

The cover features an abstract design with three large, overlapping blue circles of varying shades (dark blue, medium blue, and light blue) arranged in a descending diagonal line from the top right towards the bottom right. Two thin, light blue lines intersect at the top left, forming a large 'V' shape that frames the central text area.

E-commerce and Archaeology

An Investigation into the Supply and Demand of Dutch Archaeological Objects on the Internet

May 10, 2011

Elsbeth Tjon Sie Fat & Victoria van der Haas

E-commerce and Archaeology

An Investigation into the Supply and Demand of Dutch Archaeological Objects on the Internet

Elsbeth Tjon Sie Fat (s0714224)
&
Victoria van der Haas (s0713155)

Leiden/The Hague
May 10, 2011

Internship Dutch Cultural Heritage Inspectorate

Experiencing Cultural Heritage Management, Heritage Management in a World Context

Faculty of Archaeology, Leiden University

Supervisory

Cultural Heritage Inspectorate

Drs. M.M.C. van Heese

Drs. N.A. Aten

Leiden University

Dr. M.H. van den Dries

Drs. S.J. van der Linde

Table of contents

Introduction	5
1. Archaeology and the Internet	6
1.1. Background information	6
1.2. Problem and research questions	11
<i>Summary</i>	13
2. Research design	14
2.1. Literature search	14
2.2. Internet survey	15
<i>Summary</i>	21
3. Results of the Internet survey	22
3.1. Scan to the five categories	22
3.1.1. Category 1: Advertising and auction websites	22
3.1.2. Category 2: Art dealing websites	26
3.1.3. Category 3: Personal websites	27
3.1.3.1. Personal websites that offer archaeological objects	28
3.1.3.2. Size of the objects offered on personal websites	67
3.1.4. Category 4: Internet forums	70
3.1.4.1. Internet forums that offer archaeological objects	72
3.1.4.2. Size of the objects offered on Internet forums	108
3.1.5. Category 5: YouTube	113

3.2.	Additional research	115
3.2.1.	Category 3: Personal websites	115
3.2.2.	Category 4: Internet forums	116
	<i>Summary</i>	120
	Conclusion	121
	Personal note of the researchers	127
	Bibliography	128
	List of figures and appendices	129
	Appendices	130

Introduction

This report was executed under supervision of the Dutch Cultural Heritage Inspectorate (The Hague, The Netherlands). The main purpose of this research is to get a clear insight into the types and scales of the trade in archaeological objects via Dutch websites. Unlike the ‘normal’ trade in art and archaeology, there is few or no control of the digital trade in archaeological objects.

This problem has also been recognized internationally. In 2007, The International Council of Museums (ICOM), UNESCO and INTERPOL have expressed their worries about the (licit and illicit) trade in archaeological objects on the Internet. These organizations managed to put the sale of cultural property on the Internet on the agenda. According to these organizations, certain investigations need to be handed out as it appears that the internet has become a grand part in the sale of cultural property. On a national level, the Cultural Heritage Inspectorate required to know more about the possible objects that might be traded online. They commissioned the execution of several studies. The most recent investigation to the Dutch online art trade was done in 2010. This report, ‘*Cultural property on the Internet: a study into the online illegal trade*’¹, was a continuation of an elaborate study to the Dutch art sector (2007), in which one paragraph was dedicated to the online art trade. The investigators of this research had already marked the online trade as a growing problem. The report of 2010 discussed the problems and possible threats when dealing with the online selling and purchasing of archaeological objects. In this report, the four main Dutch advertising and auction websites were examined. Still, no other websites than belonging to this category were surveyed, so little is known about the online trade via other channels.

This particular investigation can be seen as an extension to the knowledge that already exists on the subject, and that was obtained via these previous investigations. This report will provide more insight and in-depth information into the trade of archaeological objects online, and will mainly focus on the private sector; as amateur archaeologists and metal detectorists and their private websites.

The yielded results have been divided into several categories, which present various kinds of websites that appear to offer archaeological objects and that may pose a possible threat. Based on all the information, a conclusion of the nature and size and the scale of threats have been established.

¹Translated title. In Dutch: ‘Cultuurgood op internet: een onderzoek naar illegale handel online’.

1. Archaeology and the Internet

1.1 Background information

E-commerce & cultural property

With *e-commerce*, the buying and selling of products via the World Wide Web or Internet is meant. The term simply derives from ‘electronic commerce’, but also other designations are used to define the online transactions, such as *e-business* or *e-trade*.

Several studies have shown a tremendous increase in the e-commerce market over the past years, which often went at the cost of the turnover of retail shops. The market research company eMarketer, for example, notes that the expenses of online shopping have increased with 11% in two years: from \$145, 9 billion in 2008 to \$162, 3 billion in 2010 [figure 1]. eMarketer estimates that the total online sales in Western Europe will cross the \$200 billion threshold in 2012 (von Abrahams 2010²).

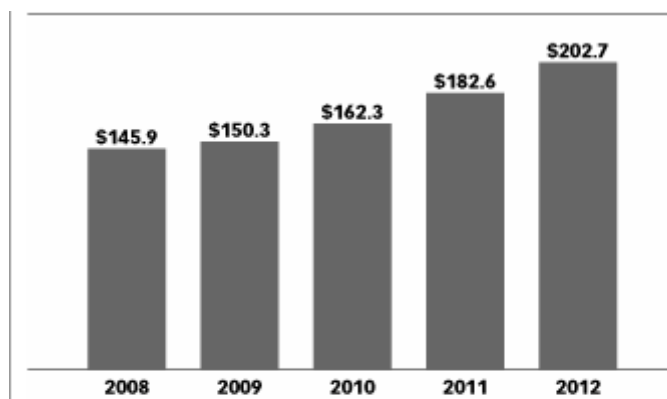


Figure 1. Retail e-commerce sales in Western Europe, 2008-2012 (billions)

(Von Abrahams 2010)

Provided to eMarketer by Collins Stewart LLC, ‘Internet & Software: 2010 Internet Outlook’.

It is therefore no coincidence that the Internet is also playing a growing role in both the legal and illegal art and antiquities trade (Bieleman et al. 2007, 33). The most important reason for this increase is the still growing accessibility of the Internet. In fact, the Netherlands leads the field in Europe in both the possession of computers and the access to the Internet. A recent study of the European Commission has shown that 92% of all Dutch households own a computer (European Commission eCommunication Household Survey 2010, 72³). Likewise, a comparable high percentage (89%) of Dutch households has an Internet connection (European Commission eCommunication Household Survey 2010, 76).

²To be consulted online via http://www.emarketer.com/Reports/All/Emarketer_2000679.aspx

³To be consulted online via http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/policy/ecomms/doc/library/ext_studies/household_10/report_en.pdf

Besides the easy accessibility of the Internet, the spreading and gathering of information (a vital element of the Internet) has also meant a change in the total appearance of the art and antiques trade: it has now also opened its doors for the 'general public'. Another important factor concerning the growth of the online art trade is the relative anonymity both the seller and the buyer have. The World Wide Web is the platform par-excellence when it comes to the creation of aliases and fake E-mail addresses. It is no longer necessary for a potential buyer to reveal his identity in online transactions.

The exact numbers of the online offerings of cultural goods are not known. Yet, the ordinary illicit trafficking of antiquities is estimated between \$1 and \$2 billion per year. The black market of antiquities and culture constitutes in fact one of the most persistent illegal trades in the world (UNESCO, *The Fight against the Illicit Trafficking of Cultural Objects. The 1970 Convention: Past and Future*⁴). Within ten years, the global sales of cultural property, legitimate or not, has increased with 50% and an 'unprecedented growth' of offers on the Internet is visible (Forrest 2010).

There are many types of websites that are being used for selling archaeological objects to collectors. These websites can be divided into five categories: (1) advertising and auction websites, (2) art dealing websites, (3) personal websites, (4) Internet forums and (5) YouTube. Each category will shortly be described below.

❖ *Category 1: Advertising and auction websites*

This category consists of websites which act as a platform for dealers in all kinds of objects. The advertising websites have taken over the role of the supply-and-demand advertisements in newspapers or the pin boards in supermarkets, that were (and in some cases still are) very popular during the pre-Internet times. In most cases, the price of the offered objects is established by the seller, but some sellers prefer a bidding procedure. A potential buyer must contact the seller of the item; the eventual transaction is mainly done via channels other than the advertising website itself, for example via E-mail.

This is the main difference with the auction sites. As the name suggests, potential buyers must bid on an object which is placed in an online auction. The procedure of these online auctions is the same as 'analogue' auctions: who bids the highest, gets the object. But, unlike most normal auctions, also regular items of little value are offered on the online platforms.

Although the websites differ in the way the price of the objects is determined, it is important to realize that the websites have much in common. The main function of both types is to be an online market place for buyers and sellers of all kinds of objects. It is therefore no coincidence that a tremendous overlap between the websites exists. In many cases, people offer the same object on multiple sites.

⁴ To be consulted online via unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0019/001916/191606E.pdf

Potential buyers can search for objects via various categories on the website. Archaeological objects are mainly represented in categories as ‘Antiques’ or ‘Art’; or, more specifically: ‘Antiquities’. However, items that relate to archaeology form a minor part of the enormous range of objects that are offered on advertising and auction websites.

Known Dutch advertising or auction websites are Marktplaats, eBay NL, Speurders and 2dehands.

❖ *Category 2: Art dealing websites*

Art dealing websites are much more professionally organized than the advertising and auction websites. These art dealing websites are often online extensions of ‘normal’ art shops and are usually listed in the Dutch Chamber of Commerce.

Because of this professionalization, the transactions between art dealers and buyers are done in a perceptible manner: if people wish to purchase any of the objects on the websites, they need to contact the art dealer, or visit the store or an auction house.

The objects that are shown on these websites are usually antiques. Many of the offered objects are rare pieces, or collector’s items, which are high-priced. Only occasionally, prices are mentioned on the websites. The same can be said about the provenance of the objects. If the provenance is mentioned, it is mainly a rough denomination, such as the name of the country or the collection the object has had its origin in.

Consequently, the target group of the art dealing websites differs from the advertising and auction websites: art dealing websites have been set up for those interested in art or antiques and who are also able to purchase these high priced objects.

❖ *Category 3: Personal websites*

Personal or private websites are websites that have been created by individuals who wish to share their hobby, expertise or personal activities with others. These websites are usually a collection of images, blogs and forums or guest books. Generally, the websites are developed by the amateur himself and are therefore somewhat amateuristic in their appearance.

From an archaeological point of view, personal websites can also be used for the offering and selling of archaeological objects; for example, objects found by metal detectorists and amateur archaeologists. It will be less likely to find rare and expensive goods on these personal websites, because the sites are mainly used to present the amateur’s small objects. If important findings are being sold, this is mainly done by the interference of professional art dealers. However, the selling of goods via personal websites might be possible.

❖ *Category 4: Internet forums*

This category consists of websites which are meant for online discussions. In Internet forums, people can post messages or engage in discussions that relate to a certain topic. Internet forums are sometimes also known as message boards, and topics that are posted on these forums are usually known as ‘threads’.

Internet forums that relate to archaeology can cover a whole series of topics, ranging from the determination of finds to the search for a ‘buddy’ to excavate with. Amateur archaeologists can exchange information via threads or private messages. Many forums also have a selling category, where members can sell their used metal detectors or other equipment, but also their archaeological finds.

Some Internet forums are less accessible than others. Less accessible forums require a password and a username. The information which is provided by the forum members, such as Email addresses, usernames and passwords, can be seen by the forum administrator. Other users can only view the members’ username and user profile.

❖ *Category 5: YouTube*

YouTube is a video-sharing website that is meant for uploading and watching videos online. These videos range from music clips to homemade videos and from television programmes to documentaries. On YouTube, also a number of videos that Dutch amateur archaeologists have posted can be found. Viewers can watch the amateurs excavating an ‘archaeological site’ and view their archaeological discoveries. The purpose of these videos is mainly to share their enthusiasm and excitement for metal detection and archaeology. YouTube is usually not used by amateur archaeologists to sell their archaeological objects. Still, this can be done via the comments under the videos or via private messages between the users.

Legislation

Because the electronic trade in art and archaeological objects is a relatively new part of the art trade, there are no specific regulations that focus on the Internet alone. Of course, the UNESCO Conventions have played a big role in the fight against the illicit trafficking of cultural objects, such as the *Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict* (1954) and the *Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property* (1970). The UNIDROIT *Convention on Stolen or Illegally Exported Cultural Objects* (1995) has given countries a penal code to prosecute traffickers more effectively.

In the conferences that have evolved out of these Conventions, the Internet trade in cultural goods did only play a small role. At the conference ‘Illegal Trade, Fighting Illicit Traffic in Cultural Goods within the European Union’ (2004) the only reference to the e-commerce is an investigation of The European Fine Art Fair (TEFAF), which has concluded that Internet trading has not developed to a significant alternative of the traditional art sector (Appendix to Parliament report, *Illicit Traffic in Cultural Goods in the Netherlands*, 5)⁵.

Still, the Internet trade in cultural goods has increased tremendously over the years, and the expectation is that it will grow further in the future. Therefore, UNESCO, INTERPOL and the

⁵ To be consulted online via <https://zoek.officielebekendmakingen.nl/kst-29314-17-b1.html>

International Council of Museums (ICOM) have decided to work in close collaboration with each other and to provide guidelines for UNESCO's Member States [Appendix 1]. These guidelines were set up after an INTERPOL survey carried out in 56 Member States, in which it was internationally recognized that the illicit trade in cultural objects via the Internet is a very serious and growing problem, both for countries of origin (where the theft has occurred) and destination countries (UNESCO, Basic Actions concerning Cultural Objects offered for sale over the Internet⁶). These issues were discussed at the third annual meeting of the *INTERPOL Expert Group on Stolen Cultural Property*, held at the INTERPOL General Secretariat on 7 and 8 March 2006. The participants agreed that monitoring the Internet poses a number of challenges due to:

- a. the sheer volume and diversity of items offered for sale;
- b. the variety of venues or platforms for the sale of cultural objects on the Internet;
- c. missing information that hinders proper identification of objects;
- d. the limited reaction time available owing to short bidding periods during a sale;
- e. the legal position of the companies, entities or individuals serving as platforms for the trade in cultural objects over the Internet;
- f. the complex issues related to jurisdiction concerning these sales; and
- g. the fact that the objects sold are often located in a country different from that of the Internet platform.

On June 19, 2008, in Lyon (France), the 7th *International Symposium on the Theft of and Illicit Traffic in Works of Art, Cultural Property and Antiques* was organized by INTERPOL. This symposium formed part of a series of symposiums and meetings that has been arranged to create awareness of looting and theft of cultural property. Several countries had sent a representative to the symposium to discuss at the legislation, concerns and actions against the illicit trade of cultural goods.

On the symposium, the Internet has been marked as being the platform for an alarming increase in the illegal trade in cultural objects. One of these platforms, the auction website eBay, had also sent representatives to the symposium to collaborate on the fight against illicit trade. According to the eBay representatives, 8.29 million new objects are offered for sale every day on eBay alone. The amount of cultural property or archaeological objects offered was not mentioned. The main actions of eBay in fighting the illicit trade on their website are taken in the field of prevention (by means of publication of warnings); to improve transparency (search and seller activities) and to enhance partnerships with law-enforcement agencies in various countries, as the national police. Also, the ongoing projects to fight the e-commerce of cultural goods, as developed in various countries, were presented by the countries' representatives.

⁶ To be consulted online via <http://portal.unesco.org/culture/fr/files/21559/11836509429MesuresTraficIlliciteEn.pdf/MesuresTraficIlliciteEn.pdf>

With regard to the Internet trade, the conclusions of the symposium were the following:

- the participants were alarmed by the increase in the use of the Internet for the illegal trade in cultural objects;
- the participants noted the growth in the use of express-delivery companies for dispatching, which is mainly due to the trade in cultural objects over the Internet.

And they recommended that:

- member countries circulate as widely as possible the *INTERPOL-UNESCO-ICOM joint letter on Basic Actions concerning cultural objects being offered for sale over the Internet* [Appendix 1] so that these actions can be implemented, and conclude agreements with auction platforms in order to reduce illegal sales and to monitor this type of trade as effectively as possible.

In short, international cooperation between interdisciplinary players is essential in fighting the illicit trade in cultural goods. Yet, national policies are necessary for an effective international collaboration. The Netherlands has a relatively liberal policy on the protection of moveable heritage. Only cultural goods that are regarded as irreplaceable and indispensable for Dutch cultural heritage are protected under the Cultural Heritage Preservation Act⁷. Archaeological objects and sites are protected via the Dutch implementation (2007) of the Malta Convention (1992)⁸. As far as the other countries go, they also have taken up laws in order to protect their cultural heritage. Switzerland for instance adopted a law (2005) on the international transfer of cultural goods, alongside the 1970 UNESCO Convention. Unfortunately, some countries are still in the process of developing laws, which will hopefully be adopted in the near future.

1.2 Problem and research questions

Although the e-commerce in cultural goods has been recognized as a (growing) problem and guidelines and actions have been set up, the studies to this type of trade are still in their infancy. The challenges outlined by INTERPOL are the main causes that accurate information about the nature and size of the offered objects is lacking.

Earlier studies by Intraval and Bureau Beke (see chapter 2) have been a good starting point of getting more insight into the online offerings of cultural goods in the Netherlands, but only focus on one part of the Internet: the advertising and auction websites. Even though this area also needs more study, less is known about the e-commerce in archaeological objects via other channels, as category 2-5 from the categories mentioned in paragraph 1.1. An important question that rises is to what extent amateur dealers or amateur archaeologists play a role in the Internet trade. To give a suitable answer to this

⁷ In Dutch: Wet tot behoud van cultuurbezit (1984), Art. 14a.

⁸ Dutch name of the implementation: Wet op de Archeologische Monumentenzorg (WAMZ).

question it is necessary to investigate the third and the fourth category of websites, namely the personal websites and the Internet forums (in this investigation together named as ‘private websites’). Also, the earlier investigations focus on general categories, as art, antiques or cultural goods. Archaeological objects are part of these categories, but were not studied in detail. To get more information about offered archaeological objects, it is necessary to investigate these as a category on its own.

In order to get a clear insight into the nature and size of the trade in archaeological objects via private Dutch websites, the following research question has been proposed for this study:

To what extent are archaeological objects offered on private websites in the Netherlands?

To answer this question, four main areas are distinguished:

1. *Nature* of the offered archaeological objects
2. *Size* of the offered archaeological objects
3. *Dealers* of the offered archaeological objects
4. *Provenance* of the offered archaeological objects (legislation)

The research question is accompanied by an additional question:

Should the e-commerce in archaeological objects be considered as a problem?

This question is mainly developed as a concluding remark and does not act as a principle for the investigation. The answer on the additional question might be an advice to the parties concerned (e.g. the Cultural Heritage Inspectorate) and determines if further actions are necessary.

The Internet is playing a growing role in both the legal and illegal art and antiquities trade, both on international and national level (the Netherlands).

The spreading and gathering of information has meant a change in the total appearance of the art and antiques trade: it has now also opened its doors for the 'general public'. The relative anonymity both the seller and the buyer have on the Internet has also contributed to the growth of the online art trade.

There are many types of websites that are being used for selling archaeological objects to collectors. These websites can be divided into five categories: (1) advertising and auction websites, (2) art dealing websites, (3) personal websites, (4) Internet forums and (5) YouTube.

Because the electronic trade in art and archaeological objects is a relatively new part of the art trade, there are no specific regulations that focus on the Internet alone. The guidelines provided by UNESCO, INTERPOL and ICOM for UNESCO's Member States are a first important step in the fight against the illicit trade via the Internet.

In order to get a clear insight into the nature and size of the trade in archaeological objects via private Dutch websites, the following research question has been proposed for this study: *To what extent are archaeological objects offered on private websites in the Netherlands?*

2. Research design

2.1 Literature search

The literature part of the investigation has been mainly developed as a preparation to the actual Internet survey (see below). This research was useful to get a general overview of the online art trade and the transactions via advertising and auction websites in particular.

Until now, the only research into the e-commerce of the Dutch art and antiques sector concentrated on the first category of websites: the advertising and auction websites. This is no coincidence, since these websites form the major part of the electronic trade in art and antiques. The earliest study to the online offerings formed part of the European Union's *Organised Crime Prevention Programme*, in which the Dutch Ministry of Justice commissioned a preventive analysis of the art and antiques trade in the Netherlands (Bieleman et al. 2007, foreword). In the investigation (called: 'Pure Art'⁹), which was executed by Intraval, a Dutch bureau for research and consultancy, one paragraph was dedicated to the Internet-based art trade. To find out to what extent art and antiques were offered on the websites, the researchers scanned the four largest Dutch auction sites: Marktplaats (www.marktplaats.nl), eBay Nederland (www.ebay.nl), Speurders (www.speurders.nl) and 2dehands (www.2dehands.nl). The results of the Internet survey supported the idea that already existed: the amount of offerings was enormous. More than 200.000 advertisements had been placed by an approximated amount of 10.000-20.000 sellers. It is important to notice that these numbers may vary because sellers can offer the same object on multiple websites. Because the investigation of Intraval focused on art and antiques in general, the exact number of actual archaeological objects offered on Dutch auction websites is unknown.

Intraval concluded that the Internet can be a soft spot in the illicit trade in art and antiques. In the reaction of the Ministry of Justice on the report of Intraval, the indefinable situation in which the art dealing sector has lost itself in, is recognized. The Ministry states that 'because the art trade is not bound to its national borders, in which the trade via Internet sites is playing a growing role, it is important to determine that the nature and the size of this trade are still unclear' (Reaction Ministry of Justice/Ministry of Education, Culture and Science to 'Pure Art', 5548354/08). Still, no specific actions to the Dutch e-commerce in cultural goods were announced.

Yet, the results of Intraval were utilized to arrange a complementary study to the Internet-based art trade in the Netherlands. In 2010, this investigation was executed by Bureau Beke, a Dutch market research company that has its specialty in criminal and safety matters. As Intraval, Bureau Beke did also examine the four largest Dutch auction sites. Two of these websites, Marktplaats and eBay, were

⁹ In Dutch: 'Schone Kunsten'

studied thoroughly. In the report ‘Cultural property on the Internet: a study into the online illegal trade’, the researchers divided their investigation in two parts:

1. Mapping the illegal trade in cultural goods online;
2. A sketch of measures that could be taken to prevent illegal trade and enhance the security of goods.

To execute this research, Bureau Beke started off with a literature and document research, followed by interviews with key informants and finally the actual Internet survey. After interviewing several people, it appeared that quite a number of objects that were put online have been obtained by means of metal detection. However, the Internet research of Bureau Beke did not proceed, as the researchers only scanned the auction sites for two days. Detailed information as the nature of the offered objects, the duration of the supply and demand and where, how and by whom the objects were offered, was missing. In general, it seemed that mainly objects with a low archaeological and financial value were offered.

2.2 Internet survey

To investigate the extent of the Electronic trade in archaeological objects, it is necessary to execute an Internet survey. Due to the fact that this particular research mainly focuses on the e-commerce via personal websites and Internet forums, these categories obviously form the primary focus of the Internet survey. The other categories, as described in paragraph 1.1, only play second role in the survey. The modus operandi of the survey of the five categories will be described below.

❖ *Category 1: Advertising and auction websites*

Category 1 (advertising and auction websites) had already been investigated for previous research, therefore this category is not studied intensely. In earlier studies to the Internet-based art trade, an inventory was made of the objects for sale on the four largest Dutch advertising and auction websites. To see if the number of advertisements had increased over the years the same four websites are investigated again. Likewise, the classification that was developed by Intraval in 2007 (and which was followed by Bureau Beke in 2010), will also be followed in this Internet survey. Based on the classification system of most websites, Intraval had divided the advertisements in the categories ‘Antiques’ and ‘Art’. These categories had been subdivided in various groups, which are surveyed again in this research:

<u>Antiques</u>	<u>Art</u>
Antiquities	Statuary and woodcarvings
Books	Etchings, engravings and screen prints
Ceramics and earthenware	Drawings and photographs
Porcelain/Enamel	Ethnic art
Glass	Paintings
Crockery	Other art

Pots, vases and decorative plates
Utensils
Curios
Furniture
Clocks and timepieces
Jewellery and worked gold and silver
Religion
Other antique

❖ *Category 2: Art dealing websites*

As mentioned before, the art dealing websites are only partly examined in the survey.

An important source to make an inventory of the art dealing websites was a list of the Cultural Heritage Inspectorate, which consisted of the most important Dutch art dealers or art dealing related companies and their websites. Another useful source was the Internet search engine Google (www.google.nl).

From these two sources, a list of art dealing websites was composed. In most cases, these websites are an extension of the regular art shops.

The websites will be scanned on the presence of archaeological objects. Only a list of websites that possibly offer archaeological objects will be made; the amount and nature of suspicious objects are not recorded.

❖ *Category 3: Personal websites*

The Internet survey of the Dutch personal websites is arranged in several phases:

Phase 1: The making of an inventory of personal websites that offer archaeological objects

Main goal: To get a general view of the e-commerce in archaeological objects in the personal sector and to catch a glimpse of its possible size.

When looking for suitable websites, several sources are applied. The sources used in the Internet survey of the art dealing websites (list of art dealers and Google), are also used in this category. On Monday February 7, 2011 (10 AM – 5 PM), an extensive search to personal websites was done via Google. To find out whether these personal websites were offering archaeological objects, several (Dutch) key terms were inserted to Google (separately or in combination with each other). The full list of key terms can be found in Appendix 2.

Phase 2: Thorough research to the archaeological objects which were offered on the personal websites (discovered in phase 1 of this investigation)

Main goal: To get more insight into the archaeological objects offered on personal websites

The next stage of the Internet survey focuses on the items which were shown on the discovered websites. Each object found on the websites will be documented and inserted to a MS Excel file.

Various characteristics of the objects are described:

- Website
 - Type
 - Description
 - Material (technique)
 - (Relative) Date
 - Provenance
 - Condition
 - Details
 - Price
 - Photograph
 - Archaeological value (not financial value)
- Size
 - Total amount of objects (scale)
 - Typological subdivision
- Dealers
 - Owner website
 - Dealer
 - Archaeological profession/hobby

Phase 3 and 4 do not belong to the practical part of the research; the actual Internet survey. Because these phases are important for the interpretation, they are described nonetheless.

Phase 3: Arrangement of the results into tables and figures

Main goal: To get a better understanding of the total amount of archaeological objects offered on personal websites.

After the description of the objects, the data will be summarized into tables and figures. In these tables, several characteristics are compared with each other:

- *Nature of the offered objects*
Described in these tables are the characteristics (as mentioned in phase 2) of the archaeological objects offered on the scanned websites.
- *Size (scale) of the offered objects*
Two types of tables are being used:
 - The total amount of objects offered on the Internet, sorted by category.
 - The total amount of objects offered on the Internet, sorted by period.
- *Dealers of the offered objects*
If mentioned, the personal data of the sellers of the objects is described.
- *Provenance of the offered objects*
Described in this table is the provenance of the offered objects.

Phase 4: Conclusions

Main goal: To get more insight into the nature, the size, the dealers and the provenance of archaeological objects offered on personal websites

In the last phase of the research, an answer is given to the research questions:

Research question: To what extent are archaeological objects offered on private websites in the Netherlands?

Additional question: Should the e-commerce in archaeological objects be considered as a problem?

The actual Internet survey will be followed by several additional scans. These scans will provide more insight into the interchange between various kinds of websites and the (official) reporting of the offered objects.

- Advertising and auction websites

An extra scan will be executed to the four largest Dutch advertising and auction websites (Marktplaats, eBay NL, Speurders, 2dehands). Because the users of the personal websites can easily put their objects on advertising and auction websites, these websites will be scanned to find out if the objects found on the private websites were also offered on this type of websites.

- Databases ARCHIS and NUMIS

Also, two Dutch databases will be scanned: ARCHIS, the Archaeological Information System of the Cultural Heritages Services¹⁰, and NUMIS, the Numismatic Information System of the Geldmuseum in Utrecht¹¹. Archaeological finds and monuments normally need to be reported in ARCHIS. NUMIS is a database for found coins.

- Second scan of the websites

Also a second scan of the personal websites and the Internet forums will be arranged. The main goal of this second scan, that will be executed 10 weeks after the first scan, is to get more insight into the duration of the offers and the activity of the websites.

❖ *Category 4: Internet forums*

The four phases described above were also followed in this category and will therefore not be fully described here.

The search engine Google was again the most important source to compose the inventory of the forums. The key words used to find the Internet forums were somewhat the same as the key words mentioned in Appendix 2, but with the addition of ‘forum’, ‘Internet forum’ and ‘thread’.

Only the Internet forums concerning archaeology/metal detection and archaeological objects are taken into account. The Internet forums will be thoroughly searched on the offering of archaeological objects and the nature, size, dealers and provenance of the objects will consequently be summarized in tables. Other information, as the number of posts, users and number of objects being offered are also documented.

Some forums are locked for the general public. It is therefore necessary to register under a fake name, password and E-mail address. The data used to register, was equal on all Internet forums:

Alias	Bert de Vries
E-mail address	ArcheoBert@gmail.com
Username	ArcheoBert
Password	pijlpunt (En. arrowhead)

The Internet survey to the forums was carried out from private homes and the Faculty of Archaeology, Leiden University. The reason for this is that there is a possibility that the IP-address of a computer which is used to investigate the Internet forums is sent along with the registration or that this IP-

¹⁰ In Dutch: Rijksdienst voor het Cultureel Erfgoed (www.cultureelerfgoed.nl and archis2.archis.nl/archisii/html/index.html)

¹¹ Het Geldmuseum is a Dutch museum that houses several collections of coins, banknotes and money culture(s) (www.geldmuseum.nl and <http://www.geldmuseum.nl/museum/node/51>).

address is visible to the forum administrators. If the administrators of certain sites had recognized that they were being watched by the Dutch State Inspectorate, the research to the forums could have been jeopardized.

❖ *Category 5: YouTube*

To gain information from the video sharing site YouTube, the search engine of the website will be used. Three main key words were inserted to search for videos that contain information about metal detection hobbyists: ‘*metaaldetectie(vondst)*’ (En. metal detection (find)), ‘*bodemvondst*’ (En. soil find) and ‘*amateurarcheologie*’ (En. amateur archaeology).

Consequently, the number of hits will be documented and a list of videos that were placed by the amateur archaeologists is made. Because the expectation is that no offers were placed via these videos, also the viewers’ comments to the videos will be scanned.

The research design of this investigation is divided in two parts: a literature study and an Internet survey.

Two earlier investigations came up at the literature study. The earliest study formed part of the European Union's *Organised Crime Prevention Programme*, and concluded that the Internet can be a soft spot in the illicit trade in art and antiques. Because of this conclusion, a second study was organized to get insight into the nature and scale of the Internet trade on advertising and auction websites.

The Internet survey of this investigation focuses primarily on Dutch private websites, i.e. personal websites (category 3) and Internet forums (category 4). The other categories played a second role in the scan. The Internet survey of the private websites was arranged in several phases:

- Phase 1: The making of an inventory of personal websites that offer archaeological objects
- Phase 2: Thorough research to the archaeological objects which were offered on the personal websites (discovered in phase 1 of this investigation)
- Phase 3: Arrangement of the results into tables and figures
- Phase 4: Conclusions

The phases will be followed by an additional check of the offered objects in the advertising and auction websites, the two databases ARCHIS and NUMIS and a second scan.

3. Results of the Internet survey

3.1 Scan of the five categories

3.1.1 Category 1: Advertising and auction websites

The part of the Internet survey that concentrated on advertising and auction websites, was executed on February 28th, 2011. The four largest Dutch advertising and auction websites that had been investigated in the earlier studies of Intraval (2007) and Bureau Beke (2010) were surveyed in this Internet survey again. The classification of these studies was also used in this survey.

The results of the Internet survey to Marktplaats (www.marktplaats.nl), eBay Nederland (www.ebay.nl), Speurders (www.speurders.nl) and 2dehands (www.2dehands.nl) that were obtained in this investigation (2011) can be seen in [table 1, pp. 24/25].

The scan showed that in the categories Antiques and Art a total amount of 519,693 advertisements had been placed. Because only on eBay archaeology got its own category, it is difficult to identify archaeological objects within the subgroups of the websites.¹²

A comparison with the data collected in the earlier studies of Intraval (2007) and Bureau Beke (2010) [table 1] might give more information. For example, the amount of advertisements in the subcategory ‘Antiquities’ on eBay went from 334 in 2007¹³ to 1,056 in 2011; an increase of more than 216%.

A different pattern is visible when comparing the data of the larger categories Antiques and Art. The amount of advertisements in the category Antiques went from 153,376 in 2007 to 458,355 in 2010, an increase of 199%. This growth changed in a decline in 2011, when 433,635 advertisements were counted (corresponding with a decrease of 5%). A comparable pattern is visible in the category Art, although the percentages are quite different. In this category, an increase of 483% was visible between 2007 and 2010 (from 48,136 to 280,849 advertisements). The amount of advertisements has notably decreased in 2011: only 86,058 advertisements were counted, a decline of 69%.

Logically, the same fluctuation is visible in the total amount of both the categories Antiques and Art. The numbers went from 201,512 in 2007 to 739,204 in 2010 (+267%) to 519,693 in 2011 (-30%).

In short, a definite pattern is not visible in the amount of offers on the advertising and auction websites. When comparing the results of 2007, 2010 and 2011, the amounts of the categories have increased first and decreased later. Fluctuation could therefore be marked as a characteristic of the advertising and auction websites and should be taken into account when surveying the advertising and

¹² The category ‘antiquities and archaeological objects’ did exist on Marktplaats in the period of the second scan of Intraval (March 2007). See (Bieleman et al. 2007).

¹³ There is no data available from Bureau Beke (2010) when it comes to this eBay category.

auction websites. Due to the large amount of users of these websites, a fluctuation as such becomes already visible when comparing the data of a shorter time period.

Another cause of this fluctuation might be the different research methods applied by the investigators of the studies. Although the same categories of the same advertising and auction websites were scanned in each study, the removal and changes in the categories (e.g. the categories ‘antiques and archaeological objects’ on Marktplaats and ‘utensils’ on both Marktplaats and 2dehands) could have led to a different manner of counting the amounts.

Category	Marktplaats			eBay			Speurders			2dehands		
	2007	2010	2011	2007	2010	2011	2007	2010	2011	2007	2010	2011
<u>ANTIQUES</u>												
Antiquities	-	-	-	334	-	1,056	-	-	-	-	-	-
Books	5,757	11,196	13,519	331	113,417	115,332	-	-	-	58	1,098	1,123
Ceramics and earthenware	1,747	11,008	13,710	441	-	16,953	-	-	-	727	-	496
Porcelain / Enamel	11,128	14,465	15,622	281	37,463	47,176	-	-	-	278	692	88
Glass	-	10,155	11,961	2,081	17,055	22,707	-	-	-	23	223	193
Crockery	16,358	17,384	19,162	-	-	-	-	690	495	138	309	202
Pots, vases and decorative plates	15,064	12,362	14,078	31	14,572	642	-	351	323	172	69	80
Utensils	6,696	4,851	-*	117	7,640	7,617	360	-	-	999	700	-*
Curiosa	13,342	10,667	12,913	-	-	-	-	-	-	40	3,703	3,959
Furniture	16,104	19,123	20,645	127	19,738	23,596	3,237	970	878	1,153	1,584	1,798
Clocks and timepieces	6,842	5,849	6,814	45	1,334	1,574	645	439	303	368	289	370

Jewellery and worked gold and silver	2,869	13,284	16,625	94	-	-	-	-	-	187	179	179
Religion	3,444	5,481	5,958	39	10,648	12,727	368	415	279	533	263	131
Other antique	36,022	63,014	16,514	105	22,503	2,593	3,580	2,980	2,209	841	3,292	1,035
<i>Total antique</i>	<i>135,373</i>	<i>195,739</i>	<i>167,521</i>	<i>4026</i>	<i>244,370</i>	<i>251,973</i>	<i>8,460</i>	<i>5,845</i>	<i>4,487</i>	<i>5,517</i>	<i>12,401</i>	<i>9,654</i>
<u>ART</u>												
<i>Statuary and woodcarvings</i>	5,838	6,413	7,302	78	4,357	9,076	1,080	515	504	226	528	530
Etchings, engravings and screen prints	5,924	9,135	10,109	-	-	-	-	757	386	131	518	491
Drawings and photographs	1,927	2,800	3,443	287	31,585	-	1,249	-	-	134	118	125
Ethnic art	-	2,405	-	186	2,100	19,166	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paintings	17,407	18,887	22,514	638	124,424	-	3,789	1,550	1,496	1,402	2,326	2,863
Other art	6,488	12,549	4,599	58	38,888	2,593	1,163	663	632	131	1,431	229
<i>Total Art</i>	<i>37,584</i>	<i>52,189</i>	<i>47,967</i>	<i>1,274</i>	<i>220,254</i>	<i>30,835</i>	<i>7,281</i>	<i>3,485</i>	<i>3,018</i>	<i>2,024</i>	<i>4,921</i>	<i>4,238</i>
TOTAL	17,2957	247,928	215,488	5,273	464,624	282,808	15,741	9,330	7,505	7,541	17,322	13,892

Table 1. Results of the Internet survey to the categories Antiques and Art on Dutch advertising and auction websites (category 1); compared with data from the studies from IntraVal (2007) and Bureau Beke (2010).

**Categories that did not exist anymore at 2011's survey.*

3.1.2. Category 2: Art dealing websites

The list of art dealing websites which was composed in the earlier phase of this research was scanned on the presence of archaeological objects. As a reminder, most websites on this list were extensions of the regular art shops. Because this investigation primarily focuses on private websites (category 3 and 4), only a list of websites which offer objects marked as ‘archaeological find’ / ‘soil find’, or objects without any information has been composed.

The list of these arts dealing websites is shown below (13, in alphabetical order)¹⁴. Because information is lacking in the description of many objects, it is questionable whether these websites really offer archaeological objects.

Ancient Art	www.ancientart.nl
Bruil & Brandsma Antiquairs	www.bruilenbrandsmaantiquairs.com
De Eland – De Zon – Loth Gijselman	www.deeland.nl
Het Zeeuws Veilinghuis	www.zeeuwsveilinghuis.nl
Jan Beekhuizen Kunst & Antiek	www.janbeekhuizen.nl
Kollenburg Antiquairs	www.kollenburgantiquairs.com/nl/
Kunsthandel Inez Stodel	www.inezstodel.com
Kunsthandel Mieke Zilverberg	www.miekezilverberg.com
Munthandel G. Henzen	www.henzen.org
Oudgoed Antiek & Curiosa	www.oudgoed.nl
Primigenius	www.primigenius.com
Schulman B.V.	www.schulman.nl
Stormbroek Ancient Art Gallery	www.stormbroek.com/ www.stormbroek.nl

¹⁴ A complete list of all categories can be seen in Appendix 3

3.1.3 Category 3: Personal websites

The first phase of the Internet survey to the Dutch personal websites was to make an inventory of personal websites which might offer archaeological objects. As a reminder, personal websites are sites that have been created by individuals who wish to share their hobby, expertise or personal activities with others.

This resulted in a list of 12 ‘suspicious’ websites (i.e. which form a possible threat to the cultural heritage), named below (in alphabetical order):

www.bodemvondstenwereld.nl

www.detectorvondsten.nl

www.groenehartvertellingen.nl/index.htm

www.hobbyarcheologie.come2me.nl

<http://home.wanadoo.nl/agiardini/frameset.html>

www.jozefherman.nl / www.metaldetecting-museum.com

www.pieppiep.nl

www.piepstok.nl

www.rensdormans.nl

<http://voskemanscollection.punt.nl/>

www.wf4.nl

From these 12 websites, 5 websites offered archaeological objects. One of these websites (www.detectorvondsten.nl) stated that buying objects online was no longer possible. It referred to another website (www.numisantica.com). Because NumisAntica can be classified into category 2 (art dealing websites), it is not further investigated here.

A second website, <http://home.wanadoo.nl/agiardini/frameset.html>, stated that they ‘did not have a new inventory at the moment’ and was for this reason not investigated either.

Noteworthy is that the owner of one website, <http://voskemanscollection.punt.nl/>, did not offer his objects on his own website, but instead directed the visitors to his own Marktplaats account via a link to <http://verkopers.marktplaats.nl/53409>. Because this website is also part of another category (advertising and auction websites) it is not studied here.

Three websites, www.bodemvondsten.net, www.rensdormans.nl, and www.groenehartvertellingen.nl, did offer archaeological objects. The found objects are shown in the next pages.

3.1.3.1 Personal websites that offer archaeological objects

1. www.bodemvondsten.net

General data

Owner of the website	Marcel Julsing
Residence owner	Wehe-den Hoorn
E-mail address owner	bodemvondsten@hetnet.nl

Total amount of objects offered	2
---------------------------------	---

The website www.bodemvondsten.net offered four objects that could be found in the Netherlands, which were clustered in groups of three and one. Therefore, the objects are described as two objects below. The provenance of one object (object 1), was mentioned, albeit broadly: the Netherlands. The provenance of object 2 was not mentioned. Nevertheless, the object is shown below, because there is a chance that the object has been found in Dutch soil.

Apart from these objects, also three objects from Finland were offered: a Viking pommel and two Viking fibulae. Because these objects cannot be marked as Dutch cultural heritage, the objects are not shown here.

The owner of the website presents himself as an amateur archaeologist. There are several newspaper articles placed on his website in which he and his findings are mentioned. The website is mainly used to show the findings of the owner on the terps in Groningen. The objects are divided into several categories: 'terps', 'Roman' and 'various'. On the day of the Internet survey, the last two categories were empty. The objects in the category 'terps,' were mainly coins and fibulae. No further information about the objects was given.

The exact amount of objects shown on the website came to a total of 42. The two offered objects form therefore not even 5% of the total amount of presented objects on the website. An interesting aspect is that the objects the owner tries to sell are of a significant higher archaeological value than the other objects that are shown on the website.

Nature of the objects

OBJECT 1	www.bodemvondsten.net		
Type	Three weights		
Description	Viking weights 1x 15 grams 2x 30 grams		
Material	Unknown		
(Relative) date	800 -1000 AD		
Provenance	The Netherlands		
Condition	Good condition		
Price	€90,-		
Details	-		

OBJECT 2	www.bodemvondsten.net		
Type	Fibula		
Description	Viking fibula (ø 45 mm)		
Material	Bronze		
(Relative) date	900-1050 AD		
Provenance	Unknown; probably The Netherlands		
Condition	Intact, slightly weathered		
Price	€85,-		
Details	-		

Archaeological value

The provenance of one object (1) is mentioned, the other object (2) is possibly also from the Netherlands. The dates of the objects (relative, but none the less significant) provide the object with a certain archaeological value. These unique objects could possibly have been made abroad, especially object 1 (Viking weights). Information as such could give more insight into the Scandinavian-Dutch relations from that specific time period.

An interesting aspect is that the objects are of a significant higher archaeological value than the other objects that are shown on the website.

Summary

This site offers Dutch as well as Scandinavian objects online; both appear to have been found in the Netherlands. The fact that the person offering the object is not sure about the provenance shows that he did not find the object himself. It is possible this object was purchased and then sold to another buyer or dealer. Prices were higher in comparison to other objects sold elsewhere.

2. www.rensdormans.nl

General data

Owner of the website	Rens Dormans
Residence owner	Sittard
E-mail address owner	rensdomans@hotmail.com
Total amount of objects offered	3

The website www.rensdormans.nl offered ten objects, which were clustered in groups of one, four and five. Therefore, these objects are described as three objects below.

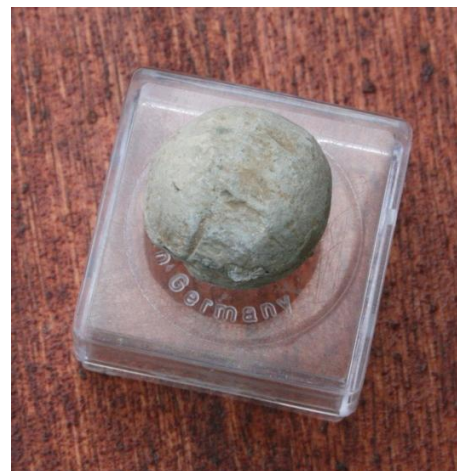
The owner of the website states that lack of space (and not making money) is the reason that he wants to sell the items. Apart from the archaeological objects, he also offers a CD-ROM about French uniform buttons. Anyone who is interested in the items can send him an E-mail.

The owner presents himself as an amateur archaeologist and metal detectorist. This can also be seen in the 'in action pictures' he has put on the website, where he is posing with his metal detector. The website is mainly used to present the objects he has found over the years. The objects on the website are divided in various chronological and thematic categories: Neolithic, Roman, leather, Middle Ages, Napoleonic, buckles, thimbles, special coins, nonsense, religious, toys, modern, jewellery, weights and buttons.

On the day of the Internet survey, 741 objects were counted on the website. The objects the owner offers, are thus forming only a small part (0,4%) of the total amount of objects that have been found and presented.

Nature of the objects

OBJECT 1	www.rensdormans.nl	
Type	Button	
Description	Button of a French military uniform	
Material	Metal	
(Relative) date	Napoleonic era	
Provenance	Unknown	
Condition	Weathered	
Price	Interested persons can set a price	
Details	This button is part of a larger collection	



OBJECT 2	www.rensdormans.nl	
Type	Four tiles	
Description	Delftware with the picture of a hunter	
Material	Ceramic	
(Relative) date	Unknown	
Provenance	Unknown	
Condition	Intact, but with craquelures	
Price	€80,-	
Details	-	



OBJECT 3	www.rensdormans.nl	
	Type	Five coins
	Description	No further information given
	Material	Metal
	(Relative) date	Unknown
	Provenance	Unknown
	Condition	Weathered
	Price	€1,- (all together)
	Details	Most probably archaeological finds



Archaeological value

As is shown in the ‘nature of the objects’, this site offers a wide range of archaeological objects, ranging from Neolithic to Roman and from the Middle Ages to Napoleonic times. It can be stated that there is little archaeological value in terms of the context in it was found; most metal detectorists do not examine the stratigraphy of the soil when an object is found. Also, these objects are not exactly considered to be rare finds, they might however be useful in an informational sense, providing the archaeological world with information on its whereabouts (if the provenance can be discovered); where it was found, the information on the objects itself (i.e. its maker).

Summary

All objects offered on this website have been ‘excavated’ by a metal detectorist. As mentioned before, this site provides a variety of archaeological objects to anyone interested in making a purchase. The objects are interesting, but have little archaeological value since the provenance and context of the objects is far unknown.

3. www.groenehartvertellingen.nl

General data

Owner of the website	Freek Mayenburg
Residence owner	(nearby) Haastrecht
E-mail address owner	f.j.mayenburg@caiway.nl
Total amount of objects offered	63

The website www.groenehartvertellingen.nl offered 70 objects, which were clustered in groups of one, two and five. Therefore, these objects are described as 63 objects below.

The owner of the website presents himself as ‘Groene Hart expert’ and nature photographer. The website is primarily meant to show the nature and culture of the Groene Hart, a natural area in the province of Zuid-Holland. Apart from the pictures of the Groene Hart, the owner has dedicated one category to the selling of tiles, clay pipes and ceramics. The subcategories of this category were: *antique tiles 17th – 20th century*, *complete clay pipes 17th – 20th century*, *clay pipe heads from Gouda 17th -20th century* and ‘*Gouds plateel*’(ceramics). Only the third category (clay pipe heads from Gouda 17th – 20th century) consisted of archaeological findings, and was therefore worth investigating. The clay pipes in this category were in fact all defined as ‘archaeological find’.


Nature of the objects

OBJECT 1	www.groenchartvertellingen.nl		
Type	Pipe		
Description ¹⁵	Pipe decorated with a rooster		
Material	Pipe clay		
(Relative) date	18 th century		
Provenance	(Vicinity of)Gouda		
Condition	Bowl edge ¹⁶ intact Heel is missing		
Price	€7,50		
Details	Defined as 'archaeological find'		

OBJECT 2	www.groenchartvertellingen.nl		
Type	Pipe		
Description	Pipe decorated with a stork and the initials 'N.V.K' (Nicolaes van Koomen)		
Material	Pipe clay		
(Relative) date	18 th century		
Provenance	Zevenhuizen		
Condition	Bowl edge is damaged		
Price	€6,-		
Details	Defined as 'archaeological find'		

¹⁵ Description: as mentioned on the website

¹⁶ Dutch terms: bowl edge = ketelrand; heel = hielpunt

OBJECT 3	www.groenehartvertellingen.nl		
	Type	Pipe	
	Description	Pipe decorated with a cat	
	Material	Pipe clay	
	(Relative) date	18 th century	
	Provenance	Gouda	
	Condition	Bowl edge intact	
	Price	€7,50	
	Details	Defined as 'archaeological find'	


OBJECT 4	www.groenehartvertellingen.nl		
	Type	Pipe	
	Description	Pipe decorated with a tulip	
	Material	Pipe clay	
	(Relative) date	18 th century	
	Provenance	Gouda	
	Condition	Bowl edge intact	
	Price	Object 4-7 together: €25,-	
	Details	Defined as 'archaeological find'	

OBJECT 5	www.groenehartvertellingen.nl		
Type	Pipe		
Description	Pipe decorated with a tulip		
Material	Pipe clay		
(Relative) date	18 th century		
Provenance	Gouda		
Condition	Broken parts stuck together		
Price	Object 4-7 together: €25,-		
Details	Defined as 'archaeological find'		

OBJECT 6	www.groenehartvertellingen.nl		
Type	Pipe		
Description	Pipe decorated with a tulip		
Material	Pipe clay		
(Relative) date	18 th century		
Provenance	Gouda		
Condition	Bowl edge intact		
Price	Object 4-7 together: €25,-		
Details	Defined as 'archaeological find'		

OBJECT 7	www.groenehartvertellingen.nl		
Type	Pipe		
Description	Pipe decorated with a tulip		
Material	Pipe clay		
(Relative) date	18 th century		
Provenance	Gouda		
Condition	Ceramic fault		
Price	Object 4-7 together: €25,-		
Details	Defined as 'archaeological find'		

OBJECT 8	www.groenehartvertellingen.nl		
Type	Pipe		
Description	Pipe decorated with a dragon		
Material	Pipe clay		
(Relative) date	18 th century		
Provenance	Gouda		
Condition	Bowl edge intact		
Price	Object 8-10 together: €25,-		
Details	Defined as 'archaeological find'		

OBJECT 9	www.groenehartvertellingen.nl		
	Type	Pipe	
	Description	Pipe decorated with a dragon	
	Material	Pipe clay	
	(Relative) date	18 th century	
	Provenance	Gouda	
	Condition	Bowl edge intact	
	Price	Object 8-10 together: €25,-	
	Details	Defined as 'archaeological find'	

OBJECT 10	www.groenehartvertellingen.nl		
	Type	Pipe	
	Description	Pipe decorated with a dragon	
	Material	Pipe clay	
	(Relative) date	18 th century	
	Provenance	Gouda	
	Condition	Bowl edge intact	
	Price	Object 8-10 together: €25,-	
	Details	Defined as 'archaeological find'	

OBJECT 11	www.groenehartvertellingen.nl		
Type	Pipe		
Description	Pipe decorated with a sea creature		
Material	Pipe clay		
(Relative) date	18 th century		
Provenance	Gouda		
Condition	Bowl edge intact		
Price	€7,50		
Details	Defined as 'archaeological find'		

OBJECT 12	www.groenehartvertellingen.nl		
Type	Pipe		
Description	Pipe decorated with a sea creature		
Material	Pipe clay		
(Relative) date	18 th century		
Provenance	Gouda		
Condition	Bowl edge intact		
Price	€7,50		
Details	Defined as 'archaeological find'		

OBJECT 13	www.groenchartvertellingen.nl	
	Type	Pipe
	Description	Pipe decorated with a sea creature/dolphin
	Material	Pipe clay
	(Relative) date	18 th century
	Provenance	Gouda
	Condition	Bowl edge intact
	Price	€7,50
	Details	Defined as 'archaeological find'



OBJECT 14	www.groenchartvertellingen.nl	
	Type	Pipe
	Description	Pipe with the text: 'De erven J. van Nelle Stoomtabaksfabriek Rotterdam' ¹⁷
	Material	Pipe clay
	(Relative) date	19 th century
	Provenance	Achterwillens, Gouda
	Condition	Bowl edge and text intact
	Price	€20,-
	Details	Defined as 'archaeological find'




¹⁷ In English: 'The heirs of J. van Nelle steam tobacco factory Rotterdam'

OBJECT 15	www.groenehartvertellingen.nl		
Type	Pipe		
Description	Pipe with the text: 'Ons genoeg ¹⁸ '		
Material	Pipe clay		
(Relative) date	19 th century		
Provenance	Gouda		
Condition	Bowl edge intact		
Price	€22,50		
Details	Defined as 'archaeological find'		


OBJECT 16	www.groenehartvertellingen.nl		
Type	Pipe		
Description	Pipe with the initials 'D.B.' (Dirk Barunet)		
Material	Pipe clay		
(Relative) date	18 th century		
Provenance	Gouda		
Condition	Flakes on bowl edge		
Price	€7,50		
Details	Defined as 'archaeological find'		

¹⁸ In English: 'Our Pleasure'

OBJECT 17	www.groenehartvertellingen.nl		
	Type	Pipe	
	Description	Pipe with hand	
	Material	Pipe clay	
	(Relative) date	19 th century	
	Provenance	Achterwillens, Gouda	
	Condition	Bowl edge intact	
	Price	€5,-	
	Details	Defined as 'archaeological find'	

OBJECT 18	www.groenehartvertellingen.nl		
	Type	Pipe	
	Description	Two cigarettes pipes	
	Material	Pipe clay (red)	
	(Relative) date	19 th century	
	Provenance	Gouda	
	Condition	Small flakes on bowl edge	
	Price	€5,-	
	Details	Defined as 'archaeological find'	


OBJECT 19	www.groenehartvertellingen.nl		
Type	Pipe		
Description	-		
Material	Pipe clay (red)		
(Relative) date	19 th century		
Provenance	Gouda		
Condition	Small flakes on bowl edge		
Price	€6,-		
Details	Defined as 'archaeological find'		

OBJECT 20	www.groenehartvertellingen.nl		
Type	Pipe		
Description	Cigarettes pipe		
Material	Pipe clay		
(Relative) date	19 th century		
Provenance	Achterwillens, Gouda		
Condition	Bowl edge intact		
Price	€5,-		
Details	Defined as 'archaeological find'		


OBJECT 21	www.groenehartvertellingen.nl		
Type	Pipe		
Description	Pipe decorated with flowers		
Material	Pipe clay		
(Relative) date	19 th century		
Provenance	Gouda		
Condition	Small flakes on bowl edge		
Price	€5,-		
Details	Defined as 'archaeological find'		


OBJECT 22	www.groenehartvertellingen.nl		
Type	Pipe		
Description	Pipe with beetle and decorated with leaves		
Material	Pipe clay		
(Relative) date	Ca. 1850		
Provenance	Drapiersteeg, Gouda		
Condition	Flakes on bowl edge		
Price	€15,-		
Details	Defined as 'archaeological find'		

OBJECT 23	www.groenehartvertellingen.nl		
	Type	Pipe	
	Description	Pipe with acorn	
	Material	Pipe clay (red)	
	(Relative) date	18 th century	
	Provenance	Jaagpad, Gouda	
	Condition	Bowl edge intact	
	Price	€6,50	
	Details	Defined as 'archaeological find'	

OBJECT 24	www.groenehartvertellingen.nl		
	Type	Pipe	
	Description	Decorated pipe	
	Material	Pipe clay	
	(Relative) date	Ca.1850	
	Provenance	Drapiersteeg, Gouda	
	Condition	Small flake on bowl edge	
	Price	€5,-	
	Details	Defined as 'archaeological find'	

OBJECT 25	www.groenehartvertellingen.nl		
Type	Pipe		
Description	Pipe with text: 'B. van der Maas'		
Material	Pipe clay		
(Relative) date	Ca. 1850		
Provenance	Drapiersteeg, Gouda		
Condition	Two flakes on bowl edge		
Price	€6,-		
Details	Defined as 'archaeological find'		

OBJECT 26	www.groenehartvertellingen.nl		
Type	Pipe		
Description	Pipe with a male figurine		
Material	Pipe clay		
(Relative) date	19 th century		
Provenance	Achterwillens, Gouda		
Condition	Bowl edge intact		
Price	€10,-		
Details	Defined as 'archaeological find'		

OBJECT 27	www.groenehartvertellingen.nl		
Type	Pipe		
Description	Pipe decorated with a ship		
Material	Pipe clay (red)		
(Relative) date	19 th century		
Provenance	Achterwillens, Gouda		
Condition	Bowl edge intact		
Price	€12,50		
Details	Defined as 'archaeological find'		

OBJECT 28	www.groenehartvertellingen.nl		
Type	Pipe		
Description	Pipe decorated with a ship and an anchor		
Material	Pipe clay		
(Relative) date	19 th century		
Provenance	Achterwillens, Gouda		
Condition	Flakes on bowl edge		
Price	€7,50		
Details	Defined as 'archaeological find'		

OBJECT 29	www.groenehartvertellingen.nl		
Type	Pipe		
Description	Pipe decorated with a shepherd and a sheep. Text: 'B. van der Maas'		
Material	Pipe clay		
(Relative) date	Ca. 1860		
Provenance	Achterwillens, Gouda		
Condition	Bowl edge intact Slight damage on the heel		
Price	€17,50		
Details	Defined as 'archaeological find'		

OBJECT 30	www.groenehartvertellingen.nl		
Type	Pipe		
Description	Decorated pipe. Text: 'Vrij onderwijs' ¹⁹		
Material	Pipe clay		
(Relative) date	19 th century		
Provenance	Achterwillens, Gouda		
Condition	Small flake on bowl edge. Small hole on the heel.		
Price	€17,50		
Details	Defined as 'archaeological find'		


¹⁹ In English: 'Free education'

OBJECT 31	www.groenehartvertellingen.nl	
	Type	Pipe
	Description	Pipe with tree branches. Made by P.J. van der Want, Gouda
	Material	Pipe clay
	(Relative) date	19 th century
	Provenance	Achterwillens, Gouda
	Condition	Bowl edge slightly damaged
	Price	€15,-
	Details	Defined as 'archaeological find'



OBJECT 32	www.groenehartvertellingen.nl	
	Type	Pipe
	Description	Pipe decorated with a soldier holding a rifle and a woman holding a flower (war and peace)
	Material	Pipe clay
	(Relative) date	19 th century
	Provenance	Achterwillens, Gouda
	Condition	Bowl edge damaged
	Price	€15,-
	Details	Defined as 'archaeological find'




OBJECT 33	www.groenehartvertellingen.nl		
Type	Pipe		
Description	Pipe decorated with a monkey and vines. Made by: P.J. van der Want		
Material	Pipe clay (red)		
(Relative) date	19 th century		
Provenance	Achterwillens, Gouda		
Condition	Bowl edge intact		
Price	€20,-		
Details	Defined as 'archaeological find'		

OBJECT 34	www.groenehartvertellingen.nl		
Type	Pipe		
Description	Decorated pipe		
Material	Pipe clay		
(Relative) date	19 th century		
Provenance	Achterwillens, Gouda		
Condition	Bowl edge intact		
Price	€7,50		
Details	Defined as 'archaeological find'		

OBJECT 35	www.groenehartvertellingen.nl		
Type	Pipe		
Description	Decorated pipe Made by: Frans Verzijl.		
Material	Pipe clay		
(Relative) date	18 th century		
Provenance	Bloemendaal, Waddinxveen		
Condition	Bowl edge intact		
Price	€7,50		
Details	Defined as 'archaeological find'		

OBJECT 36	www.groenehartvertellingen.nl		
Type	Pipe		
Description	Pipe decorated with flowers. Made by: P.J. van der Want, Gouda		
Material	Pipe clay		
(Relative) date	19 th century		
Provenance	Achterwillens, Gouda		
Condition	Bowl edge intact		
Price	€7,50		
Details	Defined as 'archaeological find'		


OBJECT 37	www.groenehartvertellingen.nl		
	Type	Pipe	
	Description	Pipe decorated with two doves that drinking from a bowl. Made by P.J. van der Want.	
	Material	Pipe clay	
	(Relative) date	19 th century	
	Provenance	Achterwillens, Gouda	
	Condition	Bowl edge intact	
	Price	€15,-	
	Details	Defined as 'archaeological find'	

OBJECT 38	www.groenehartvertellingen.nl		
	Type	Pipe	
	Description	Pipe with text: 'Home Rule'	
	Material	Pipe clay	
	(Relative) date	19 th century	
	Provenance	Achterwillens, Gouda	
	Condition	Bowl edge intact	
	Price	€15,-	
	Details	Defined as 'archaeological find'	


OBJECT 39	www.groenehartvertellingen.nl		
Type	Pipe		
Description	Pipe decorated with a bat		
Material	Pipe clay		
(Relative) date	19 th century		
Provenance	Drapiersteeg, Gouda		
Condition	Bowl edge intact		
Price	€12,50		
Details	Defined as 'archaeological find'		

OBJECT 40	www.groenehartvertellingen.nl		
Type	Pipe		
Description	Pipe shaped like a funnel. Made by: P.J. van der Want.		
Material	Pipe clay		
(Relative) date	19 th century		
Provenance	Achterwillens, Gouda		
Condition	Bowl edge intact		
Price	€7,50		
Details	Defined as 'archaeological find'		

OBJECT 41	www.groenehartvertellingen.nl		
Type	Pipe		
Description	Pipe with goat Made by: B. van der Maas		
Material	Pipe clay		
(Relative) date	Ca. 1860		
Provenance	Drapiersteeg, Gouda		
Condition	Bowl edge intact		
Price	€22,50		
Details	Defined as 'archaeological find'		

OBJECT 42	www.groenehartvertellingen.nl		
Type	Pipe		
Description	Pipe with deer Made by: P.J. van der Want		
Material	Pipe clay		
(Relative) date	Ca. 1880		
Provenance	Achterwillens, Gouda		
Condition	Bowl edge intact		
Price	€10,-		
Details	Defined as 'archaeological find'		

OBJECT 43	www.groenehartvertellingen.nl		
Type	Pipe		
Description	Pipe, head-shaped Made by: P. Goedewaagen.		
Material	Pipe clay		
(Relative) date	(end of) 19 th century		
Provenance	Achterwillens, Gouda		
Condition	Bowl edge intact		
Price	€7,50		
Details	Defined as 'archaeological find'		


OBJECT 44	www.groenehartvertellingen.nl		
Type	Pipe		
Description	Cigarettes pipe, head-shaped (Mercurius)		
Material	Pipe clay		
(Relative) date	Ca. 1880		
Provenance	Achterwillens, Gouda		
Condition	Bowl edge intact		
Price	€10,-		
Details	Defined as 'archaeological find'		


OBJECT 45	www.groenehartvertellingen.nl	
	Type	Pipe
	Description	5 baroque pipes decorated with lobes and acanthus leaves
	Material	Pipe clay
	(Relative) date	17 th century
	Provenance	Bloemendaal, Waddinxveen
	Condition	Weathered, slightly damaged
	Price	€30,-
	Details	Defined as 'archaeological find'



OBJECT 46	www.groenehartvertellingen.nl	
	Type	Pipe
	Description	Pipe with a dog Made by: P.J. van der Want
	Material	Pipe clay
	(Relative) date	19 th century
	Provenance	Achterwillens, Gouda
	Condition	Good condition
	Price	€17,50
	Details	Defined as 'archaeological find'



OBJECT 47	www.groenehartvertellingen.nl		
Type	Pipe		
Description	Pipe decorated with a ship, sea creatures and the city crest of Gouda. Texts: 'Bloeiende scheepvaart' and 'leve koophandel en scheepvaart' ²⁰		
Material	Pipe clay		
(Relative) date	Late 19 th century		
Provenance	Achterwillens, Gouda		
Condition	Bowl edge intact		
Price	€25,-		
Details	Defined as 'archaeological find'		

OBJECT 48	www.groenehartvertellingen.nl		
Type	Pipe		
Description	Decorated pipe		
Material	Pipe clay (red)		
(Relative) date	Late 19 th century		
Provenance	Achterwillens, Gouda		
Condition	Bowl edge intact		
Price	€10,-		
Details	Defined as 'archaeological find'		

²⁰ In English: 'Flourishing navigation' and 'Live the merchant marine and navigation'

OBJECT 49	www.groenehartvertellingen.nl		
Type	Pipe		
Description	Pipe with text: 'De Gekroonde Mooren' ²¹ Made by: P.J. van der Want		
Material	Pipe clay		
(Relative) date	Late 19 th century		
Provenance	Achterwillens, Gouda		
Condition	Bowl edge weathered		
Price	€7,50		
Details	Defined as 'archaeological find'		


OBJECT 50	www.groenehartvertellingen.nl		
Type	Pipe		
Description	Pipe decorated with a crowned fish Text: 'Gouda'		
Material	Pipe clay		
(Relative) date	18 th century		
Provenance	Zevenhuizen		
Condition	Bowl edge intact		
Price	€7,50		
Details	Defined as 'archaeological find'		


²¹ In English: 'The crowned Moors'


OBJECT 51	www.groenehartvertellingen.nl		
Type	Pipe		
Description	Two pipes decorated with the crest of Gouda. Made by: B. van der Maas		
Material	Pipe clay		
(Relative) date	Ca. 1850		
Provenance	Drapiersteeg, Gouda		
Condition	Bowl edge intact		
Price	€12,50		
Details	Defined as 'archaeological find'		

OBJECT 52	www.groenehartvertellingen.nl		
Type	Pipe		
Description	Pipe decorated with an anchor on both sides. Made by: Sparnaay, Gouda.		
Material	Pipe clay		
(Relative) date	Ca. 1870		
Provenance	Achterwillens, Gouda		
Condition	Flake on bowl edge Part of shank intact		
Price	€12,50		
Details	Defined as 'archaeological find'		

OBJECT 53	www.groenehartvertellingen.nl		
Type	Pipe		
Description	Pipe decorated with an anchor on both sides.		
Material	Pipe clay		
(Relative) date	1870		
Provenance	Achterwillens, Gouda		
Condition	Bowl edge intact		
Price	€5,-		
Details	Defined as 'archaeological find'		

OBJECT 54	www.groenehartvertellingen.nl		
Type	Pipe		
Description	Pipe decorated with an anchor on both sides. Made by: P.J. van der Want, Gouda.		
Material	Pipe clay		
(Relative) date	Ca. 1870		
Provenance	Achterwillens, Gouda		
Condition	Bowl edge intact		
Price	€5,-		
Details	Defined as 'archaeological find'		

OBJECT 55	www.groenehartvertellingen.nl		
Type	Pipe		
Description	Pipe decorated with a chicken Made by Jan Boot.		
Material	Pipe clay		
(Relative) date	18 th century		
Provenance	Bloemendaal, Waddinxveen		
Condition	Slightly damaged Chicken lost its tail		
Price	€20,-		
Details	Defined as 'archaeological find'		

OBJECT 56	www.groenehartvertellingen.nl		
Type	Pipe		
Description	Decorated pipe		
Material	Pipe clay		
(Relative) date	18 th century		
Provenance	Bloemendaal, Waddinxveen		
Condition	Flakes on bowl edge		
Price	€5,-		
Details	Defined as 'archaeological find'		

OBJECT 57	www.groenehartvertellingen.nl	
	Type	Pipe
	Description	Pipe decorated with the inauguration of Willem I (1849). One side shows the W of Willem and the other side shows Willem in a party tent. Made by: B. van der Maas
	Material	Pipe clay
	(Relative) date	Ca. 1850
	Provenance	Drapiersteeg, Gouda
	Condition	Bowl edge intact
	Price	€35,-
	Details	Defined as 'archaeological find'



OBJECT 58	www.groenehartvertellingen.nl	
	Type	Pipe
	Description	Pipe decorated with crowns and pearls
	Material	Pipe clay
	(Relative) date	18 th century
	Provenance	Bloemendaal, Waddinxveen
	Condition	Bowl edge intact
	Price	-
	Details	Defined as 'archaeological find'



RESERVED

OBJECT 59	www.groenehartvertellingen.nl		
Type	Pipe		
Description	Pipe decorated with crowns and pearls		
Material	Pipe clay		
(Relative) date	18 th century		
Provenance	Bloemendaal, Waddinxveen		
Condition	Bowl edge slightly damaged		
Price	-		
Details	Defined as 'archaeological find'		

RESERVED

OBJECT 60	www.groenehartvertellingen.nl		
Type	Pipe		
Description	Pipe with a wild hog. Made by: B. van der Maas		
Material	Pipe clay		
(Relative) date	Ca. 1860		
Provenance	Bloemendaal, Waddinxveen		
Condition	Flake on bowl edge		
Price	€30,-		
Details	Defined as 'archaeological find'		

OBJECT 61	www.groenehartvertellingen.nl		
Type	Pipe		
Description	Pipe decorated with pearls. Made by: B. van der Maas		
Material	Pipe clay		
(Relative) date	Ca. 1860		
Provenance	Drapiersteeg, Gouda		
Condition	Flake on bowl edge		
Price	€7,50		
Details	Defined as 'archaeological find'		

OBJECT 62	www.groenehartvertellingen.nl		
Type	Pipe		
Description	Pipe decorated with flowers. Made by: P.J. van der Want		
Material	Pipe clay		
(Relative) date	Ca. 1870		
Provenance	Achterwillens, Gouda		
Condition	Bowl edge intact		
Price	€17,50		
Details	Defined as 'archaeological find'		

OBJECT 63	www.groenehartvertellingen.nl	
	Type	Pipe
	Description	Pipe decorated with a weapon shield. Text: 'Honi soit qui mal y pense' Made by: P. Goedewaagen
	Material	Pipe clay
	(Relative) date	Ca. 1900
	Provenance	Jaagpad, Gouda
	Condition	Bowl edge intact
	Price	€30,-
	Details	Defined as 'archaeological find'



Archaeological value

Clay pipes were essentially disposable items, universally and easily obtainable and thrown away after only a few smokes. Their potential for dating archaeological deposits is considerably easy, this due to that fact that some pipes even contain a date and name of the place of origin. These clay pipes happen to have a more historical value than an archaeological value. The place of origin or even the factory can easily be discovered, since there are historic records regarding the clay pipe industry. Most pipes appear to be from the city of Gouda.

Summary

This website offers a tremendous amount of clay pipes, some of them beautifully decorated. All objects are offered by an amateur archaeologists/photographer. The prices of the pipes reasonable; this due to the fact that they have been found in large numbers. All pipes appear to be from the 17-20th century. The main goal of this site is to inform people about 'Het Groene Hart', an area in the province of Zuid-Holland. The pipes are defined as 'archaeological finds', it is however uncertain how these pipes were excavated and by whom exactly.

3.1.3.2 Size of the objects offered on personal websites

Below, a short summary of the previous data will be given. The following tables will give an overview of the total amounts of objects offered on the personal websites www.bodemvondsten.net, www.rensdormans.nl and www.groenehartvertellingen.nl.

Type	www.bodemvondsten.net	www.rensdormans.nl	www.groenehartvertellingen.nl	Total
Buttons	0	1	0	1
Coins	0	5	0	5
Fibulae	1	0	0	1
Pipes	0	0	63	63
Tiles	0	4	0	4
Weights	3	0	0	3
Total	4	10	63	77

Table 2. Total amount of object offered on Dutch personal websites, sorted by category.

Period	www.bodemvondsten.net	www.rensdormans.nl	www.groenehartvertellingen.nl	Total
Prehistory	0	0	0	0
Roman	0	0	0	0
Medieval	4	0	0	4
New Age	0	5	63	63
- World War II	0	0	0	0
Unknown	0	5	0	5
Total	4	10	63	77

Table 3. Total amount of objects offered on Dutch personal websites, sorted by period.

As can be seen in [tables 2 and 3], the three personal websites offered 77 objects together. The major part of this amount (63) is filled by www.groenehartvertellingen.nl. Because the objects offered on this website were all clay pipes from the New Age²², these categories are logically over-represented in the findings assemblage.

Most probably, the New Age is also overrepresented because the archaeological finds of this period are situated in the top layer of the soil and are thus easy to find by amateur archaeologists.

As for Prehistoric and Roman objects nothing is offered on these sites, however objects from these periods are sold on a large scale via the main advertising and auction sites (e.g. Marktplaats or eBay).

²² 16th - 20th century. World War II has been identified as a separate category within the New Age.

Website	Name	Residence	E-mail address
www.bodemvondsten.net	Marcel Julsing	Wehe-den Hoorn	bodemvondsten@hetnet.nl
www.rensdormans.nl	Rens Dormans	Sittard	rensormans@hotmail.com
www.groenehartvertellingen.nl	Freek Mayenburg	(nearby) Haastrecht	f.j.mayenburg@caiway.nl

Table 4. Dealers of the offered objects (owners of the Dutch personal websites).

On all websites, the owners of the sites are mentioned [table 4]. The owners of www.bodemvondsten.net and www.rensdormans.nl present themselves as amateur archaeologists or metal detectorists. The owner of www.groenehartvertellingen.nl is not only an amateur archaeologist, but also a nature photographer.

Website	Number of objects with provenance mentioned	Number of objects without provenance mentioned
www.bodemvondsten.net	4	1 ²³
www.rensdormans.nl	0	10
www.groenehartvertellingen.nl	63	0

Table 5. Provenance of the object offered on Dutch personal websites.

In most cases, the provenance of the objects was mentioned [table 5]. The 63 clay pipes of www.groenehartvertellingen.nl were all marked with their provenance, albeit broadly.

²³ The total amount of offered objects differs from the data in the previous tables, because www.bodemvondsten.net also offers objects from Finland.

	www.bodenvondsten.net	www.rensdormans.nl	www.groenehartvertellingen.nl
Amount of objects	2	3	63
Amount of objects with price mentioned	2	2	61
Lowest price	85	1	5
Highest price	90	80	35
Total price	175	81	722
Average price (rounded)	88	41	12

Table 6. Prices (in euros) of the objects offered on Dutch personal websites.

By comparing the price ranges of the websites it is noticeable that there is a wide price range; the lowest price is 1 euro; the highest price is 90 euro [table 6]. Significant is also the €76,- differential between www.bodenvondsten.net and www.groenehartvertellingen.nl. The exact reason for this is unknown; it is not clear how the prices came about or what exactly they are based on. Yet, the Viking items of www.bodenvondsten.net are of a higher archaeological value than the clay pipes of www.groenehartvertellingen.nl. Most likely, the financial values are based on this archaeological value.

3.1.4. Category 4: Internet forums

As a reminder, in Internet forums, people can post messages or engage in discussions that relate to a certain topic.

The first phase of the survey to the Internet forums, when an inventory of forums offering archaeological objects was set up, has resulted in a list of 20 ‘suspicious’ websites (i.e. which form a possible threat to the cultural heritage); named below in alphabetical order:

www.bodemvondstenforum.nl

<http://bodenvondsten.phpbb3.nl/>

www.bodemvondstenwereld.nl

www.detecties.nl/dc/

www.detector.eu/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2&Itemid=3

www.forumeerstewereldoorlog.nl/viewforum.php?f=14

<http://forum.munthunter.nl/>

www.fossiel.net/forums/viewboard.php?BoardID=6

http://home.vondsten.nl/forum_1st.cgi?rf=&VID=&TRK=&CAT=50

<http://jozefherman.forum2go.nl/>

www.m-b-1.nl/mijnforum/index.php

<http://metaaldetector.blogspot.com/>

www.muntenbodenvondsten.nl

<http://oorlogsvondsten.nl/forum/index.php>

<http://peepplaza.webs.com/forum.htm?forumID=1100392&page=1>

www.pieppiep.nl

www.waterzoekers.nl/

<http://wo2forum.nl/viewforum.php?f=45>

www.worldwardiggers.nl/

<http://wwdiggers.123forum.nl/te-koop-te-ruil-f20.html>

These Internet forums are all related to archaeology, and are used by their members to discuss about excavations, findings and archaeological equipment. Perhaps the primary function of the websites is to show and to determinate the objects found by the amateur archaeologists.

From the 20 websites, 18 websites had a category that was linked to the selling of items; often named as ‘sell’, ‘exchange’, ‘supply and demand’ or a resembling denomination. The websites were scanned on the supply and demand of archaeological objects and are shown on the next pages.

It appeared that 6 of the 18 searched forums did offer archaeological objects:

www.bodemvondstenforum.nl

www.muntenbodemvondsten.nl

<http://bodemvondsten.phpbb3.nl/>

<http://forum.munthunter.nl/>

<http://home.vondsten.nl/>

<http://jozefherman.forum2go.nl/>

The objects found on these websites are also shown on the next pages.

3.1.4.1 *Internet forums that offer archaeological objects*

1. www.bodemvondstenforum.nl

General data

Number of posts	930
Number of members	831
Total number of posts concerning sale	2
Total amount of archaeological objects for sale	2
Number of individuals that responded to the sale	6

This website presents objects related to the Second World War. To visit the forum, no login account is required.

Three archaeological objects were put on sale, which were clustered in groups of one and two. Because the objects were offered in two threads, they are described as two objects below.

The two threads with the offered archaeological objects are the only items offered in the sales section of the forum. The offered objects are part of a total of 930 threads on the entire forum. The selling of archaeological objects forms therefore only 0,22% of the total amount of threads.

Nature of the objects

OBJECT 1	www.bodemvondstenforum.nl		
Type	Helmet		
Description	German M40 helmet		
Material	Metal		
(Relative) date	WWII		
Provenance	Unknown		
Seller	'grw34'(alias)		
Condition	Quite good		
Price	€225,-		
Details	Offered on December 12, 2010.		

POSSIBLY SOLD

Selling not mentioned in the thread, but the seller has placed a 'lock' on the thread on the same day.

OBJECT 2	www.bodemvondstenforum.nl	(No picture available of the German Mauser)
	Type	Pistols
	Description	One German Mauser; One signal pistol
	Material	Metal
	(Relative) date	WWII
	Provenance	Groesbeek (pit)
	Seller	'overland' (alias)
	Condition	German Mauser: unknown Signal pistol: weathered heavily
	Price	Price: €100,-
	Details	Offered on June 3, 2010

SOLD
(November 5, 2010)
*Via other channels than
the thread*

2. www.muntenbodenvondsten.nl

General data

Number of posts	47311
Number of members	3933
Total number of posts concerning sale	248
Total amount of archaeological objects for sale	17
• <i>Sale</i>	9
• <i>Exchange</i>	8
Number of individuals that responded to the sale	Unknown

This website is meant to present coins and other archaeological findings. To visit the forum, no login account is required.

In the sales section of the forum, it is possible to sell or exchange items related to archaeology. In the sales section, nine archaeological objects were offered. Eight objects were offered in the exchange section.

The 17 threads with the offered archaeological objects are part of a total of 248 objects that were put on sale on the forum. The offered objects are part of a total of 47,311 threads on the entire forum. The selling of archaeological objects forms therefore only: 0,04% of the total amount of threads.

Nature of the objects

- [Sale](#)

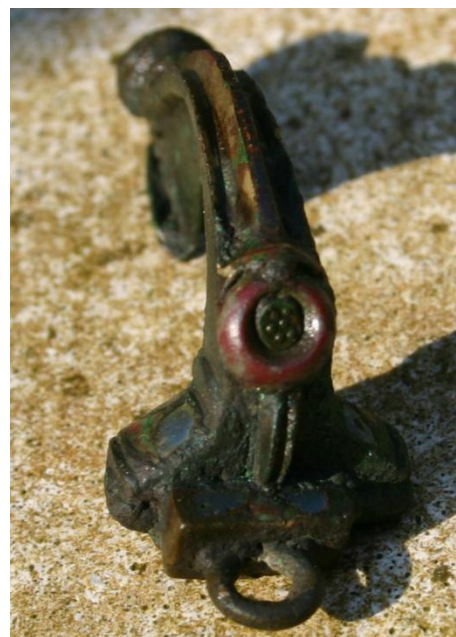
OBJECT 1	www.muntenbodenvondsten.nl		
Type	Pots		
Description	Two pots, Pingsdorf pottery		
Material	Proto-steengoed (proto-earthenware)		
(Relative) date	Middle Ages		
Provenance	Unknown		
Seller	'mammoetje' (alias)		
Condition	Broken, pieces missing		
Price	€80,-		
Details	Offered on October 9, 2009		

OBJECT 2	www.muntenbodenvondsten.nl		
Type	Several objects		
Description	-		
Material	Metal		
(Relative) date	Roman, Middle Ages		
Provenance	Unknown		
Seller	'explorer' (alias)		
Condition	Weathered		
Price	€125,-		
Details	Offered on October 28, 2008		

OBJECT 3	www.muntenbodenvondsten.nl		No picture available
Type	Several objects (among which fibulae and coins)		
Description	-		
Material	Glass, pottery, metal		
(Relative) date	Roman		
Provenance	Unknown		
Seller	'ambianii'(alias)		
Condition	Unknown		
Price	-		
Details	Offered on September 13, 2011 Information as pictures and prices are given via E-mail		

OBJECT 4	www.muntenbodenvondsten.nl		
Type	Coin		
Description	Roman coin		
Material	Bronze		
(Relative) date	Roman		
Provenance	Unknown		
Seller	'zandberg' (alias)		
Condition	Unknown		
Price	€7,50		
Details	Offered on February 7, 2010		

OBJECT 5	www.muntenbodenvondsten.nl	
	Type	Fibula
	Description	-
	Material	Bronze
	(Relative) date	Roman
	Provenance	Unknown
	Seller	'marcell' (alias)
	Condition	Good
	Price	€200,-
	Details	Offered on May 17, 2010



OBJECT 6	www.muntenbodenvondsten.nl	
	Type	Lock
	Description	Part of a lock
	Material	Bronze
	(Relative) date	Roman
	Provenance	Unknown
	Seller	'Bouke' (from Weert)
	Condition	Weathered
	Price	€7,-
	Details	Offered on July 1, 2009 (last reaction owner: January 13,2011)



OBJECT 7	www.muntenbodemvondsten.nl	
	Type	Coin
	Description	Penny 'Groningen'
	Material	Metal
	(Relative) date	1568
	Provenance	Unknown
	Seller	'kleidigger' (alias)
	Condition	Quite good
	Price	€150,-
	Details	Offered on February 24, 2011



OBJECT 8	www.muntenbodenvondsten.nl	
	Type	Coin
	Description	Penny 'Stad Utrecht'
	Material	Metal
	(Relative) date	1724
	Provenance	Unknown
	Seller	'sebastiaan'
	Condition	Quite good
	Price	-Sale: €26,- -Exchange: provincial coins
	Details	-Sale: Offered on March 17, 2011 -Exchange: Offered on April 6, 2011



OBJECT 9	www.muntenbodemvondsten.nl	
	Type	Coin
	Description	Four provincial pennies
	Material	Metal
	(Relative) date	17 th /18 th century
	Provenance	Unknown
	Seller	'sebastiaan'
	Condition	Weathered
	Price	€12,50
	Details	Offered on March 17, 2011




- [Exchange](#)

OBJECT 10	www.muntenbodenvondsten.nl		No picture available
	Type	Fibula	
	Description	Fragment of a double-axe fibula	
	Material	Bronze	
	(Relative) date	Roman	
	Provenance	Unknown	
	Seller	'Anna en Kees'	
	Condition	Unknown	
	Price	-	
	Details	Offered on August 15, 2007	

OBJECT 11	www.muntenbodenvondsten.nl		
	Type	Coin	
	Description	Follis of Maxminius (RIC 56)	
	Material	Bronze	
	(Relative) date	Roman	
	Provenance	Unknown	
	Seller	'Goodies' (alias)	
	Condition	Good	
	Price	Exchange for coin of Decentius	
	Details	Offered on September 29, 2006	

OBJECT 12	www.muntenbodenvondsten.nl		No picture available
	Type	Coin	
	Description	Celtic coin	
	Material	Metal	
	(Relative) date	Celtic	
	Provenance	Unknown	
	Seller	'zandberg' (alias)	
	Condition	Unknown	
	Price	Exchange for cross	
	Details	Offered on November 1, 2009	

OBJECT 13	www.muntenbodenvondsten.nl		
	Type	Coin	
	Description	Celtic coin	
	Material	Metal	
	(Relative) date	Celtic	
	Provenance	Unknown	
	Seller	'frenk' (alias)	
	Condition	Unknown	
	Price	Exchange for dog badges	
	Details	Offered on March 21, 2010	

OBJECT 14	www.muntenbodenvondsten.nl		No picture available
	Type	Coin	
	Description	Penny 'Stad Utrecht'	
	Material	Metal	
	(Relative) date	1788	
	Provenance	Unknown	
	Seller	'sebastiaan'	
	Condition	Unknown	
	Price	Exchange for other provincial coins	
	Details	Offered on April 6, 2010	

OBJECT 15	www.muntenbodenvondsten.nl		No picture available
	Type	Fibula	
	Description	Round fibula	
	Material	Bronze	
	(Relative) date	Roman	
	Provenance	Unknown	
	Seller	'Anna en Kees'	
	Condition	Unknown	
	Price	Exchange for provincial coins	
	Details	Offered on August 15, 2007	

OBJECT 16	www.muntenbodenvondsten.nl		No picture available
	Type	Coin	
	Description	Coin 'Graafschap Vlaanderen'	
	Material	Metal	
	(Relative) date	1366-1384	
	Provenance	'Collection Aurelianus'; bought by coin dealer G. Henzen	
	Seller	'aurelianus' alias)	
	Condition	Unknown	
	Price	Exchange for other Medieval coins	
	Details	Offered on March 28, 2008	

OBJECT 17	www.muntenbodenvondsten.nl		No pictures available
	Type	Coin	
	Description	Several coins VOC/Dutch Indies	
	Material	Metal	
	(Relative) date	18 th /19 th century	
	Provenance	Unknown	
	Seller	'sebastiaan'	
	Condition	Unknown	
	Price	Exchange for Roman coins	
	Details	Offered on March 28, 2008	

3. <http://bodenvondsten.phpbb3.nl/>

(E-mail: bodenvondsten@live.nl)

General data

Number of posts	5135
Number of members	124
Total number of posts concerning sale	7
Total amount of archaeological objects for sale	2
Number of individuals that responded to the sale	0


This website is meant to present all types of archaeological findings. To visit the forum, no login account is required.

In the sales section of the forum, it is possible to exchange or sell archaeology related items. In the exchange section, only modern objects were offered: half-a-guilder Wilhelmina (1930) and a double-guilder Wilhelmina (1931). In the sale section, two objects were offered.

The two threads with the offered archaeological objects are part of a total of seven objects that were put on sale on the forum. The offered objects are part of a total of 5,135 threads on the entire forum. The selling of archaeological objects forms therefore only: 0,04% of the total amount of threads.

Nature of the objects

OBJECT 1	http://bodenvondsten.phpbb3.nl/		
Type	Coin		
Description	Half-a-guilder Willem III		
Material	Silver		
(Relative) date	1863		
Provenance	Unknown		
Seller	Unknown		
Condition	Good		
Price	Exchange to provincial coins		
Details	Offered on December 3, 2010		

OBJECT 2	http://bodenvondsten.phpbb3.nl/		
Type	Coin		
Description	VOC coin		
Material	Metal		
(Relative) date	1790		
Provenance	Unknown		
Seller	Unknown		
Condition	Good		
Price	If members could guess the weight of a duelling pistol, they could win this coin		
Details	Date: 03-12-2010 – 14-12-2010		

4. <http://forum.munthunter.nl/>

General data


Number of posts	38,979
Number of members	585
Total number of posts concerning sale	154
Total amount of archaeological objects for sale	10
Number of individuals that responded to the sale	0


This website is meant to present all kinds of coins and paper money. To visit the forum, no login account is required.

In the sales section of the forum, it is possible to auction or sell archaeology related items. In the auction section, only modern or foreign objects were offered. In the sale section, 11 objects were offered, which were clustered in groups of one and two. Because the objects were offered in 10 threads, they are described as 10 objects below.


The threads with the offered archaeological objects are part of a total of 154 objects that were put on sale on the forum. The offered objects are part of a total of 38,979 threads on the entire forum. The selling of archaeological objects forms therefore only 0,03% of the total amount of threads.

Nature of the objects

OBJECT 1	http://forum.munthunter.nl/		
Type	Coin		
Description	Half a guilder Willem III		
Material	Silver		
(Relative) date	1858		
Provenance	Unknown		
Seller	Robin Veldema, De Liemers		
Condition	'Pr-' ²⁴		
Price	€75,-		
Details	Offered on March 3, 2011		

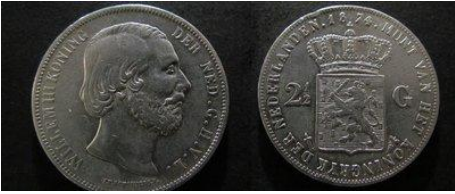
OBJECT 2	http://forum.munthunter.nl/		
Type	Coin		
Description	Half a guilder Willem II		
Material	Silver		
(Relative) date	1848		
Provenance	Unknown		
Seller	Robin Veldema, De Liemers		
Condition	'Zf'		
Price	€40,-		
Details	Offered on March 3, 2011		

²⁴ The condition of coins are denominated with abbreviations and range from 'Unc' – 'Unc-' - 'Pr+' – 'Pr' – 'Pr-' – 'Zf-Pr' – 'Zf+' – 'Zf' - 'Zf-' – 'Fr' – 'Zg' – 'Pr-Fdc' – 'Fdc'.

OBJECT 3	http://forum.munthunter.nl/		
Type	Coin		
Description	Quarter of a guilder, Dutch Indies Willem I		
Material	Silver		
(Relative) date	1840		
Provenance	Unknown		
Seller	Robin Veldema, De Liemers		
Condition	'Zf'		
Price	€40,-		
Details	Offered on March 3, 2011		

OBJECT 4	http://forum.munthunter.nl/		
Type	Coin		
Description	Half a guilder Willem I Dutch Indies		
Material	Silver		
(Relative) date	1826		
Provenance	Unknown		
Seller	Robin Veldema, De Liemers		
Condition	'Pr'		
Price	€99,-		
Details	Offered on March 3, 2011		

OBJECT 5	http://forum.munthunter.nl/		No picture available
Type	Coin		
Description	Guilder Gelderland (31 mm)		
Material	Silver		
(Relative) date	1786		
Provenance	Unknown		
Seller	Robin Veldema, De Liemers		
Condition	'Zf'		
Price	Price not mentioned (perhaps privately)		
Details	Offered on February 26, 2011		

OBJECT 6	http://forum.munthunter.nl/		
Type	Coin		
Description	2,5 Guilder		
Material	Silver		
(Relative) date	1874		
Provenance	Unknown		
Seller	'demuntenkoning' (alias)		
Condition	'Fr/Zf'		
Price	€22,50		
Details	Offered on February 13, 2011		

OBJECT 7	http://forum.munthunter.nl/		
Type	'Broodkaart'		
Description	-		
Material	Metal		
(Relative) date	1880		
Provenance	Unknown		
Seller	'rtholen' (alias)		
Condition	Good		
Price	€22,50		
Details	Offered on January 24, 2011		

OBJECT 8	http://forum.munthunter.nl/		
Type	Coin		
Description	-		
Material	Metal		
(Relative) date	1808		
Provenance	Origin: shipwreck (The Admiral Gardner)		
Seller	'rtholen' (alias)		
Condition	Good		
Price	€15,-		
Details	Offered on January 25, 2011		

OBJECT 9	http://forum.munthunter.nl/	
	Type	Coin
	Description	25 cents
	Material	Silver
	(Relative) date	1849
	Provenance	Unknown
	Seller	'demuntenkoning' (alias)
	Condition	'Pr/Fdc'
	Price	€85,-
	Details	Offered on December 12, 2010



OBJECT 10	http://forum.munthunter.nl/	
	Type	Coin
	Description	2 x ½ asses Nemausus
	Material	Bronze
	(Relative) date	Roman
	Provenance	Empel
	Seller	'demuntenkoning' (alias)
	Condition	'Fr'
	Price	€16,-
	Details	Offered on December 12, 2010



5. <http://home.vondsten.nl/>

General data

Number of posts	143
Number of members	1,208
Total number of posts concerning sale	20
Total amount of archaeological objects for sale	4
Number of individuals that responded to the sale	4

This website is meant to present all types of archaeological finds. To visit the forum, no login account is required.

In the sales section of the forum, it is possible to sell archaeology related items: several objects were offered, which were clustered in groups of 32, three and two. Because the objects were offered in three threads, they are described as three objects below.

The threads with the offered archaeological objects are part of a total of 20 objects that were put on sale on the forum. The offered objects are part of a total of 143 threads on the entire forum. The selling of archaeological objects forms therefore: 2, 8% of the total amount of threads.

One remarkable reaction was placed to one object: 'check your E-mail'. This probably shows that the completion of the transaction has been done via E-mail or private messages.

Although there are a number of offers placed on this website, the sales section appears to be inactive: last post dates back to 2009.


Nature of the objects

OBJECT 1	http://home.vondsten.nl/	
	Type	Coin
	Description	German coins with swastika's (1, 5, 10 pfennig)
	Material	Metal
	(Relative) date	WOII
	Provenance	'Retrieved from the earth.' Not mentioned whether this was one by means of metal detection.
	Seller	Jeffrey Timmermans (j.nmgn89@live.nl)
	Condition	Weathered
	Price	€10,-
	Details	Offered on July 7, 2009



POSSIBLY SOLD

Message was posted, stating:
'check you E-mail'

OBJECT 2	http://home.vondsten.nl/		
	Type	Coin	
	Description	Coins Third Reich (32 coins; 1, 2, 5, 10 pfennig)	
	Material	Metal	
	(Relative) date	WOII	
	Provenance	'Retrieved from the earth.' Not mentioned whether this was one by means of metal detection.	
	Seller	Ed Swarts	
	Condition	Weathered	
	Price	€150,-	
	Details	Offered on July 15, 2009	

OBJECT 3	http://home.vondsten.nl/	
	Type	Bayonet
	Description	S98/05 Durkopp Werke AG.
	Material	Metal
	(Relative) date	WWI
	Provenance	Unknown
	Seller	Ed Swarts
	Condition	Intact, good
	Price	Price: €125,-
	Details	Offered on July 6, 2009 Same object and seller as Object 2 at



Same object and seller as Object 2 at <http://jozefherman.forum2go.nl/>

OBJECT 4	http://home.vondsten.nl/	
	Type	Badge
	Description	2 German badges
	Material	Metal
	(Relative) date	WOII
	Provenance	'Retrieved from the earth.' Found together with a German wallet
	Seller	Jeffrey Timmermans (j.nmgn89@live.nl)
	Condition	Good
	Price	€250,-
	Details	Offered on May 21, 2009



6. <http://jozefherman.forum2go.nl/>

General data

Number of posts	8756
Number of members	612
Total number of posts concerning sale	72
Total amount of archaeological objects for sale	8

This website is meant to present all types of archaeological objects. It is clear that the amateur archaeologists are also seeing each other ‘in real life’: every last Monday of the month, a meeting is arranged in Eindhoven.

To visit the forum, a login account is required. Therefore, the fake name and E-mail address were used. After logging in, it appeared that several archaeological objects were put on sale, clustered in groups of 30, 15, 4, 2 and 1. Because the objects were offered in eight threads, they are described as eight objects below.

The threads with the offered archaeological objects are part of a total of 72 objects that were put on sale on the forum. The offered objects are part of a total of 8,756 threads on the entire forum. The selling of archaeological objects forms therefore only: 0,09% of the total amount of threads.


A remarkable aspect from this forum was how often the people that respond to the offers **refer to Marktplaats** as a better place to offer objects. Another interesting thing is that almost all sellers want that people react via private messages. In many cases, an offered object has been marked as ‘sold’ without any reactions visible on the thread.

Nature of the objects

OBJECT 1	http://jozefherman.forum2go.nl/		No picture available
Type	Bullets		
Description	Several cannonballs 15 musket balls		
Material	Cast iron		
(Relative) date	16 th – 19 th century		
Provenance	Unknown		
Seller	'Vutter' (Ed from Veldhoven)		
Condition	Unknown		
Price	Cannonballs: €40,- Musket balls: €5,-		
Details	Offered on January 26, 2009		

SOLD

OBJECT 2	http://jozefherman.forum2go.nl/	
	Type	Bayonet
	Description	S98/05 Durkopp Werke AG.
	Material	Metal
	(Relative) date	WWI
	Provenance	Unknown
	Seller	'Vutter' (Ed from Veldhoven)
	Condition	Intact
	Price	€125,-
	Details	Offered on July 7, 2009



Same object and seller as Object 3 at
<http://home.vondsten.nl>

OBJECT 3	http://jozefherman.forum2go.nl/		
Type	Coin		
Description	3 'Kingdom coins' 2 cents (1877), half a cent (1852), 1 cent (1878)		
Material	Metal		
(Relative) date	19 th century		
Provenance	Unknown		
Seller	JozefHerman (owner of the forum)		
Condition	Weathered		
Price	-		
Details	Offered on November 24, 2009		
			SOLD

OBJECT 4	http://jozefherman.forum2go.nl/		
Type	Coin		
Description	'Deventer duit' (Fake Reckheim coin)		
Material	Metal		
(Relative) date	Middle Ages		
Provenance	Unknown		
Seller	Jozef Herman (owner of the forum)		
Condition	Weathered		
Price	-		
Details	Offered on November 30, 2009		
			SOLD

OBJECT 5	http://jozefherman.forum2go.nl/		No picture available
Type	Coin		
Description	30 coins of the Third Empire (1,2,5,10,50 pfennig)		
Material	Metal		
(Relative) date	WWII		
Provenance	Unknown		
Seller	'Vutter' (Ed from Veldhoven)		
Condition	Unknown		
Price	€70,-		
Details	Offered on July 11, 2009		

EXCHANGED

OBJECT 6	http://jozefherman.forum2go.nl/		No picture available
Type	Coin		
Description	4 denarii Several pennies		
Material	Silver		
(Relative) date	Roman		
Provenance	Unknown		
Seller	'Will.d' dignoutsw@live.nl		
Condition	Unknown		
Price	-		
Details	Offered on May 14, 2010		

OBJECT 7	http://jozefherman.forum2go.nl/		No picture available
	Type	Key	
	Description	Medieval key	
	Material	Metal	
	(Relative) date	Middle Ages	
	Provenance	Unknown	
	Seller	'Will.d' dignoutsw@live.nl	
	Condition	Unknown	
	Price	-	
	Details	Offered on May 14, 2010	

OBJECT 8	http://jozefherman.forum2go.nl/		
	Type	Coin	
	Description	Roman as with the depiction of emperor Trajan	
	Material	Bronze	
	(Relative) date	Roman (98-117)	
	Provenance	Unknown; 'Dutch find'	
	Seller	'Compadre' (Venlo)	
	Condition	Good	
	Price	-	
	Details	Offered on November 27, 2010 SOLD (reaction of 'Bob': 'this one is already mine...')	

SOLD

Reaction of 'Bob': 'this one is already mine...'

Archaeological value

Judging by the scale of the forums, it can be stated that many objects of archaeological value are offered. The objects are the roots of Dutch heritage, they are related or reactions to the past. Objects that people have worn (fibula/pins), were used as a form of payment or were just simply personal belongings. Not only are these objects of archaeological value, but they are also of historical and cultural value.

Still, the objects are important, but not of an outstanding archaeological value. The Roman fibula (Object 5; www.muntenbodenvondsten.nl) can be considered as the most valuable offered objects.

Summary

By mapping the Internet forums a structured view can be given of what is sold and offered on these forums. It appears that these forums provide more information regarding the offering and selling of object as opposed to the more general personal websites.

These forums are constructed on a much larger scale, reaching out to many potential buyers. Also the objects represent all corners of the archaeological world, ranging from coins to tiles, and from Roman fibulae to World War II memorabilia.

3.1.4.2 Size of the offered objects

Below, a short summary of the previous data will be given. The following tables will give an overview of the total amounts of objects offered on the Internet forums www.bodemvondstenforum.nl, www.muntenbodenvondsten.nl, <http://bodenvondsten.phpbb3.nl/>, <http://home.vondsten.nl> and <http://jozefherman.forumtogo.nl/>.

Type	www.bodemvondstenforum.nl	www.muntenbodenvondsten.nl	http://bodenvondsten.phpbb3.nl/	http://forum.munthunter.nl/	http://home.vondsten.nl/	http://jozefherman.forum2go.nl/	Total
Armour	2	0	0	0	1	2	5
- Bayonets	0	0	0	0	1	1	2
- Bullets	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
- Helmets	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
- Pistols	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Badges	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
'Broodkaarten'	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Coins	0	10	2	9	2	5	28
Fibulae	0	3	0	0	0	0	3
Key	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Lock	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Pots	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Various	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
Total	2	17	2	10	4	8	43

Table 7. Total amount of objects offered on Dutch Internet forums, sorted by category.

Period	www.bodemvondstenforum.nl	www.muntenbodemvondsten.nl	http://bodemvondsten.phpbb3.nl/	http://forum.munthunter.nl/	http://home.vondsten.nl/	http://jozefherman.forum2go.nl/	Total
Prehistory	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Roman	0	8	0	1	0	2	11
Medieval	0	5	0	0	0	2	7
New Age	2	4	2	9	4	4	25
- <i>World War II</i>	2	0	0	0	4	1	7
Total	2	17	2	10	4	8	43

Table 8. Total amount of objects offered on Dutch Internet forums, sorted by period.

As can be seen in [table 7 and table 8], the six Internet forums offered 43 objects together. It is worth noting that all kinds of objects are offered, dating from all kinds of periods [table 8].

Coins are overrepresented in the finding assemblage [table 7]. Most probably, the reason for this overrepresentation is the great demand of coins that exist among amateur archaeologists and coin collectors. Coins are also well-represented in the archaeological soil and are easy to find with a metal detector.

New Age objects are also overrepresented. This is no coincidence, as the offered coins mainly date from this period. New Age objects are also easy to find by amateur archaeologists, because they are situated in the top layer of the soil.

Website	Name or alias	Residence	E-mail address
www.bodemvondstenforum.nl	'grw34' (1)	Unknown	Unknown
	'overland' (1)	Unknown	Unknown
www.muntenbodenvondsten.nl	'ambinani' (1)	Unknown	Unknown
	'Anna en Kees' (2)	Unknown	Unknown
	'aurelianus' (1)	Unknown	Unknown
	'Bouke' (1)	Weert	Unknown
	'explorer' (1)	Unknown	Unknown
	'frenk' (1)	Unknown	Unknown
	'goodies' (1)	Unknown	Unknown
	'kleidigger' (1)	Unknown	Unknown
	'mammoetje' (1)	Unknown	Unknown
	'marcel1' (1)	Unknown	Unknown
	'sebastiaan' (4)	Unknown	Unknown
	'zandberg' (2)	Unknown	Unknown
http://bodenvondsten.phpbb3.nl/	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
http://forum.munthunter.nl/	Robin Veldema (5)	De Liemers	Unknown
	'demuntenkoning' (3)	Unknown	Unknown
	'rtholen' (2)	Unknown	Unknown
http://home.vondsten.nl/	Jeffrey Timmermans (2)	Unknown	j.nmgn89@live.nl
	Ed Swarts (2)	Unknown	Unknown
http://jozefherman.forum2go.nl/	'compadre' (1)	Venlo	Unknown
	Jozef Herman (2)	Unknown	Unknown
	'vutter' (3)	Unknown	Unknown
	'will.d'	Unknown	dignoutsw@live.nl

Table 9. Dealers of the objects offered on Dutch Internet forums.

A total of 24 dealers were identified on the Internet forums. Most probably, these dealers are amateur archaeologists who sell their own findings or parts of their collection. The sellers of the archaeological objects usually do not reveal their identity; most of them make use of a fake name or alias. The 'fancy names' that are being used are not only a characteristic of these archaeological Internet forums, but are typical for the Internet in general. Only occasionally, an E-mail address is mentioned [table 9].

Website	Number of objects with provenance mentioned	Number of objects without provenance mentioned
www.bodemvondstenforum.nl	1	1
www.muntenbodenvondsten.nl	1	16
http://bodenvondsten.phpbb3.nl/	0	2
http://forum.munthunter.nl/	2	8
http://home.vondsten.nl/	0	4
http://jozefherman.forum2go.nl/	0	8
Total	4	39

Table 10. (Legitimate) origin of the objects offered on Dutch Internet forums.

As with the names and E-mail addresses, only a few sellers mention the provenance of their offered objects [table 10]. Only in four cases, the provenance was mentioned, albeit broadly.

	www.bodemvondstenforum.nl	www.muntenbodenvondsten.nl	http://bodenvondsten.phpbb3.nl/	http://forum.munthunter.nl/	http://home.vondsten.nl/	http://jozefherman.forum2go.nl/
Amount of objects	2	17	2	10	4	8
Amount of objects with price mentioned	2	8	0	9	4	3
Lowest price	100	7	-	15	10	45
Highest price	225	200	-	99	250	125
Total price	325	608	-	514	535	240
Average price (rounded)	163	76	-	57	134	80

Table 11. Prices of the objects (in euros) offered on Dutch Internet forums.

The prices of the offered objects are ranging considerably; the lowest price is 10 euro, the highest price is 225 euro [table 11].

By comparing the price ranges of the websites it is noticeable that www.bodemvondstenforum.nl and <http://home.vondsten.nl> have the highest average price. Most probably, this price can be linked to the nature of the objects offered on these websites. The objects offered here are quite large objects from World War II. These objects are in great demand by collectors of war memorabilia. Despite of their financial value, World War II objects do not have a significant archaeological value.

3.1.5 Category 5: YouTube

After the Internet survey of the personal websites (category 3) and the Internet forums (category 4), it appeared that the video website YouTube can also be used to retrieve information on metal detection. On this website, many amateur archaeologists post their homemade videos and are (proudly) showing how and what they are excavating. It seems that these videos are not meant for the selling of archaeological goods (however, this does not mean to say that it cannot and does not take place); they are mainly used to show and share their finds.

On March 14, 2011, the Internet survey on YouTube was arranged. By typing the key word ‘*metaaldetectorvondsten*’ (En. metal detection finds) into the YouTube search engine, 38 hits appeared. Most objects that were being excavated by the amateur archaeologists dated from the First and Second World War, such as German helmets and artillery. Other objects that appeared were coins, buckles, thimbles and objects from the middle Ages. Occasionally, the place where the objects were found was mentioned, as are the (first) names of the amateur archaeologists.

Typing in the key words ‘*bodemvondsten*’ (En. soil finds) and ‘*amateurarcheologie*’ (En. amateur archaeology) has led to respectively 43 and 32 hits. The videos that showed up had a more general appearance than the earlier described videos [table 12].

Key word	Number of hits	Objects
Metaaldetectorvondsten (<i>Metal detection finds</i>)	38	Mainly WW I and WW II, coins
Bodemvondsten (<i>Soil finds</i>)	43	Most objects are found by means of metal detection
Amateurarcheologie (<i>Amateur archaeology</i>)	32	Mainly (informational) focuses on the objects amateurs have found

Table 12. Number of hits on video website YouTube.

As expected, no offers were made in the videos. The scan of the comments that viewers had put to the videos, has resulted in one suspicious reaction. This comment was placed under the video ‘*Metal Detecting World War 2 - findings - GERMAN HELMETS!!*’ (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0uNBcYDFSGs>). Viewer ‘SSstotenkopfgruppen’ asks the owner of the video (‘k98100’) if he can buy the found SS helmet. He states that he is very serious and that he also has some objects to exchange, such as (replica) guns, hand grenades, daggers etc. K98100 rejects his offer, because ‘it is one of his best finds’.

From an archaeological point of view, YouTube can be seen as a platform for presenting the findings and 'excavations' of amateur archaeologists. What appears to be most striking in the videos is the unprofessional way the amateur archaeologists are excavating: the context of the finds is not taken into account and the objects are damaged easily.

Most probably, YouTube is not being used to sell archaeological objects. Nothing points into the direction of the supply and demand of archaeological objects via the YouTube. The only other possibility to exchange objects via a video website as such is (again) via private messages between the users. Obviously, these messages are only visible for the users themselves.

3.2 Additional research

After the Internet survey to the personal websites and the Internet forums, the found objects were double-checked in several databases and other websites.

Because the users of the personal websites and the Internet forums can easily put their objects on advertising and auction websites, the four largest websites that were described before (Marktplaats, eBay, Speurders and 2dehands) were scanned to find out if the objects found on the private websites were also offered on this type of websites.

Additionally, two databases were scanned: ARCHIS, the Archaeological Information System of the Cultural Heritages Services²⁵, and NUMIS, the Numismatic Information System of the Geldmuseum in Utrecht²⁶. Archaeological finds and monuments normally need to be reported in ARCHIS. NUMIS is a database for found coins.

Also a second scan of the personal websites and the Internet forums was arranged. The main goal of this second scan, that was executed 10 weeks after the first scan, was to get more insight into the duration of the offers and the activity of the websites.

3.2.1 Category 3: Personal websites

- **Advertising and auction websites**

The characteristics of the objects offered on www.bodemvondsten.net, www.rensdormans.nl and www.groenehartvertellingen.nl (82 objects in total) were put in the search engine of the four advertising and auction websites. The results of these queries turned out to be negative; the objects offered on the personal websites were not offered on the advertising and auction websites. The closest match to the objects on the personal websites were clay pipes. Seven sellers were offering their clay pipes, but the owner of www.groenehartvertellingen.nl was not among these sellers.

- **ARCHIS**

Because the database ARCHIS logically requires specific information of archaeological activities and found objects, only offered objects with a known provenance were searched in ARCHIS. This means that only the characteristics of the clay pipes offered on www.groenehartvertellingen.nl were put into the database:

²⁵ In Dutch: Rijksdienst voor het Cultureel Erfgoed (www.cultureelerfgoed.nl and archis2.archis.nl/archisii/html/index.html)

²⁶ Het Geldmuseum is a Dutch museum that houses several collections of coins, banknotes and money culture(s) (www.geldmuseum.nl and <http://www.geldmuseum.nl/museum/node/51>).

Place	Gouda, Waddinxveen, Zevenhuizen
Toponym ²⁷	Achterwillens, Drapiersteeg, Jaagpad, Bloemendaal
Material	Ceramics (KER)
General	Pipe (PIJP)
Period	New Age C 1850-1950 (NTC)

This search resulted in one hit: clay pipes found in an archaeological project of Archeomedia, a commercial archaeological company. This project was executed at the Bleulandweg in Gouda in 2008. Most likely, the clay pipes found in this project are not the same as the clay pipes offered on www.groenehartvertellingen.nl. Because the city of Gouda had been an important production centre of clay pipes in the 17th-19th centuries, the city's archaeological soil archive is filled with remains of pipes as such.

- **NUMIS**

Although one of the personal websites, www.rensdormans.nl, offered five coins, no coins were checked in NUMIS. The lack of information and the bad quality of the coins could possibly have been main cause of this decision.

- **Second scan**

The second scan to the personal websites was organized 10 weeks after the first scan. It appeared that the objects found on www.bodemvondsten.net and www.rensdormans.nl were still for sale. No other objects were added to the sales section on the websites.

On www.groenehartvertellingen.nl, the situation of the offers had slightly changed. Two objects that were marked as 'reserved' before, were now 'sold' (Objects 58 and 59). No objects had been removed from the website, but 32 new objects were added to the list: 30 clay pipes and 2 ceramic badges.

3.2.2 Category 4: Internet forums

- **Advertising and auction websites**

The characteristics of the objects offered on www.bodemvondstenforum.nl, www.muntenbodenvondsten.nl, <http://bodenvondsten.phpbb3.nl/>, <http://forum.munthunter.nl/>, <http://home.vondsten.nl/> and <http://jozefherman.forum2go.nl/> (43 objects in total) were put in the search engine of the four advertising and auction websites.

Three objects that were offered on <http://forum.munthunter.nl/> were also offered on Marktplaats. The objects were:

²⁷ Inserting the toponyms was not necessary; the place name appeared to be sufficient.

- *Half a guilder Willem III (1858)* [Object 1]
- *Half a guilder Willem II (1848)* [Object 2]
- *Quarter of a guilder Dutch Indies Willem I* [Object 3]

These objects were all offered by the same seller, Robin Veldema from De Liemers (alias on Marktplaats: 'r.v.') and for the same prices. Objects 4 and 5 on <http://forum.munthunter.nl/>, which were also offered by Robin Veldema, were not offered on Marktplaats.

One object that was offered on www.muntenbodenvondsten.nl was also offered on Marktplaats and eBay:

- *Penny 'Stad Utrecht' 1724* [Object 8]

This object was offered by 'Sebastiaan' on both the sales section and the exchange section of www.muntenbodenvondsten.nl. It is not sure if the coins offered on Marktplaats and eBay are the exact same objects as the coin offered on the Internet forum, because the seller(s) used a different username: 'QualitasCollectibles' (Marktplaats) and 'munten_n111' (eBay).

The other objects of the Internet forums were not offered on the advertising and auction websites.

- **ARCHIS**

From only two objects on two Internet forums the provenance was mentioned: Object 2 on www.bodenvondstenforum.nl and Object 10 on <http://forum.munthunter.nl/>. The characteristics of these objects were put into the database:

- *German Mauser /Signal pistol* [Object 2 on www.bodenvondstenforum.nl]
- Place** Groesbeek
- Material** Metal-Iron (MFE)
- General** -
- Period** New Age C 1850-1950 (NTC)

The search to these arms led to one hit: a findings assemblage of an excavation executed by Archeodienst Gelderland in Groesbeek in 2008. This assemblage consisted of 19 metal objects, including an iron fitting, six bullets, a shell splinter, a metal statuette, two tranches of lead and a pocket knife. Pistols are not mentioned. Therefore, the objects offered on the forum are not the same as the objects described in ARCHIS.

Because Operation Market Garden²⁸, and the Battle of Arnhem in particular, was combated in the area around Groesbeek, the region's soil is filled with objects from World War II.

- *2 x ½ asses Nemausus* [Object 10 on <http://forum.munthunter.nl/>]
 - Place** Empel
 - Material** Metal-Bronze (MBR)
 - General** Coin (MUNT)
 - Period** Roman (ROM)

Several objects and investigations came up at the ARCHIS search, but the search criteria did not match with the offered Roman coins. Because Empel is known as a Gallo-Roman settlement (best known from the 'Temple from Empel'), the concentration of Roman objects in the soil archive is quite high.

• NUMIS

All coins that were offered on the Internet forums (28 in total) were checked in NUMIS. Three coins of <http://forum.munthunter.nl/> had possibly been inserted in the database. It is not certain that the coins mentioned in NUMIS are the same coins that were offered on the websites. This is mainly due to the lack of information of the offered coins, and the fact that there are still many coins in circulation.

The objects were:

- *Half a guilder Willem II (1848)* [Object 2]

This coin, also offered on Marktplaats, has one option in NUMIS: NUMIS-number 1016475.
This particular coin forms part of a treasure find with NUMIS-number 1016898.
- *Guilder Gelderland (1786)* [Object 5]

This coin has one option in NUMIS: NUMIS-number 1058323.
- *25 cents (1849)* [Object 9]

This coin has three options in NUMIS: NUMIS-number 1005223, NUMIS-number 1013005 and NUMIS-number 1026019.

• Second scan

The second scan to the personal websites was organized 10 weeks after the first scan. It appeared that the objects found on www.bodemvondstenforum.nl, <http://bodemvondsten.phpb33.nl>,

²⁸ Operation Market Garden (17–25 September 1944) was an Allied military operation, fought in the Netherlands and Germany in World War II. The Allies could not capture the bridge at Arnhem, the Netherlands, and the Operation failed.

<http://home.vondsten.nl> and <http://jozefherman.forum2go.nl> were still offered. No other objects were added to the sales section on the websites.

To the Internet forum www.muntenbodenvondsten.nl one thread with ancient coins (Greek, Roman, Byzantine) was added to the sales section. The objects found at the Internet survey were still offered. The website <http://forum.munthunter.nl> showed another pattern. Objects 5, 7, 9 and 10 that were found at the Internet survey had been removed from the website at the second scan. Most probably, the transactions of these objects were completed and the offers were not necessary anymore.

The scan of the five categories of websites has had the following results:

❖ **Category 1: Advertising and auction websites**

When comparing the results of 2007, 2010 and 2011, the amounts of the categories on the four largest Dutch websites (Marktplaats, eBay NL, Speurders, 2dehands) have increased first and decreased later. Fluctuation could therefore be marked as a characteristic of the advertising and auction websites.

❖ **Category 2: Art dealing websites**

The scan to the Dutch art dealing websites resulted in a list of 13 websites that might offer archaeological objects. Because information is lacking in the description of many objects, it is questionable whether these websites really offer archaeological objects.

❖ **Category 3: Personal websites**

The scan to Dutch personal websites resulted in a list of 3 websites that offer archaeological objects. 77 archaeological objects in total were offered on the personal websites. The objects were not of an extreme high (archaeological) value. In general, it can be said that the items offered on the personal websites are small objects that have been excavated by amateur archaeologists (mainly clay pipes from the New Age). The prices that were set are varying considerably. The provenance of the objects is never precisely mentioned. It is not exactly clear how the transactions between sellers and buyers are completed. Most probably, this is done via E-mail. Additional research to the offerings on the Dutch private websites in the databases ARCHIS and NUMIS showed that no objects were inserted into the official canals. No objects were offered on one of the four largest Dutch advertising and auction websites. A second scan to the websites, 10 weeks after the first survey, showed that several objects on one personal websites had been removed and that new objects were added.

❖ **Category 4: Internet forums**

The scan to Dutch Internet forums resulted in a list of 6 websites that offer archaeological objects. 43 archaeological objects in total were offered on the personal websites. The objects were not of an extreme high (archaeological) value. In general, it can be said that the items offered on the personal websites are small objects that have been excavated by amateur archaeologists (mainly coins from the New Age). The prices that were set are varying considerably. The provenance was in only four offerings mentioned. Internet forums have a relative closed character. Transactions between sellers and buyers are completed by use of private messages or E-mails.

Additional research to the offerings on the Dutch private websites in the databases ARCHIS and NUMIS showed that no objects were inserted into the official canals. Only four objects were offered on one of the four largest Dutch advertising and auction websites. A second scan to the websites, 10 weeks after the first survey, showed that four objects on two Internet forums had been removed and that one new object was added.

❖ **Category 5: YouTube**

The scan to Dutch videos posted on YouTube and the comments of viewers under these videos showed that no offerings of archaeological objects were put on YouTube.

Conclusion

The purpose of this research was to get a clear insight into the nature and size of the trade in archaeological objects via private Dutch websites: *To what extent are archaeological objects offered on private websites in the Netherlands?* Four research areas have been distinguished: the nature, the size, the dealers and the provenance of the offered archaeological objects. The research question is accompanied by an ‘additional question’: *Should the e-commerce in archaeological objects be considered as a problem?* To these questions, the division into the five categories of websites will be applied: (1) Advertising and auction websites, (2) Art dealing websites, (3) Personal websites, (4) Internet forums, (5) YouTube.

Conclusions per category

❖ Advertising and auction websites (category 1)

Although this category has not been investigated thoroughly, it appears that most archaeological objects are sold by means of these websites. A definite pattern is not visible in the amount of offers on the advertising and auction websites. When comparing the results of 2007, 2010 and 2011, the amounts of the categories have increased first and decreased later. Fluctuation can therefore be seen as a characteristic of the advertising and auction websites. Roughly, it can be said the total amount of offerings is around the 200,000-300,000.

The nature of the objects offered on the advertising and auction websites varies considerably: both small soil finds and expensive art works are being offered. The same is the case with the dealers of the objects. Those who offer the objects are amateur archaeologists, metal detection hobbyists and (art) dealers. Acquiring personal information of the sellers is easy, as they need to establish some form of contact in order to reach an agreement for selling or purchasing an object. The advertising and auction websites are therefore relatively transparent, although the sellers use aliases and private E-mail addresses. The dealers only occasionally mention the history, the origin or the provenance of the objects they offer.

❖ Art dealing websites (category 2)

This category has only superficially been investigated. Most art galleries also have a website that is used to present the dealer’s collection. This category differs from the other categories, since the websites are meant for a specific target group that usually also visits the regular art galleries. In contrast with the other categories, it is not the open accessibility, but the exclusivity which is a characteristic for these websites.

It is not certain if the composed list of 13 websites that might offer archaeological objects really offer these objects. The objects offered on these websites usually have a higher status and should rather be seen as art than utensils. Still, the websites can be seen as a possible threat to the cultural heritage, as

they sell objects marked as ‘archaeological find’ / ‘soil find’, or objects without any given information.

❖ **Personal websites (category 3)**

The private websites (category 3 and 4) have formed the main focus of this investigation. It appeared that personal websites were not often used for the selling of archaeological objects. Of the personal websites that were examined only a few (3 out of 12) offered archaeological objects that had been found in the field. Instead, the main goals of these personal websites appears to be: determining and sharing of pictures of found objects, swapping information regarding metal detection and sharing the occasional ‘field experience’ story.

- As said before, 3 of the 12 scanned personal websites did offer archaeological objects. These websites offered 77 objects in total.
- Because of the over-representation of one website, the offered objects were mainly clay pipes from the New Age. In general, it can be said that the items offered on the personal websites are small objects that have been excavated by amateur archaeologists.
- In general, the objects were not of an extreme high (archaeological value). The Viking items are considered as the objects with the highest value.
- The prices of the objects match with their value: the prices are varying considerably. The overall average price of the objects offered on the personal websites is €46,61.
- The provenance of the objects is never precisely mentioned. Often, only the place or region where the objects were found, is mentioned.
- The amateur archaeologists are also the owners of the websites. The owners usually have their personal information visible on the site, such as their name, their residence (or region) and the places they visit to find objects. The websites appear to be more ‘honest’ or ‘harmless’ than the websites of the other categories.

Additional research to the offers on the Dutch private websites in the databases ARCHIS and NUMIS showed that no objects were inserted into the official canals. No objects were offered on one of the four largest Dutch advertising and auction websites. A second scan to the websites, 10 weeks after the first survey, showed that several objects on one personal websites had been removed and that new objects were added.

❖ **Internet forums (category 4)**

The Internet forums are usually closed communities: in order to gain access to the site one must become a member. Usually users register by using an alias, so there is some form of anonymity. The administrators of the site do have access to all user profiles and information (E-mail addresses, passwords etc.).

The selling of archaeological objects is not the main function of the Internet forum. Only a small part of the forums (in many cases not more than 1%) is dedicated to the trade in archaeological objects. The Internet forums are mainly used to present found archaeological objects and to determinate the items. The forums can be seen as online meeting places of people with the same interests.

- 6 of the 18 scanned Internet forums did offer archaeological objects. These websites offered 43 objects in total.
- The types of objects that are offered are varying considerably. Mainly coins from the New Age are offered. In general, it can be said that the items offered on the personal websites are small objects that have been excavated by amateur archaeologists.
- In general, the objects were not of an extreme high (archaeological value).
- The prices of the objects are varying considerably. The overall average price of the objects offered on the Internet forums is €101,87. This is more than twice as high as the total average price of the objects offered on the personal websites.
- The provenance of the objects is only in 4 offers mentioned.
- 24 individual sellers were identified on the Internet forums. Most probably, these sellers are amateur archaeologists or metal detectorists.

The selling of goods is usually done by means of private messages. It appears that when it comes down to the selling of archaeological objects a lot happens behind ‘closed doors’; users do not wish to discuss the price in the thread, show personal information or even discuss much about the object. Only when a transaction is going to take place the buyer and seller must exchange personal information as for instance: E-mail address, phone number, address, name, and bank account number.

Several ‘layers’ or ‘borders’ of accessibility to the Internet forums can be distinguished: (1) the registration on the Internet forum to view the threads; (2) the use of private messages and private E-mails to complete the transaction. Due to these layers and the use of fake names, both the buyers and the sellers are completely anonymous for the outside world.

The additional research to the databases ARCHIS and NUMIS has shown that the archaeological objects remain in the dark; no objects that were offered on the forums were inserted in the databases. In most cases, the sellers do not offer their objects on other website categories with a more open character. Only four objects were offered on one of the four largest Dutch advertising and auction websites. A second scan to the websites, 10 weeks after the first survey, showed that four objects on two Internet forums had been removed and that one new object was added.

❖ YouTube (category 5)

The video website YouTube is not used for the trade in archaeological objects. The main focus is the presentation of the found objects. Unlike the private websites, the determination of the objects does not play an important role on YouTube. As for YouTube, the site might contribute to getting a general idea of the kind of objects metal detector hobbyists look for.

Conclusions per research area

❖ Nature

The major part of the objects found on the private websites were not of an outstanding archaeological value. Most objects had been excavated by the amateur archaeologists themselves or derive from their personal collections.

The objects that were offered the most, were small objects (coins and clay pipes) from the New Age. Most probably, these small finds (and coins in particular) are in great demand by collectors who want to complete their collection. The New Age is overrepresented, because the archaeological finds of this period are situated in the top layer of the soil and are thus easy to find with metal detectors.

❖ Size

120 objects in total were offered on the private websites; 77 on three personal websites and 43 on six Internet forums. The objects that are offered only form a minor part of the total amount of archaeological objects that are shown on the websites: not more than 5% (on the Internet forum not more than 1%).

Nothing can be said about a possible increase or decrease of the e-commerce in archaeological objects on private websites, because there are no investigations that can act as comparative studies. The second scan of the websites did show that the amount of objects offered are fluctuating considerably, even within a short time span. Based on the ever expanding accessibility to computers and the Internet (both nationally and internationally), the researchers of this investigation expect that also the e-commerce in archaeological objects will grow in the future.

❖ Dealers

Because of the usage of aliases and fake names, not much is known about the dealers that offer the archaeological objects. The owners of the personal websites are mainly amateur archaeologists. Most probably, this is also the case with the individuals that use the Internet forums to sell their findings. A total of 28 dealers were identified on the private websites (three on the personal websites and 25 on the Internet forums). The three dealers offered two to 63 objects at the same time. On the Internet forums, the dealers offered only five objects per individual at the same time.

❖ Provenance

The provenance of the objects is almost never mentioned. In some cases, only a broad description of the finding spot was given. No objects had been inserted into the official databases.

Threats and soft spots

According to the researchers of this investigation, the additional question of this study (*Should the e-commerce in archaeological objects be considered as a problem?*) can be answered negatively: the e-commerce in archaeological objects via private websites (personal websites and Internet forums) should not be considered as a severe problem or threat.

Because of their size, the advertising and auction websites seem to be bigger players in the e-commerce in archaeological objects and are therefore a larger problem than the private websites. The online trade via advertising and auction websites is namely much larger than the transactions via private websites. The archaeological objects offered on the private websites are also only a minor part of the total amount of objects/threads placed on the websites. When it comes to the nature of the objects offered on the advertising and auction websites and the private websites, it seems that the objects offered on both types of websites are comparable (i.e. objects without a high archaeological value).

However, the private websites might be considered to be a threat when it comes to their *accessibility*. It seems that the personal websites do not form a great threat when it comes down to the selling of archaeological objects. If any selling of valuable goods is being done, it is definitely not visible for the public. On the contrary, the objects offered on the Internet forums are less trusting and open than the personal websites. The layers of accessibility identified in this study have shown that a lot of the transactions are completed behind ‘closed doors’.

The closed character and the difficult accessibility of the Internet forums can be seen as soft spots in the supervision of the e-commerce in archaeological objects. It is not possible to gain access to all the information regarding this issue. Therefore, it is highly possible that more transactions via the forums have been executed than that are found by this investigation. As with the regular trade, it is possible that online dealers have collected a customer file, and that transactions between these persons are completed in the dark.

Recommendations

The answer to the additional question that has been answered above, can be seen as an advice to the Cultural Heritage Inspectorate.

It has become clear that the Internet contributes to the selling of archaeological objects on a tremendous scale. At the moment, the nature and the size of archaeological objects offered on private websites are nevertheless of such a marginal degree that immediate actions are not necessary. When actions turn out to be necessary in the future (for example because of an increase of the e-commerce), the primary focus should be on the Internet forums. The soft spots of these forums, the closed character and difficult accessibility, are important features to consider in the fight against the illicit

trade of cultural goods. By keeping an eye on changes taking place it is very possible to counter any problems and threats that might rise in the near future.

A more important means to fight the (illicit) e-commerce of archaeological objects is to first raise awareness by the general public and the buyers and dealers of archaeological objects. Although professional dealers may know that what they are doing is wrong, it is the question if this is also the case with (individual) dealers that are active on private websites. Informing the users of the websites that it is prohibited to sell cultural property can be a first step in getting a better view of the e-commerce of archaeological objects. Also, the importance of official organizations and databases as ARCHIS and NUMIS should be underlined.

Personal note of the researchers

On a personal note, we were quite surprised to see such an amount of archaeological goods being dealt and sold online. Especially considering how ‘open’ some of these people are: plotting pieces of land and selling objects for a low amount of money without any shame or even any realization that they are harming the Dutch cultural heritage.

The fact that some of the Internet forums were shielded off from the public raised our concern. We suspect that a lot more is being dealt and sold than is officially made clear. As archaeologists in the making, we sincerely hope that this research will raise awareness to do whatever possible in order to prevent the (illicit) trade of cultural goods online for the protection of our cultural heritage and raise importance amongst others on the value of archaeological goods.

Victoria van der Haas

Elsbeth Tjon Sie Fat

Bibliography

Bieleman, B., van der Stoep, R., Naayer, H. 2007. *Pure Art. Preventive Criminal Analysis of the Dutch Art and Antiques Trade*. Drukkerij Webers: Groningen-Rotterdam.

Forrest, C. 2010. *International Law and the Protection of Cultural Heritage*. New York: Routledge.

Ham, van T., Leukfeldt, R., Bremmers, B., Stol, W., Wijk, van A. 2011. *Cultuurgoed op Internet: een Onderzoek naar Illegale Handel Online* (unpublished report).

INTERPOL. 2008. *Minutes. 7th International Symposium of the Theft of and Illicit traffic in Works of Art, Cultural Property and Antiques*.

Reaction Ministry of Justice/Ministry of Education, Culture and Science to 'Pure Art', 5548354/08

Abrams, von K. 2010. *Retail E-commerce in Western Europe*. E-marketer.

http://www.emarketer.com/Reports/All/Emarketer_2000679.aspx

Appendix at Parliament report, Illicit Traffic in Cultural Goods in the Netherlands.

<https://zoek.officielebekendmakingen.nl/kst-29314-17-b1.html>

European Commission, eCommunication Household Survey 2010.

http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/policy/ecom/doc/library/ext_studies/household_10/report_en.pdf

UNESCO, Basic Actions concerning Cultural Objects offered for Sale over the Internet

<http://portal.unesco.org/culture/fr/files/21559/11836509429MesuresTraficIlliciteEn.pdf/MesuresTraficIlliciteEn.pdf>

UNESCO, The Fight against the Illicit Trafficking of Cultural Objects. The 1970 Convention: Past and Future.

<unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0019/001916/191606E.pdf>

List of figures and appendices

Figure 1. Retail e-commerce sales in Western Europe, 2008-2012 (billions)

(Von Abrahams 2010)

Provided to eMarketer by Collins Stewart LLC, 'Internet & Software: 2010 Internet Outlook'.

Appendix 1. Basic Actions concerning Cultural Objects being offered for Sale over the Internet

<http://portal.unesco.org/culture/fr/files/21559/11836509429MesuresTraficIlliciteEn.pdf/MesuresTraficIlliciteEn.pdf>

Appendix 1: Basic Actions concerning Cultural Objects being offered for Sale over the Internet

The Member States of INTERPOL and UNESCO and the States with ICOM National Committees are invited to:

1. Strongly encourage Internet sales platforms to post the following disclaimer on all their cultural objects sales pages:

"With regard to cultural objects proposed for sale, and before buying them, buyers are advised to: i) check and request a verification of the licit provenance of the object, including documents providing evidence of legal export (and possibly import) of the object likely to have been imported; ii) request evidence of the seller's legal title. In case of doubt, check primarily with the national authorities of the country of origin and INTERPOL, and possibly with UNESCO or ICOM"

2. Request Internet platforms to disclose relevant information to law enforcement agencies and to cooperate with them on investigations of suspicious sales offers of cultural objects;
3. Establish a central authority (within national police forces or other), which is also responsible for the protection of cultural properties, in charge of permanently checking and monitoring sales of cultural objects via the Internet;
4. Cooperate with national and foreign police forces and INTERPOL as well as the responsible authorities of other States concerned, in order to:
 - a. Insure that any theft and/or any illegal appropriation of cultural objects be reported to INTERPOL National Central Bureaux, in order to enable relevant information to be posted on the INTERPOL Stolen Works of Art Database;
 - b. Make information available about theft and/or any illegal appropriation of cultural objects, as well as about any subsequent sale of such cultural objects, from or to national territories, using the Internet;
 - c. Facilitate rapid identification of cultural objects by:
 - i) ensuring updated inventories with photographs of cultural objects, or at least their description, for example through the Object ID standard;
 - ii) maintaining a list of recommended experts;
 - d. Use all the tools at their disposal to conduct checks of suspicious cultural property, in particular the INTERPOL Stolen Works of Art Database and the corresponding INTERPOL DVD;
 - e. Track and prosecute criminal activities related to the sale of cultural objects on the Internet and inform the INTERPOL General Secretariat of major investigations involving several countries.
5. Maintain statistics and register information on the checks conducted concerning the sale of cultural objects via the Internet, the vendors in question and the results obtained;
6. Establish legal measures to immediately seize cultural objects in case of a reasonable doubt concerning their licit provenance;
7. Assure the return of seized objects of illicit provenance to their rightful owners.

Appendix 2: List of key terms used at the first phase of the Internet survey

General terms

<i>Archeologische vondst</i>	<i>Archaeological find</i>
<i>Artefact</i>	<i>Artifact</i>
<i>Bodemvondst</i>	<i>(Soil) find</i>
<i>(Metaal) detectorvondst</i>	<i>(Metal) detector find</i>
<i>Oogvondst</i>	<i>'Eye find'</i>

Specific term

<i>Amfoor</i>	<i>Amphora</i>
<i>Armband</i>	<i>Bracelet</i>
<i>Beeld(je)</i>	<i>Statue(tte)</i>
<i>Beker</i>	<i>Cup</i>
<i>Bijl/Dissel</i>	<i>Axe/Adze</i>
<i>Bord</i>	<i>Plate</i>
<i>Fibula</i>	<i>Fibula</i>
<i>Figuur/figurine</i>	<i>Figure/figurine</i>
<i>Fles</i>	<i>Bottle</i>
<i>Fossiel</i>	<i>Fossil</i>
<i>Geld</i>	<i>Money</i>
<i>Gesp</i>	<i>Buckle</i>
<i>Gewicht</i>	<i>Weight</i>
<i>Graf-</i>	<i>Grave-</i>
<i>Kan</i>	<i>Jug</i>
<i>- Jacobakan</i>	<i>- 'Jacoba' jug</i>
<i>Ketting</i>	<i>Necklace</i>
<i>Kling</i>	<i>Blade</i>
<i>Kruik</i>	<i>Jar</i>
<i>- Baardmankruik</i>	<i>- 'Baardman' jar</i>
<i>Munt</i>	<i>Coin</i>

<i>(Olie)lamp</i>	<i>(Oil) lamp</i>
<i>Pan</i>	<i>Pan</i>
<i>Pelgrimsinsigne</i>	<i>Pilgrim badge</i>
<i>Pijlpunt/speerpunt</i>	<i>Arrowhead/Spearhead</i>
<i>Pijpenkop</i>	<i>Pipe</i>
<i>Pot</i>	<i>Vessel</i>
<i>- Zalfpotje</i>	<i>- Ointment vessel</i>
<i>Ring</i>	<i>Ring</i>
<i>Schaal</i>	<i>Bowl</i>
<i>Scherf</i>	<i>Sherd</i>
<i>Sieraad</i>	<i>Jewellery</i>
<i>(Slib)aardewerk</i>	<i>(Slip) pottery</i>
<i>Stempel</i>	<i>Stamp</i>
<i>Tegel</i>	<i>Tile</i>
<i>Triens</i>	<i>Triens</i>
<i>Vaas</i>	<i>Vase</i>
<i>Wapen</i>	<i>Weapon</i>

Period-related terms

<i>Prehistorisch</i>	<i>Prehistoric</i>
<i>- Steentijd</i>	<i>-Stone Age</i>
<i>- Bronstijd</i>	<i>-Bronze Age</i>
<i>- IJzertijd</i>	<i>-Iron Age</i>
<i>Romeins</i>	<i>Roman</i>
<i>Middeleeuws</i>	<i>Medieval</i>

Material-related terms

<i>Aardewerk</i>	<i>Pottery</i>
<i>Brons</i>	<i>Bronze</i>
<i>Glas</i>	<i>Glass</i>
<i>Goud</i>	<i>Gold</i>
<i>Hout</i>	<i>Wood</i>

<i>Koper</i>	<i>Copper</i>
<i>Lood</i>	<i>Lead</i>
<i>Marmer</i>	<i>Marble</i>
<i>Metaal</i>	<i>Metal</i>
<i>(Vuur)steen</i>	<i>(Flint)stone</i>
<i>Terracotta</i>	<i>Terracotta</i>
<i>Terra sigillata</i>	<i>Terra sigillata</i>
<i>Tin</i>	<i>Tin</i>
<i>Zilver</i>	<i>Silver</i>

Selling-related terms

<i>Aanbod/aangeboden</i>	<i>Offer/offered</i>
<i>Te koop</i>	<i>For sale</i>
<i>(Ver)kopen</i>	<i>Sell/buy</i>

Appendix 3: List of Dutch websites which (probably) offer Dutch cultural property

❖ Category 1: Advertising and auction websites

(As investigated by Ham, van T. et al, 2010)

Advertising websites

Kapaza	www.kapaza.nl
Marktnet	www.marktnet.nl
Marktplaats*	www.marktplaats.nl
Marktplaza	www.marktplaza.nl
Tweedehands*	www.tweedehands.nl
Speurders*	www.speurders.nl

Auction websites

Bouland Veilingen	www.boulandveilingen.nl
eBay NL*	www.ebay.nl
eBay shop: Museumveiling	stores.shop.ebay.nl/museumveiling
Veilingen van Kunst	www.veilingenvankunst.nl
Kunstveiling	www.kunstveiling.nl
Qoop	www.qoop.nl
VDH Auctions	www.vdh-auctions.nl
Daan Auctions	www.webveilingen.nl
World On Auction	www.worldonauction.com

❖ Category 2: Art dealing websites

Ancient Art	www.ancientart.nl
Bruil & Brandsma Antiquairs	www.bruilbrandsmaantiquairs.com
De Eland – De Zon – Loth Gijselman	www.deeland.nl
Het Zeeuws Veilinghuis	www.zeeuwsveilinghuis.nl
Jan Beekhuizen Kunst & Antiek	www.janbeekhuizen.nl
Kollenburg Antiquairs	www.kollenburgantiquairs.com/nl/
Kunsthandel Inez Stodel	www.inezstodel.com
Kunsthandel Mieke Zilverberg	www.miekezilverberg.com

Munthandel G. Henzen	www.henzen.org
Oudgoed Antiek & Curiosa	www.oudgoed.nl
Primigenius	www.primigenius.com
Schulman B. V.	www.schulman.nl
Stormbroek Ancient Art Gallery	www.stormbroek.com / www.stormbroek.nl

❖ **Category 3: Personal websites**

www.bodemvondstenwereld.nl*
www.detectorvondsten.nl
www.groenehartvertellingen.nl/index.htm*
<http://home.wanadoo.nl/agiardini/frameset.html>
www.rensdormans.nl*

❖ **Category 4: Internet forums**

www.bodemvondstenforum.nl*
www.muntenbodemvondsten.nl*
<http://bodemvondsten.phpbb3.nl>/*
<http://forum.munthunter.nl>/*
<http://home.vondsten.nl>/*
<http://jozefherman.forum2go.nl>/*
<http://wwdiggers.123forum.nl>/*

❖ **Category 5: YouTube**

No offers.

**Investigated in the Internet survey*