26.7 cm. © Museum für Islamische Kunst – SMB, Berlin / Johannes Cramer

24. Miniature glass bottle, Ashur, 13th c. BC, 23.2 x Ø 7.5 cm. © Vorderasiatisches Museum – SMB, Berlin / Sandra SteiB

25. Glass vial, 10th – 11th c. AD, 10.1 x Ø 6.9 x Ø 3.5 cm. © Museum für Islamische Kunst – SMB, Berlin

CULTURAL OBJECTS AT RISK

Metal (copper, bronze, silver, gold, alloys): Pitchers, bowls, etc., plain or with rosettes, geometric motifs and/or inlaid precious stones. Mortars with spikes or teardrop-shaped bosses. [26–27]

Stone (agate, alabaster, calcite, chalcedony, lapis lazuli, limestone, marble, steatite): Jars and vases. May have floral and/or geometric motifs, inlaid or carved in relief. [28]

26. Bronze vessel, Ashur, 9th – 8th c. BC, 41 x Ø 14.8 cm.

© Vorderasiatisches Museum – SMB, Berlin / Olaf M. Teßmer

27. Decorative brass box with silver inlay, Mosul, second quarter of the 13th c. AD, 11 x Ø 10.4 cm and 423 g. © Museum für Islamische Kunst – SMB, Berlin

28. Bituminous (black) limestone vessel with inlaid decorations, Uruk, end of the 4th millennium BC, H 22.5 cm. © Vorderasiatisches Museum – SMB, Berlin / Olaf M. Teßmer



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Accessories and instruments

5th millennium BC – 19th century AD

Jewellery: Metal (copper, bronze, silver, gold), shell, gemstones (carnelian, lapis lazuli, rock crystal, turquoise), glass, ivory, hardwood, ceramics, faience. Necklaces, earrings, threaded beads, etc.; hammered, gilded, cast, carved or granulated. Animal and floral motifs. May be inlaid. [29–30–31–32]

Tools and weapons: Ivory, stone and metal (copper, bronze, iron, steel) needles, axes, knives, arrows, armour, etc. Plain or with carved images (humans, animals, hybrids and/or deities). Armour and weapons of the Islamic period can be decorated with arabesques and inscriptions. [33]



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29. Gold earring with jasper and carnelian beads, Ashur, 14th – 13th c. BC, L 3.5 cm. © Vorderasiatisches Museum – SMB, Berlin / Olaf M. Teßmer

30. Beaded necklace, Uruk, 8th – 6th c. BC, Ø 10 cm. © Vorderasiatisches Museum – SMB, Berlin / Olaf M. Teßmer

31. Stone and shell necklace, southern Iraq, Parthian era (125 BC – AD 240). © State Board of Antiquities and Heritage, Baghdad / Abdulmir al-Hamdani

32. Gold earring with pearls, garnets and glass, 8th c. AD, 9 x 2.5 cm and 8.2–8.4 g. © Museum für Islamische Kunst – SMB, Berlin

33. Bronze axe, Ashur, last quarter of the 3rd millennium BC, L 12.8 cm. © Vorderasiatisches Museum – SMB, Berlin / Fotoarchiv

Coins

400 BC – AD 1258

Pre-Islamic: Achaemenid Empire gold darics and silver sigloi, Seleucid copper coins, Parthian and Sasanian era silver drachms. Plain or with astrological signs and/or images of royals, archers, deities and/or fire altars, often off-centre. May have inscriptions. Mint locations are abbreviated to 2-3 letters. [34]

Islamic: Mostly Abbasid Caliphate gold dinars. With 2-3 lines in Arabic surrounded by inscriptions, or with an image on one side and writing on the other. Mint locations written in Arabic. Average size: Ø 19 mm. [35]

34. Sasanian silver drachm, southern Iraq, reign of Khusrau II (AD 622). Ø 32 mm and 4.13 g. © Trustees of the British Museum, London

35. Abbasid gold dinar, reign of al-Mansur (AD 760), 4.26 g. © Trustees of the British Museum, London



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The International Council of Museums (ICOM), created in 1946 and representing museums and museum professionals worldwide, is committed to the promotion and protection of natural and cultural heritage, present and future, tangible and intangible. With 35,000 members in 137 countries, ICOM, with its unique network, is active in a wide range of museum- and heritage-related disciplines.

Maintaining formal relations with UNESCO and having a consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), ICOM works in collaboration with organisations such as WIPO, INTERPOL and the World Customs Organization (WCO) to carry out its international public service missions, specifically regarding mediation, the fight against illicit traffic in cultural goods and the protection of heritage in case of natural disasters or armed conflict. In particular, ICOM is one of the four founding bodies of the International Committee of the Blue Shield (ICBS). Through its numerous programmes, ICOM has the ability to mobilise expert networks in the field of cultural heritage from all over the world.

In 2013, ICOM created the first International Observatory on Illicit Traffic in Cultural Goods, once more formally placing the fight against this trend at the heart of its mission.

The Red Lists have been designed to fight the illicit traffic of cultural objects. ICOM is grateful for the unwavering commitment of the experts and institutions who generously contributed to the success of this project.

<http://icom.museum>

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