

open-source investigation of antiquities trafficking by states, non-state armed groups and transnational organised criminals: what we know and how we know it

Dr. Samuel Andrew Hardy

Critical Heritage Research Fellow, Koç University, Istanbul, Turkey

samarkeolog@gmail.com / @conflictantiq

<https://conflictantiquities.wordpress.com>

WCO PICARD Conference, Manila, Philippines, 27th-29th September 2016

cultural property crime

| crimes | criminals |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| looting | subsistence workers |
| theft | entrepreneurs |
| embezzlement | participating officials and employees |
| fraud by misrepresentation of fakes | facilitating officials and employees |
| counterfeiting of real artefacts | organised criminal networks |
| forgery of new antiquities | organised criminal hierarchies or gangs |
| trafficking | official state forces |
| smuggling | para-state forces |
| illicit sale | deep state forces |
| illicit purchase | shadow state forces |
| bribery and tax/customs evasion/fraud | anti-state forces |

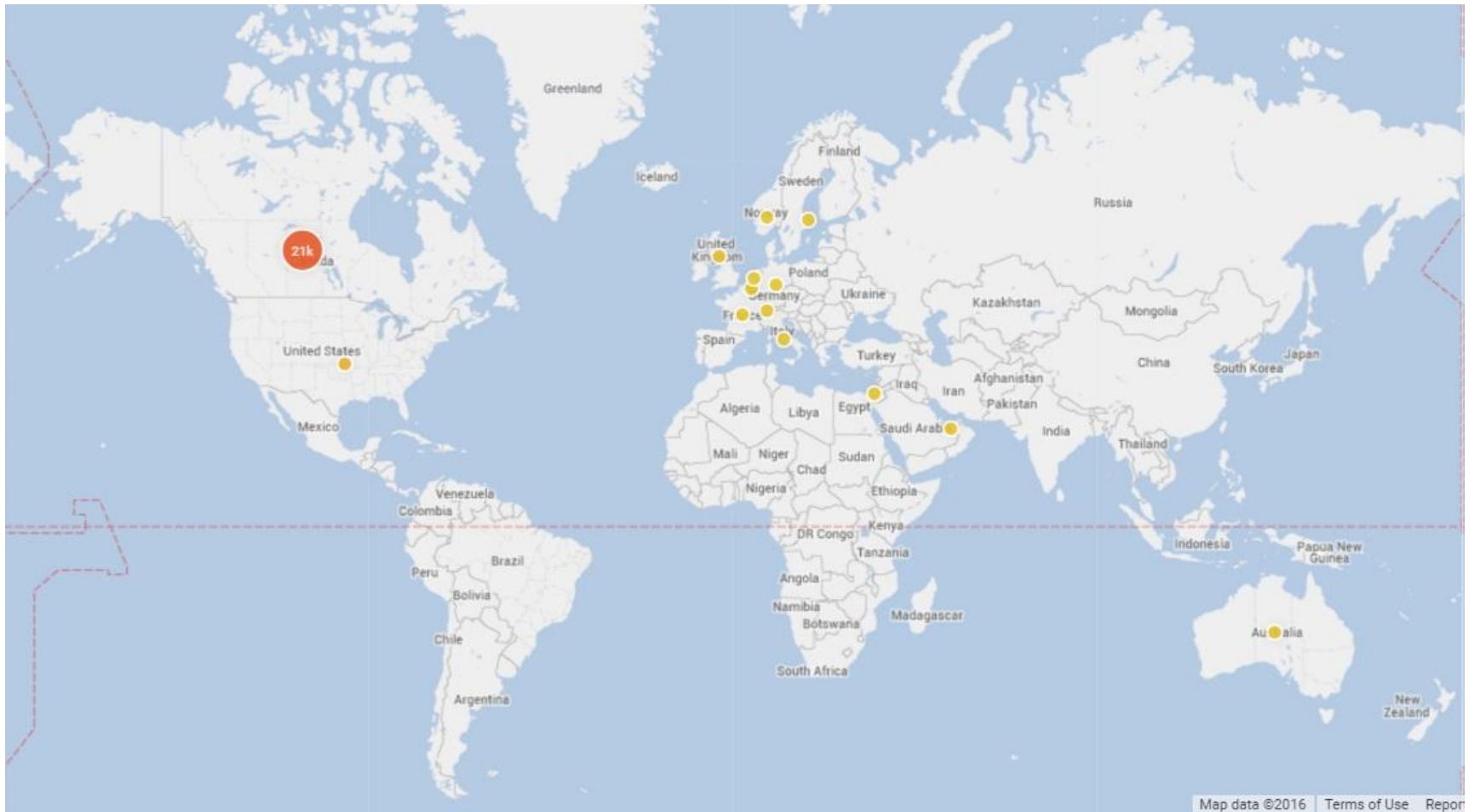
illicit trade spans the globe



sample of repatriations of antiquities, 2006-2015, by country of origin

<http://bit.ly/2d2q4cW>

illicit trade flows South/East to North/West



sample of repatriations of antiquities, 2006-2015, by returning country

<http://bit.ly/2d2q4cW>

asset theft

How much *do* looters, thieves and source-end dealers make?

less than one per cent in Guatemala (Brodie, 1998: 8)

less than one per cent in Nigeria (Brodie, 1998: 8)

less than one per cent in Italy (Brodie, 1998: 7)

less than two per cent in Turkey (Brodie, 1998: 8)

less than one per cent in China (Brodie, 1998: 8)

How much *can* looters, thieves and source-end dealers make?

one dealer in Nigeria bought for 1.5% and sold for 50% (Labi and Robinson, 2001)

one embezzler in China paid an intermediary 33% and kept 67% (Ramzy, 2015)

asset accumulation

How much can networks and gangs make?

in Thailand, one gang had 20,000-30,000 antiquities, of which the first 80 authenticated objects were valued at \$1,500,000 (Bangkok Post, 2014)

in China, another gang had 1,168 antiquities, which were valued at \$80,000,000 (Beijing Times, 2015)

a transnational dealer who specialised in antiquities from India, who also targeted antiquities from Pakistan, Cambodia and Afghanistan, Subhash Kapoor, had 2,622 antiquities, which were valued at \$110,000,000 (Kumar and Daniel, 2015)

a transnational dealer who targeted Italy, Greece and Egypt, Robin Symes, had 17,000 antiquities, which were valued at \$210,000,000 (Watson and Todeschini, 2006: 259)

multi-commodity trafficking

entrepreneurs and networks

antiquities-for-methamphetamine within the USA (Bowman Proulx, 2011)

arms, cannabis and antiquities via Greece (Tsiliopoulos, 2014)

antiquities and cannabis in Greece (Zafiropoulos, 2014)

antiquities and cocaine in Italy (H24 Notizie, 2014)

antiquities, ivory and other endangered wildlife via France (SNDJ, 2016)

gang crime and state crime

antiquities and drugs through Nigeria (Maniscalco, 2006: 57; 70)

antiquities and heroin west, arms east through Bulgaria (Lazarova and Hristov, 2007)

antiquities and drugs through Burma/Myanmar (Chouvy, 2013: 15)

antiquities and heroin west, arms east through Turkey (Hardy, 2015: 335-336)

arms from Turkey for antiquities from Syria (Söylemez, 2015; Taştekin, 2015)

Vietnam

- looted antiquities from Sa Huynh and Cham
- via intermediaries in My Son
- to UNESCO World Heritage site of Old Town of Hoi An
- deliveries every other month
- increasing numbers of antiquities and “souvenir” shops



Vietnam



- \$10: stone and glass beads
- \$70: small bronze bell
- \$80: point of corroded bronze spear
- \$80: fragment of spiral bronze bracelet
- \$250: medium bronze bell

How are looted and stolen antiquities sold?

offline

flea markets

antique shops

art galleries

auction houses

newspaper adverts

private sales

online

local platforms

national platforms

regional (e.g. language) platforms

international platforms

bulletin boards (e.g. for hobbyists)

personal web pages and sites

community web pages and sites

business web pages and sites

dealers

auctioneers

marketplaces

encrypted communications

<http://bit.ly/29TptFY>

hi-tech is basic tech

online trading

massive range of buyers

anonymous activity

difficult-to-monitor

massive low-end trade

massive range of suppliers

higher profits on lower-value goods

auction houses, 1970-2005

Bonhams, Christie's, Sotheby's

149,459 lots in 481 auctions

auction sites, Sept 2008-Dec 2008

antiquities.co.uk, antiquities.com,
coins.co.uk, coins.com

215,641 listings

private trading is invisible, not non-existent

Syria

- **seizures** of millions of dollars' worth of antiquities in Lebanon (Ali und Saoub, 2014; Jaber and Arbuthnott, 2013)
- **open sale** of antiquities in Turkey (Brian Daniels, cited by Kohn, 2014)
- 'unheard of numbers of stolen goods making their way into auction houses' (anonymous British archaeologist, cited by Frenkel, 2014)? No, but...

Egypt

- existing illicit trade in Egyptian antiquities (e.g. IAA, 2012; ICE, 2011; etc.)
- nationwide looting since revolution
- consignment of Egyptian crisis antiquities to **sale via Australian auction house** (Mostafa, 2015)

the business of catastrophe

- denial of the trade would not simply require the trade to *not* exist *despite* the “catastrotunity”, it would require the trade to have *stopped* existing *because of* the unrest
- since **Egyptian crisis antiquities are reaching public markets** in the West, then they must also be reaching private markets in the West
- since Egyptian crisis antiquities are reaching Western markets, then **Syrian conflict antiquities must be reaching Western markets**
- the question is not *if* this is being done, but *who* is doing it and *how*

private online trading

‘Just some Syrian antiquities for sale in a storefront in downtown Chicago.
They take Bitcoin!’ (Ennigaldi-Nanna’s Vault, 20th July 2014)



a guarantee of authenticity



© Mike Giglio and Munzer al-Awad, Buzzfeed, 30th July 2015

openly sold online

Hanson (2011)

- “Mesopotamian” antiquities
- reviewed in 2007
- average price for antiquities with *any* paperwork, \$957
- average price for antiquities with *no* paperwork, \$549
- 57% of “true” market value

Hardy (unpublished)

- “Near Eastern” antiquities
- reviewed in 2014
- average price for antiquities with *any* paperwork, \$3,460
- average price for antiquities with *no* paperwork, \$2,098
- 61% of “true” market value

soil...

Large Terracotta Eye Idol, Tell Brak, Syria, c. 3300 B.C.

(Terracotta Eye Idol)

| | |
|------------------|----------------------|
| Item number: | 24.24465 |
| Item categories: | Near East |
| Size: | 11.5 cm. H. (4 1/2") |
| Price: | US\$ 2500 |

Conical in shape, hollow body, with two large circles at the top representing the eyes. The surface covered with a thick layer of earth patination. Intact, rare. This type of idol was mostly found in one location in the Eastern Mediterranean, a site called Tell Brak, Syria, where a temple was uncovered containing hundreds of these idols in different shapes and forms, mostly broken. This extraordinary find has been widely discussed by scholars; some have connected the figures with the belief in the evil eye and assumed they were amulets against it. The excavator, Sir Max Mallowan, thought it was more the symbol of a specific god that was the protector of eyes, the most precious of our senses. Considering the large number of idols found, one can assume they were votive gifts to the temple.

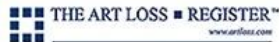
Material : Terracotta

Culture : Syria, c. 3300 B.C.

Condition : Intact, some stress cracks to outer patina.

Provenance: Private collection, Mr. F. Dalol, acquired in the ME in 1973.

** Comes with a certificate from the Art Loss Register:



... more soil...

Tell Brak Basalt Eye Idol, Syria, c. 3500 - 3000 B.C.

(Basalt Eye Idol)

| | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| Item number: | 24.24534 |
| Item categories: | Near East |
| Size: | 8 cm H - 3 1/8" |
| Price: | US\$ 2000 |

Bell-shaped body with domed top surmounted by two protruding circular eyes. Some earth encrustation & patination.

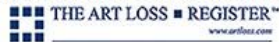
Material : Basalt

Culture : Syria, c. 3300 B.C.

Condition : Intact

Provenance: Previously collection of Mr. A.H., acquired in a London gallery in the 1980s

** Comes with a certificate from the Art Loss Register:



... and saw marks

8963. FINE MESOPOTAMIAN BRONZE BEAKER, ca. 2nd millennium BC. The beaker with wide pinched base and tall curved neck with slightly everted rim, a wonderful solid cast facing head applique of a Mesopotamian deity or hero on the side. 3.75 x 4 inches. Choice example and condition with a fine chestnut and green patina partly under a **thin layer of ancient encrusted soil**. On custom metal stand. Very rare.

ORDER \$6500.



7556. AN EXCEPTIONAL PHOENICIAN BILBIL, ca. 1300-1200 BC. An excellent example of the finest bronze age pottery, this piece would have been used for pouring wine. Grey ware of elegant form with bulbous body and tall neck, it has circular line relief design, doubly incised strap handle, flared rim and footed base. The elegant vessel with spherical body on everted ring base with high neck with everted rim, a single strap handle looping gracefully from the shoulder to the neck, the body ornamented with curving ridges. A larger and much finer example than is normally available. Choice condition with **traces of ancient soil adhering**. Height: 28.5 cm. (11.2"). Weight: ~0.4 kg. (~1 lb.) [Another view.](#)

[Not currently for sale.](#)



6686. AN EXCEPTIONAL LARGE CUNEIFORM PLAQUE. Mesopotamia, c. 3rd-2nd millennium BC. 8.5 x 3.7 inches. **Saw marks on reverse where removed from a wall.** This brick bears an inscription of King Amar-Sune of the Third Dynasty of Ur, 2100-2000 BC. It gives the king's name and a series of epithets, but does not identify the building where it was placed. The book of royal inscriptions would provide all the parallels and fill in the unclear text. Very rare, and an important inscription!

[SOLD.](#)



looting technology

| tools in looting | metal detectors | | | |
|----------------------|-----------------|---------------|-------------|-------------|
| local knowledge | Afghanistan | Austria | Belarus | Bulgaria |
| satellite navigation | Cambodia | China | Cyprus | Czech Rep. |
| publications | Denmark | Egypt | Estonia | Finland |
| public registers | France | Germany | Greece | India |
| metal detectors | Ireland | Isr. and Pal. | Italy | Kosovo |
| probes and augers | Latvia | Lebanon | Lithuania | Moldova |
| disguises | Morocco | Netherlands | New Zealand | Norway |
| diving equipment | Pakistan | Peru | Philippines | Poland |
| portable grids | Romania | Russia | Slovakia | Spain |
| bulldozers | Sweden | Syria | Turkey | Ukraine |
| What else? | UK | USA | Vietnam | Where else? |

metal detecting in Asia

in **Afghanistan**, looters repurposed metal detectors that had been imported for mine-clearing (Bopearachchi, 2006: 270)

Cambodia

in **China**, a gang used metal detectors and other machinery to loot \$80,000,000's worth of antiquities (Beijing Times, 2015)

in **India**, where competition has provoked violence, 200 looting teams use metal detectors to loot sites (Benjamin, 2016)

Israel and Palestine

Pakistan

in **the Philippines**, metal-detecting tourists visit to treasure-hunt (Borchgrevink, 2014: 104, cited by Kelly, 2016: 98; 108n9)

Syria

Turkey

in **Vietnam**, looters imported metal detectors and targeted archaeological excavations at Vườn Chuối (Huffer and Chappell, 2015: 273)

Where else?

open-source data-gathering

existing evidence

- “metal detecting” and “illicit antiquities”;
- “metal detectors” and “illicit antiquities”;
- “metal detecting”, “antiquities” and looting;
- “metal detectors”, “antiquities” and looting;
- “metal detecting” and ethnography;
- “metal detecting” and poll; and
- “metal detecting” and survey

level of activity

- “how long”, metal, detecting and forum;
- “how many hours” and metal detecting (without speech marks);
- “how much time” and “metal detecting”;
- “how often” and “metal detect”;
- and
- “how often” and “metal detecting”

inference of licit and illicit actors

ownership and consumption

- “how many detectors” and “metal detecting”;
- “how many metal detectors” and “metal detecting”;
- the qualifier of “metal detecting” was included to exclude material on security at ports and other checkpoints
- if the sales, imports and exports of detectors are known, the number of detectorists can be estimated

analysis

- derived from and applicable to more affluent Western markets, but...
- based on ownership of 2,322 detectors by 731 detectorists...
- ownership of 3.18 detectors per detectorist
- based on consumption of 167 detectors by 25 detectorists over 530 person-years of detecting...
- consumption of 0.32 detectors per detectorist per year

more open data...

- “50 detectorists”;
- “50 * detectorists”;
- “050 detectorists”;
- “050 * detectorists”;
- “100 detectorists”;
- “100 * detectorists”;
- “150 detectorists”;
- “150 * detectorists”;
- “200 detectorists”;
- “200 * detectorists”;
- “250 detectorists”;
- “250 * detectorists”;
- “300 detectorists”;
- “300 * detectorists”;
- “350 detectorists”;
- “350 * detectorists”;
- “400 detectorists”;
- “400 * detectorists”;
- “450 detectorists”;
- “450 * detectorists”;
- “500 detectorists”;
- “500 * detectorists”;
- “550 detectorists”;
- “550 * detectorists”;

... and more...

- “600 detectorists”;
- “600 * detectorists”;
- “650 detectorists”;
- “650 * detectorists”;
- “700 detectorists”;
- “700 * detectorists”;
- “750 detectorists”;
- “750 * detectorists”;
- “800 detectorists”;
- “800 * detectorists”;
- “850 detectorists”;
- “850 * detectorists”;
- “900 detectorists”;
- “900 * detectorists”;
- “950 detectorists”;
- “950 * detectorists”;
- “000 detectorists”;
- “000 * detectorists”;
- “fifty detectorists”;
- “fifty * detectorists”;
- “hundred detectorists”;
- “hundred * detectorists”;
- “thousand detectorists”;
- “thousand * detectorists”;

... and more...

- “million detectorists”;
- “million * detectorists”;
- “000 detecting” (where the singular form of the term enabled searches to identify references to “detecting hobbyists”, etc.);
- “000 * detecting”;
- “000 detector” (where the singular form of the term enabled searches to identify references to “detector owners”, “detector users”, etc.);
- “000 * detector”;
- “hundred detector”;
- “hundred * detector”;
- “thousand detector”;
- “thousand * detector”;
- “million detector”;
- “million * detector”;
- “hundred treasure hunters”;
- “hundred * treasure hunters”;
- “thousand treasure hunters”;
- “thousand * treasure hunters”;
- “million treasure hunters”;
- “million * treasure hunters”...

Is theft-to-order a myth?

- it has never been proved
 - France's Ministry of Culture, 1974
- it does not happen
 - Los Angeles Police, 1990
 - Art Loss Register, 2004
 - Interpol, 2004
 - Netherlands' Art and Antiques Crime Unit, 2013
- it is a myth
 - Interpol, 2004
 - UK's Art and Antiques Squad, 2007

looting to order, theft on commission

- “loot * order”,
- “looted * order”,
- “looting * order”,
- “order * loot”,
- “order * steal”,
- “order * theft”,
- “ordered * loot”,
- “ordered * looting”,
- “ordered * steal”,
- “ordered * theft”,
- “steal * order”,
- “stole * order”,
- “stolen * order”,
- “theft * order”,
- “to order” and “antiquities”,
- “contracted looter” and “antiquities”,
- “contracted * looter” and “antiquities”,
- “contracted looters” and “antiquities”,
- “contracted * looters” and “antiquities”,
- “contracted robber” and “antiquities” ,

looting to order, theft on commission

- “contracted * robber” and “antiquities”,
- “contracted robbers” and “antiquities”,
- “contracted * robbers” and “antiquities”,
- “contracted thief” and “antiquities”,
- “contracted * thief” and “antiquities”,
- “contracted thieves” and “antiquities”,
- “contracted * thieves” and “antiquities”,
- “contracted grave robber” and “antiquities”,
- “contracted * grave robber” and “antiquities”,
- “contracted grave robbers” and “antiquities”,
- “contracted * grave robbers” and “antiquities”,
- “contracted tomb robber” and “antiquities”,

looting to order, theft on commission

- “contracted * “tomb robber” and “antiquities”,
- “contracted tomb robbers” and “antiquities”,
- “contracted * tomb robbers” and “antiquities”,
- “employed looter” and “antiquities”,
- “employed * looter” and “antiquities”,
- “employed looters” and “antiquities”,
- “employed * looters” and “antiquities”,
- “employed robber” and “antiquities” ,
- “employed * robber” and “antiquities”,
- “employed robbers” and “antiquities”,
- “employed * robbers” and “antiquities”,
- “employed thief” and “antiquities”,

looting to order, theft on commission

- “employed * thief” and “antiquities”,
- “employed thieves” and “antiquities”,
- “employed * thieves” and “antiquities”,
- “employed grave robber” and “antiquities”,
- “employed * grave robber” and “antiquities”,
- “employed grave robbers” and “antiquities”,
- “employed * grave robbers” and “antiquities”,
- “employed tomb robber” and “antiquities”,
- “employed * “tomb robber” and “antiquities”,
- “employed tomb robbers” and “antiquities”,
- “employed * tomb robbers” and “antiquities”,
- “hired looter” and “antiquities”,
- “hired * looter” and “antiquities”,

looting to order, theft on commission

- “hired looters” and “antiquities”,
- “hired * looters” and “antiquities”,
- “hired robber” and “antiquities”
- “hired * robber” and “antiquities”,
- “hired robbers” and “antiquities”,
- “hired * robbers” and “antiquities”,
- “hired thief” and “antiquities”,
- “hired * thief” and “antiquities”,
- “hired thieves” and “antiquities”,
- “hired * thieves” and “antiquities”,
- “hired grave robber” and “antiquities”,
- “hired * grave robber” and “antiquities”,
- “hired grave robbers” and “antiquities”,
- “hired * grave robbers” and “antiquities”,
- “hired tomb robber” and “antiquities”,

looting to order, theft on commission

- “hired * tomb robber” and “antiquities”,
- “hired tomb robbers” and “antiquities”,
- “hired * tomb robbers” and “antiquities”,
- “paid looter” and “antiquities”,
- “paid * looter” and “antiquities”,
- “paid looters” and “antiquities”,
- “paid * looters” and “antiquities”,
- “paid robber” and “antiquities”
- “paid * robber” and “antiquities”,
- “paid robbers” and “antiquities”,
- “paid * robbers” and “antiquities”,
- “paid thief” and “antiquities”,
- “paid * thief” and “antiquities”,
- “paid thieves” and “antiquities”,
- “paid * thieves” and “antiquities”,
- “paid grave robber” and “antiquities”,
- “paid * grave robber” and “antiquities”,

looting to order, theft on commission

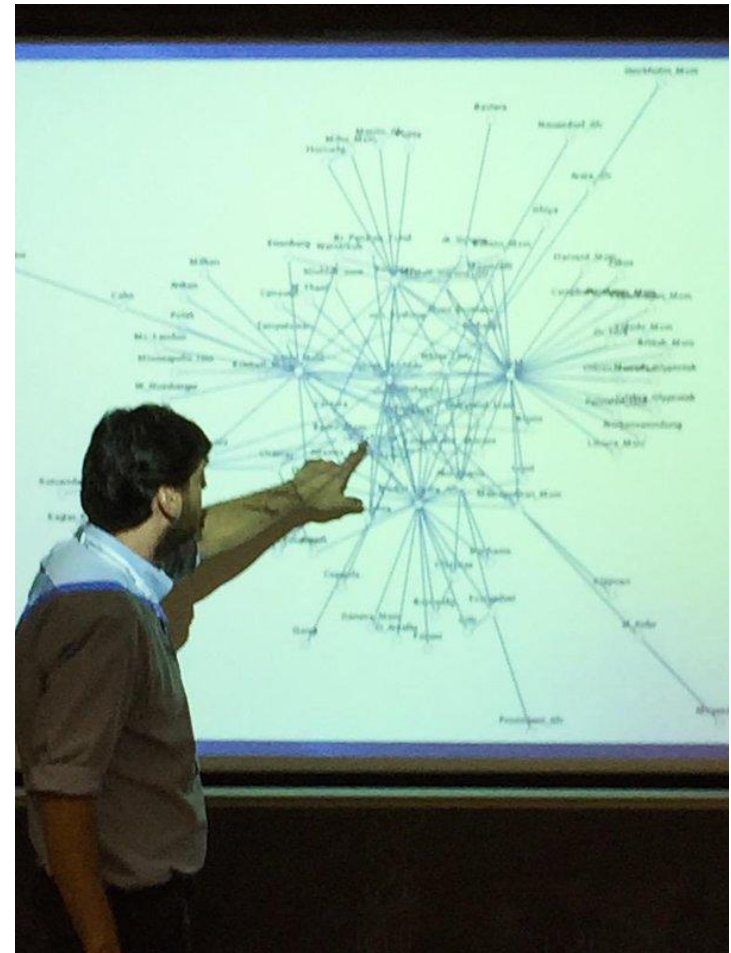
- “paid grave robbers” and “antiquities”,
- “paid * grave robbers” and “antiquities”,
- “paid tomb robber” and “antiquities”,
- “paid * tomb robber” and “antiquities”,
- “paid tomb robbers” and “antiquities” or
- “paid * tomb robbers” and “antiquities”,
- “looting to order”,
- “theft to order”,
- any commodity “stolen to order”

looting to order, theft on commission

| | | | |
|---------------|------------|-----------|----------------------|
| Afghanistan | Argentina | Australia | Belgium |
| Cambodia | China | Cyprus | Denmark |
| Egypt | Finland | France | Germany |
| Guatemala | Honduras | Hungary | India |
| Indonesia | Iran | Iraq | Israel and Palestine |
| Italy | Mali | Mexico | Mongolia |
| Nigeria | Norway | Pakistan | Peru |
| Poland | Portugal | Russia | Slovakia |
| South Africa | Spain | Sweden | Switzerland |
| Syria | Turkey | Ukraine | United Kingdom |
| United States | Uzbekistan | Yemen? | Where else? |

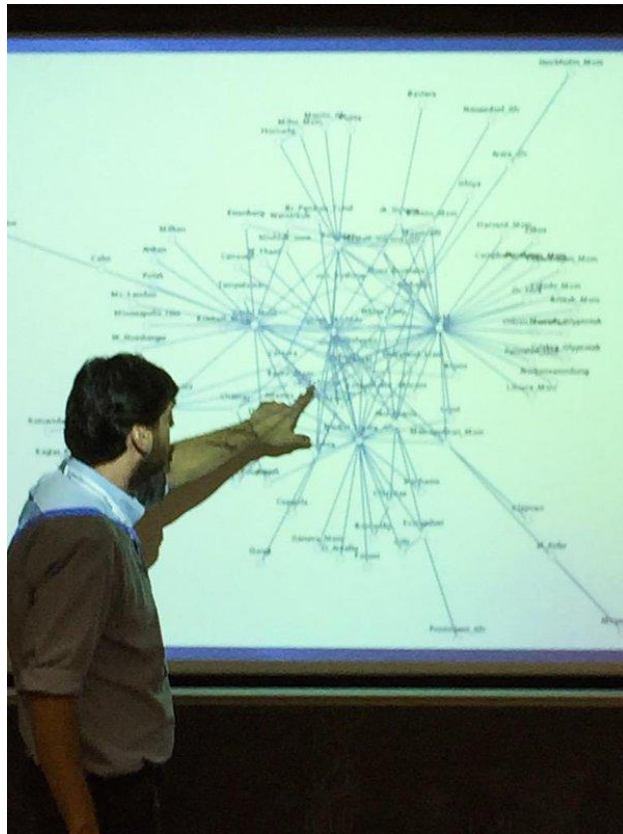
network analysis

- forensic archaeologist Christos Tsirogiannis works with Greek and Italian police
- 1,000+ antiquities matched
- 320+ antiquities recovered
 - J. Paul Getty Museum
 - Metropolitan Museum of Art
 - other collectors, galleries, auction houses and dealers
- \$1m+ antiquities withdrawn from a single auction
- negligence exposed
- criminality exposed



network analysis

researcher Christos Tsirogiannis
(via Jens Notroff, 3rd September 2015)



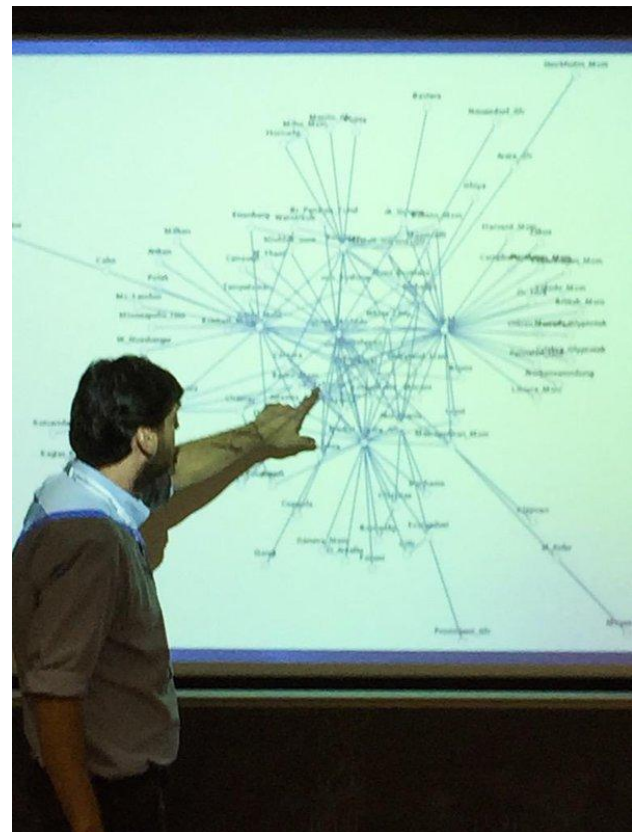
- Works with Greek and Italian police
- ~850 antiquities matched
- ~200 antiquities recovered
 - J. Paul Getty Museum
 - Metropolitan Museum of Art
 - Other collectors, galleries, auction houses and dealers
- \$1m+ antiquities withdrawn from a single auction
- Negligence exposed
- Outright criminality exposed

network analysis

tombarolo Pasquale Camera
(via Carabinieri, 31st August 1995)



researcher Christos Tsirogiannis
(via Jens Notroff, 3rd September 2015)



Constantinos Tsirogiannis and Christos Tsirogiannis, *Uncovering the Hidden Routes*, 2016:

<http://bit.ly/2cB54Ja>

transaction paths

algorithms

- transaction paths between nodes in criminal networks
- missing links in supply lines
- tested with exposed antiquities network's operation, 1972-2001
- identified *most probable* routes and transactions

networks

- directed (flows)
 - Who sold to whom?
- undirected (structures)
 - Who transacted directly?
- “local expansion” by each node's most common receiver
- “maximum weight”, by entire network's most common route
- “shortest path”, by fewest transfers in supply line

missing links

algorithms

- Jaccard Index, for likeliest links, by most common neighbours
- Central Clique, for likeliest links, by most influential nodes

networks

- Central Clique predicted exposed network more closely than Jaccard Index
- undermines assumption of collaboration due to nodes' common friendships
- supports assumption of collaboration due to nodes' power

India Pride Project

problem

- 3,000 reported thefts (1977-1979)
- “only ten” (Greenfield, 1996: 208), 0.33 per cent, of cases were solved
- more than 25,000 artefacts have been stolen from historic and religious sites in the past 30 years

bronze Shiva Nataraja

- from Sripuranthan
- worth \$5,100,000
- exhibited in National Gallery of Australia in Canberra
- identified in archives of French Institute of Pondicherry (IFP)
- Art of the Past gallery manager Aaron Freedman pleaded guilty
- <http://bit.ly/2cBeBQw>

India Pride Project

stone Shiva Ardhanari

- from Vriddhachalam
- worth \$300,000
- exhibited in Art Gallery of New South Wales, Australia
- identified in books and archives of French Institute of Pondicherry (IFP)
- <http://bit.ly/2cNvmXk>

sandstone Yakshi

- from Satna
- worth \$15,000,000
- warehoused by Art of the Past in New York, USA
- identified by official registration documentation
- Art of the Past gallery manager Aaron Freedman pleaded guilty
- <http://bit.ly/2d2mXP5>

India Pride Project

bronze Ganesha

- from Sripuranthan
- worth \$245,000
- exhibited in Toledo Museum, USA
- identified in archives of French Institute of Pondicherry
- <http://bit.ly/2d4is9A>

bronze Uma Parameshwari

- from Sripuranthan
- worth \$650,000
- exhibited in Asian Civilizations Museum in Singapore
- identified by official registration documentation
- Art of the Past gallery manager Aaron Freedman pleaded guilty
- <http://bit.ly/2ciiKs7>

a market for every commodity, a venue for every market

| rank at auction | if it can be sold, it will be looted |
|---|---|
| Egyptian, Greek, Roman | more than 70% of human remains for sale lack any history of ownership (Huffer and Chappell, 2014: 137) |
| sculpture | |
| mosaics, jewellery | 52.6% through online galleries, 37.6% through private dealerships, 9.8% through auction houses (Huffer and Chappell, 2014: 137) |
| ceramics | |
| (Kiel and Tedesco, 2011: 10) | |
| role in trade | |
| millions of coins a year | ‘there’s a whole “community” of buyers, sellers of human remains’, who give full names, phone numbers, online account details ([Huffer and] Graham, 2015) |
| coins are ‘fundamental and lucrative’ (Elkins, 2012: 93) | |
| looters must know ‘about the history of coins to make the most’ (Achilleas, cited by Mackay, 28 th January 2008) | 9,517 posts about trade in human remains on Instagram in December 2015 alone ([Huffer and] Graham, 2016) |

“red market” in human products

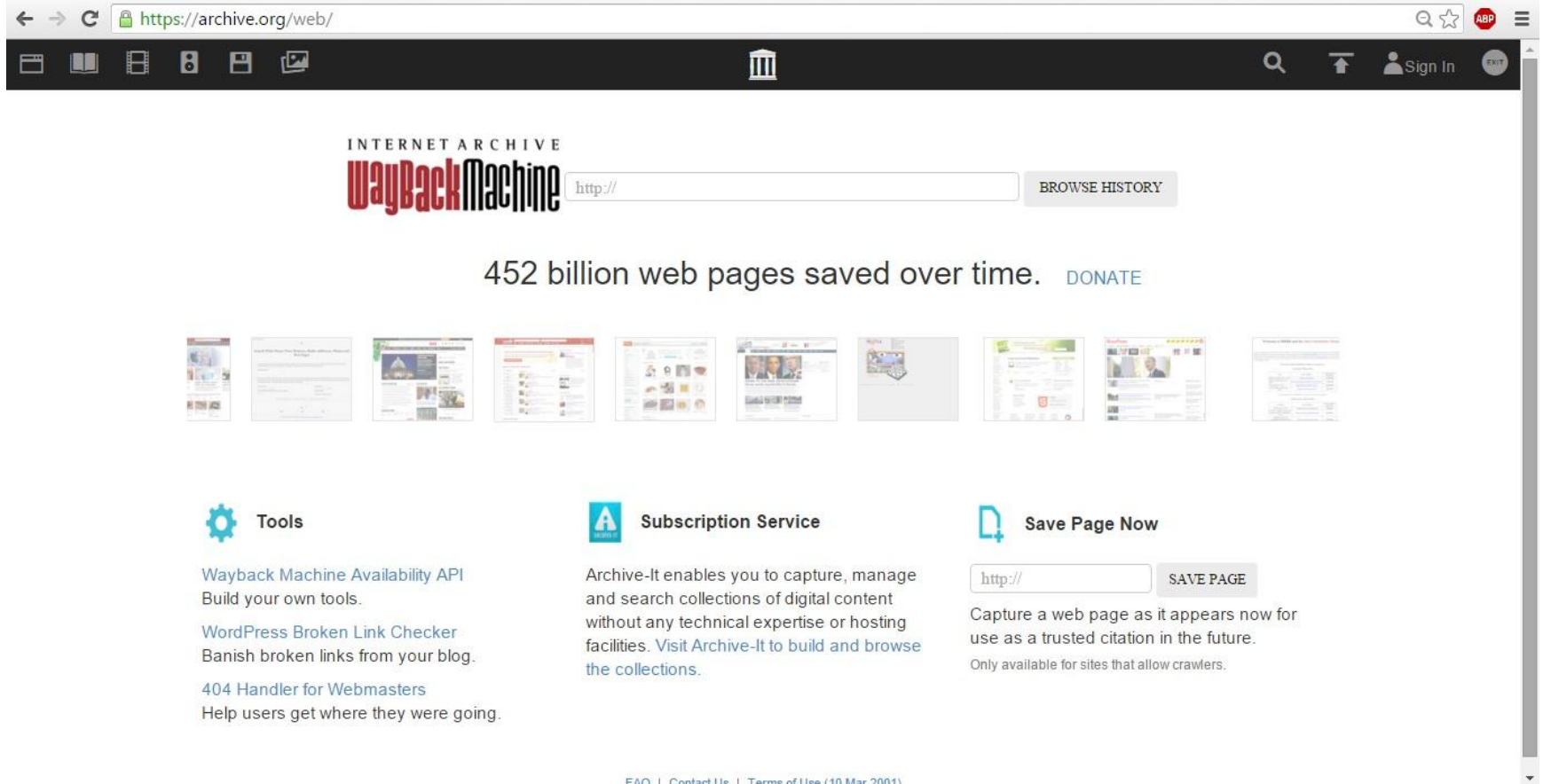
keyword searches

- “human remains”
- “bone”
- “natural bone”
- “skulls”
- “trophy skulls”
- “curios”
- “primitive art”
- source sites
- artefact types
- “Where can I buy...?”

findings

- sources across Asia-Pacific
- potential for laundering via legal export market in Bhutan
- collectors, galleries, dealers and auctioneers in US, UK, France, Germany and elsewhere
- networks, trading and transactions
- trading communities on eBay, Facebook, Instagram, Yahoo forums...

https://archive.org/web/














The screenshot shows the Wayback Machine website. At the top is a browser address bar with the URL 'https://archive.org/web/'. Below the browser bar is a dark navigation bar with icons for various media types (book, film, audio, image, etc.) and a search icon. The main content area features the 'INTERNET ARCHIVE WayBack Machine' logo. To the right of the logo is a search input field containing 'http://' and a 'BROWSE HISTORY' button. Below this, a large text statement reads '452 billion web pages saved over time.' followed by a 'DONATE' link. A horizontal row of ten small thumbnail images of various web pages is displayed below the text. The bottom section of the page is divided into three columns. The first column, titled 'Tools' with a gear icon, lists links for 'Wayback Machine Availability API', 'WordPress Broken Link Checker', and '404 Handler for Webmasters'. The second column, titled 'Subscription Service' with a blue 'A' icon, describes the 'Archive-It' service. The third column, titled 'Save Page Now' with a blue 'D' icon, includes a 'SAVE PAGE' button and a text box for entering a URL.

INTERNET ARCHIVE
WayBack Machine

[BROWSE HISTORY](#)

452 billion web pages saved over time. [DONATE](#)


         

 **Tools**


[Wayback Machine Availability API](#)
Build your own tools.

[WordPress Broken Link Checker](#)
Banish broken links from your blog.

[404 Handler for Webmasters](#)
Help users get where they were going.

 **Subscription Service**

Archive-It enables you to capture, manage and search collections of digital content without any technical expertise or hosting facilities. [Visit Archive-It to build and browse the collections.](#)

 **Save Page Now**

[SAVE PAGE](#)

Capture a web page as it appears now for use as a trusted citation in the future.
Only available for sites that allow crawlers.

[FAQ](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Terms of Use \(10 Mar 2001\)](#)

copy the address of the page

en.unesco.org/syrian-observatory/emergency-safeguarding-syrian-cultural-heritage-project

English Français العربية UNESCO.org Login

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization ABOUT US THEMES COUNTRIES PARTNERSHIPS JOIN US RESOURCES

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Funded by the European Union OBSERVATORY OF SYRIAN CULTURAL HERITAGE

Background Damage Assessment Initiatives Statements and Decisions Partners Videos

Background > The Emergency Safeguarding of the Syrian Cultural Heritage project

The Emergency Safeguarding of the Syrian Cultural Heritage project

The European Union funded project aims to provide an operational response to halt the on-going loss of cultural heritage and prepare post-conflict priority actions in Syria.

What are the objectives of the project?

The main objectives of the **Emergency Safeguarding of the Syrian Cultural Heritage project** is to contribute to restoring social cohesion, stability and sustainable development through the protection and safeguarding of cultural heritage in view of the on-going and growing destruction and loss of Syria's rich and unique cultural heritage.

The project is a first step to monitor the damage and loss of cultural heritage, to mitigate its destruction, and to prepare post-conflict priority actions, as well as establish medium and long term actions to restore normalcy and social cohesion in the country.

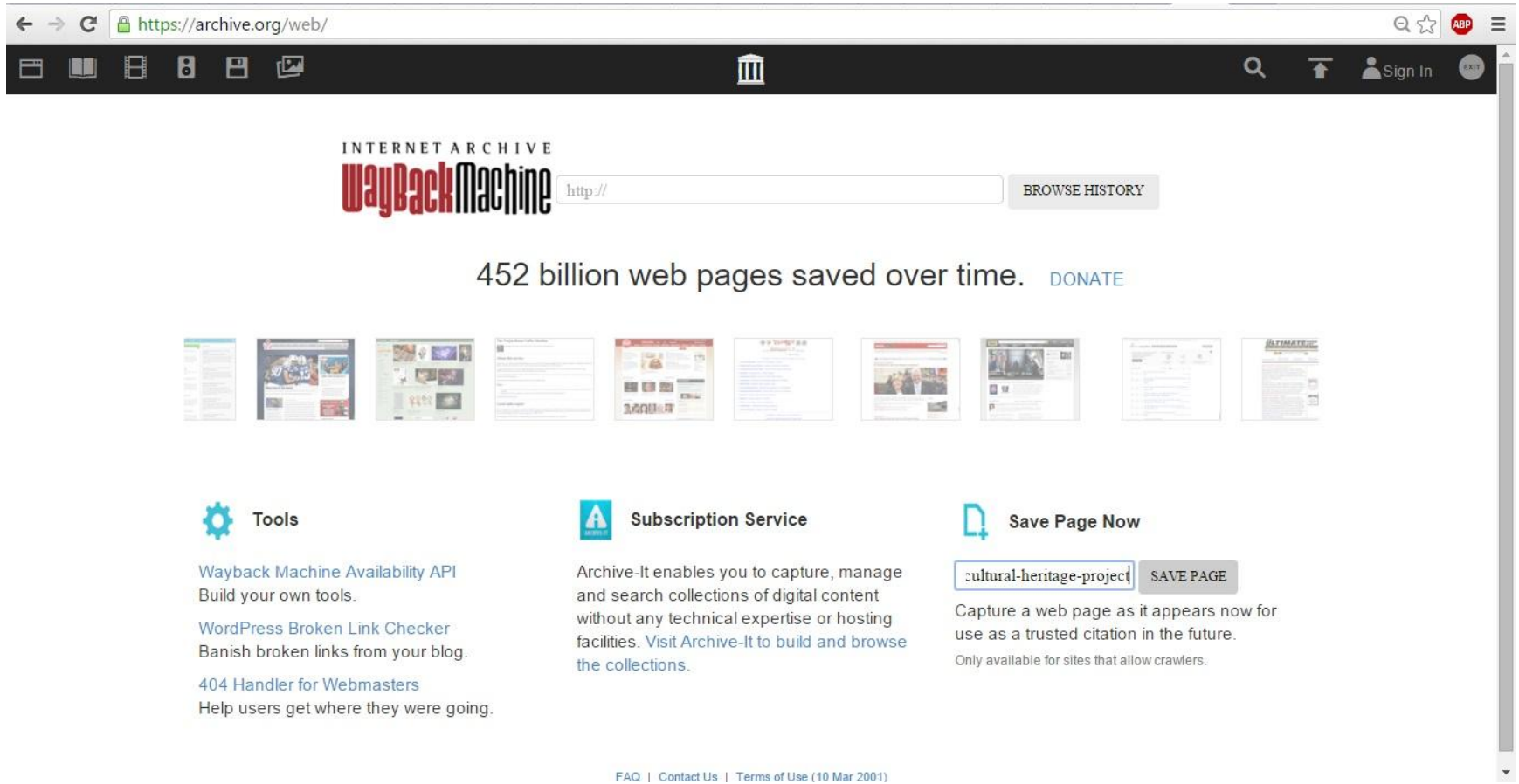
INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERS

ICCROM

ICOMOS
international council on monuments and sites

f g+ Twitter B YouTube RSS

paste it and click “save page”



The screenshot shows the Wayback Machine website in a web browser. The address bar displays <https://archive.org/web/>. The page features the Internet Archive WayBack Machine logo, a search bar with the text "http://", and a "BROWSE HISTORY" button. Below the logo, it states "452 billion web pages saved over time." with a "DONATE" link. A row of ten thumbnail images of various web pages is displayed. The page is divided into three main sections: "Tools", "Subscription Service", and "Save Page Now".

Tools

- Wayback Machine Availability API
Build your own tools.
- WordPress Broken Link Checker
Banish broken links from your blog.
- 404 Handler for Webmasters
Help users get where they were going.

Subscription Service

Archive-It enables you to capture, manage and search collections of digital content without any technical expertise or hosting facilities. Visit [Archive-It](#) to build and browse the collections.

Save Page Now

Capture a web page as it appears now for use as a trusted citation in the future.
Only available for sites that allow crawlers.

[FAQ](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Terms of Use \(10 Mar 2001\)](#)

archive evidence of suspect activity

Internet Archive Wayback Machine

https://web.archive.org/web/20151130232431/http://en.unesco.org/syrian-observatory/emergency-safeguarding-syrian-cultural-heritage-project

1 captures 30 Nov 15 - 30 Nov 15

Go

OCT NOV DEC 2014 2015 2016

Close X Help ?

English Français العربية

UNESCO.org Login

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

ABOUT US THEMES COUNTRIES PARTNERSHIPS JOIN US RESOURCES

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

Funded by the European Union

OBSERVATORY OF SYRIAN CULTURAL HERITAGE

Background Damage Assessment Initiatives Statements and Decisions Partners Videos

Background > The Emergency Safeguarding of the Syrian Cultural Heritage project

The Emergency Safeguarding of the Syrian Cultural Heritage project

The European Union funded project aims to provide an operational response to halt the on-going loss of cultural heritage and prepare post-conflict priority actions in Syria.

What are the objectives of the project?

The main objectives of the **Emergency Safeguarding of the Syrian Cultural Heritage project** is to contribute to restoring social cohesion, stability and sustainable development through the protection and safeguarding of cultural heritage in view of the on-going and growing destruction and loss of Syria's rich and unique cultural heritage.

INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERS

ICCROM

ICOMOS
international council on monuments and sites

f g+ B e u You Tube

alternative archives

image

- good
 - easy to take
 - easy to share
- bad
 - difficult to make complete records
 - easy to manipulate
 - difficult to use data
 - lacking in metadata, links...

text

- good
 - easy to make
 - easy to share
 - possible to search data
- bad
 - difficult to preserve format and structure of source
 - easy to manipulate
 - copyright for public archiving

let them do (some of) the hard work for you

dances with badgers

Superhero Member



☐ Offline

Posts: 5121



detecting in turkey ? o.k or not ?

« on: February 07, 2011, 11:07:52 AM »

alrighty peeps.i might be going back to turkey in may.the last time i went i didn't take a detector because i was told it was illegal,but i met a guy recently from the rhondda club who said it was o.k and he found a lot of gold rings there.has anyone of you lot detected there? cheers peeps 😊



Logged

if music be the food of love ,sing me a trifle.

2012 WITH ETRAC,PULSEPOWER GOLDSCAN MK2 and SOVEREIGN ELITE
gold = loads lol

dances with badgers, Detecting Wales, 7th February 2011

“How do I know they are not trawling the net for keywords?”



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL www.treasurequestxlt.com/community/index.php?threads/greece-is-driving-me-nuts.4124/#post-23615. The browser's address bar and search bar are visible. The forum post is titled "Detecting Greas in June" and is authored by "busytire01", a new member who joined on March 31, 2009. The post content discusses the author's concerns about their detector being confiscated by customs officials while they are in Greece in June. The post is the 13th in the thread.

Detecting Greas in June

So I am going to Greas in June and I want to bring my detector and have been told its OK. But now Im getting a little paranoid thinking that it will be confiscated and the customs officials will be using my detector to hunt for goodies. Because of that I will not be using the correct spelling of the country or my detector. How do I know they are not trolling the net for keywords looking for info, ready to grab someones stuff. I think I should get insurance just in case they nab my detector. Arghh like im not stressed enough.

busytire01
New Member

Joined: Mar 31, 2009
Messages: 6
Likes Received: 0

busytire01, May 24, 2009 #13


busytire01, TreasureQuest, 24th May 2009

Opsec or open data?

www.treasurequestxt.com/community/index.php?threads/greece-is-driving-me-nuts.4124/

Search

☆ | 📄 | ⬇ | 🏠 | 😊 | 📧 | 🔴



blauwmarc
New Member

Joined: Jul 10, 2006
Messages: 20
Likes Received: 7
Occupation: primary school
Location: Venlo, Netherlands

Tried to get some info about metaldetecting in Greece. Next week I'll be on vacation at a greek island -Lesvos- for a week. First the internet: it's allowed, its not allowed, its allowed, its not allowed. Who's right:banghead: ?

Then I asked at a local greek restaurant to call the Lesvos island police, answer:... it's not allowed! Then I've got a mail from a greek (Opel GT-)forum member. He also called for me to the same policestation on Lesvos. Guess what: they told him it's allowed on the beach.....alcoholic

Soon they're coming to take me away with their clean white shirts. It's called insanity I believe.

I still have 5 days to find out who's right. But the greek police are no softies, you go to jail for some years when you search on the wrong place, they told. Who's they? All the people who say: its allowed, its not allowed, its allowed, its not allowed...

Anyone has experience with Greece?

blauwmarc, Jul 14, 2006

#1

blauwmarc, TreasureQuest, 14th July 2006

... like your own username?



busytire01, Friendly Metal Detecting Forum, 7th August 2006

Public advert for private sale?

Hamas (via APA, 2014)



thn87 (on eBay, 2014)



I need a challenge

www.ebay.com/itm/290993166311

Sign in or register | Daily Deals | Sell | Customer Support

My eBay

Shop by category


All Categories

Back to home page | Listed in category: Antiques > Antiquities > Greek

This listing was ended by the seller because the item is no longer available.

1500 Year Old Greek Statue Found in Mediterranean Sea

[See original listing](#)



Item condition: --

Ended: Oct 15, 2013 17:03:36 PDT

Starting bid: **US \$500,000.00** [0 bids]

Shipping: Free Local Pickup

Item location: Gaza, Israel

Seller: [thn87](#) (63 ★) | [Seller's other items](#)

[Sell one like this](#)

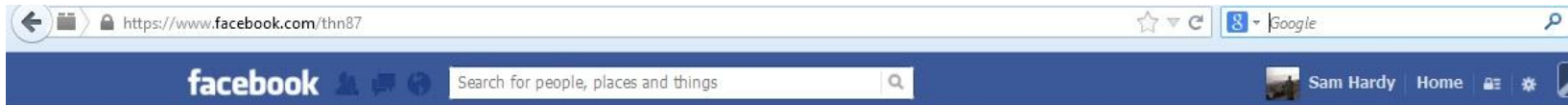
[Facebook](#) [Twitter](#) [Pinterest](#)

Description

Seller assumes all responsibility for this listing.

eBay item

this isn't good enough



Sorry, this page isn't available

The link you followed may be broken, or the page may have been removed.



[Go back to the previous page](#) · [Go to the Facebook homepage](#) · [Visit the Help Centre](#)

[Chat](#)

conflict antiquities

State crime since 1860

| | | | |
|----------------|---------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| British Empire | French Empire | 8-Nation Coalition | Japanese Empire |
| Ottoman Empire | Soviet Union | (Civil War Spain) | Nazi Empire |
| Where else? | | | |

Victim communities since 1949

| | | | |
|-------------|----------------|---------------|----------------------|
| Afghanistan | Argentina | Bulgaria | Cambodia |
| Cuba | Cyprus | DRC | East Timor |
| Germany | Iraq | Ireland | Israel and Palestine |
| Lebanon | Libya | Mali | Nigeria |
| Pakistan | Somalia | South Ossetia | Sri Lanka |
| Syria | Thailand | Tibet | Turkey |
| Ukraine | United Kingdom | Vietnam | Yemen |
| Where else? | | | |

forensic evidence



© Mehmet Nuri Ekinci, Fırat News Agency, 3rd June 2015

Has Avrat (3rd June 2015)



Has Avrat
@hasavrat



Following

cc: @conflictantiq Photo from YPG forces items/ documents captured from ISIS. Noticed book with ancient coins.



RETWEETS
14

LIKES
8



5:40 PM - 3 Jun 2015

Hardy (4th June 2015)

YPG confiscated a numismatic(?) book from Turkish Islamic State fighters in Syria. Do you recognise it?

When Mehmet Nuri Ekinci reported that Kurdish People's Defence Units (YPG) had conducted an operation against Turkish Islamic State fighters in Syria, he published photographs of confiscated equipment, and @hasavrat noticed that it included a book that documented ancient coins. [There is an [update](#) on all three books.]



'New documents unravel ISIS-Turkish state cooperation'
(c) Mehmet Nuri Ekinci, Ajansa Nüçeyan a Fıratê (ANF), 3rd June 2015

Peter Karl Tompa (5th June 2015)

FRIDAY, JUNE 5, 2015

ISIS HAD A BOOK WITH PICTURES OF COINS IN IT!

Yesterday, the archaeological blogosphere and twitterdom whipped itself up into a minor frenzy over of an image of a page from a book that Kurdish fighters evidently seized from ISIS that included a picture of some ancient coins.

The implication of course is that this image is somehow hard "proof" that ISIS is funding itself with conflict antiquities, specifically ancient coins. Indeed, we are informed, "[The book] might help us to identify which ancient coins the Islamic State is handling (or expecting to handle). Thereby, it might help us to trace how the Islamic State is funding itself through the trafficking of conflict antiquities."

Ute Wartenberg Kagan (11th July 2015)

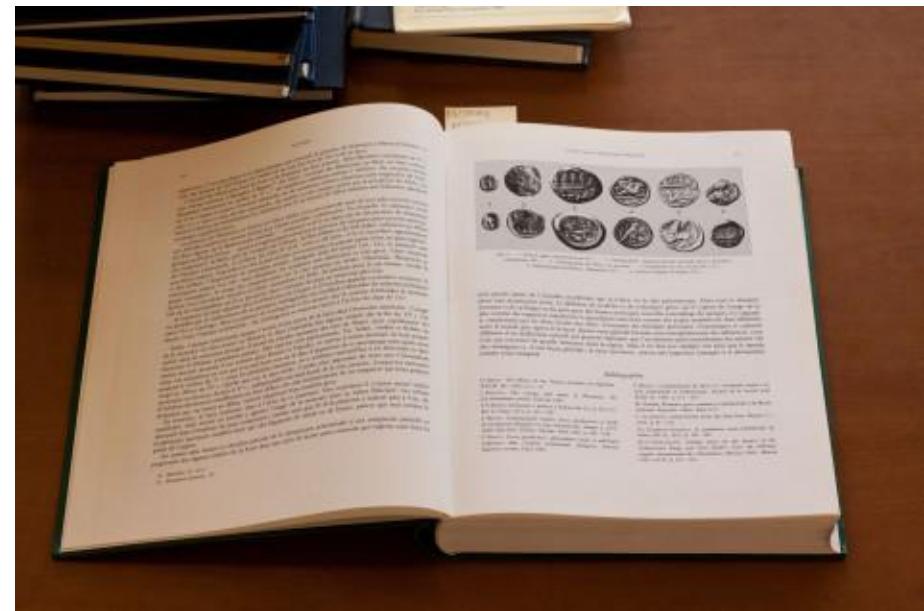
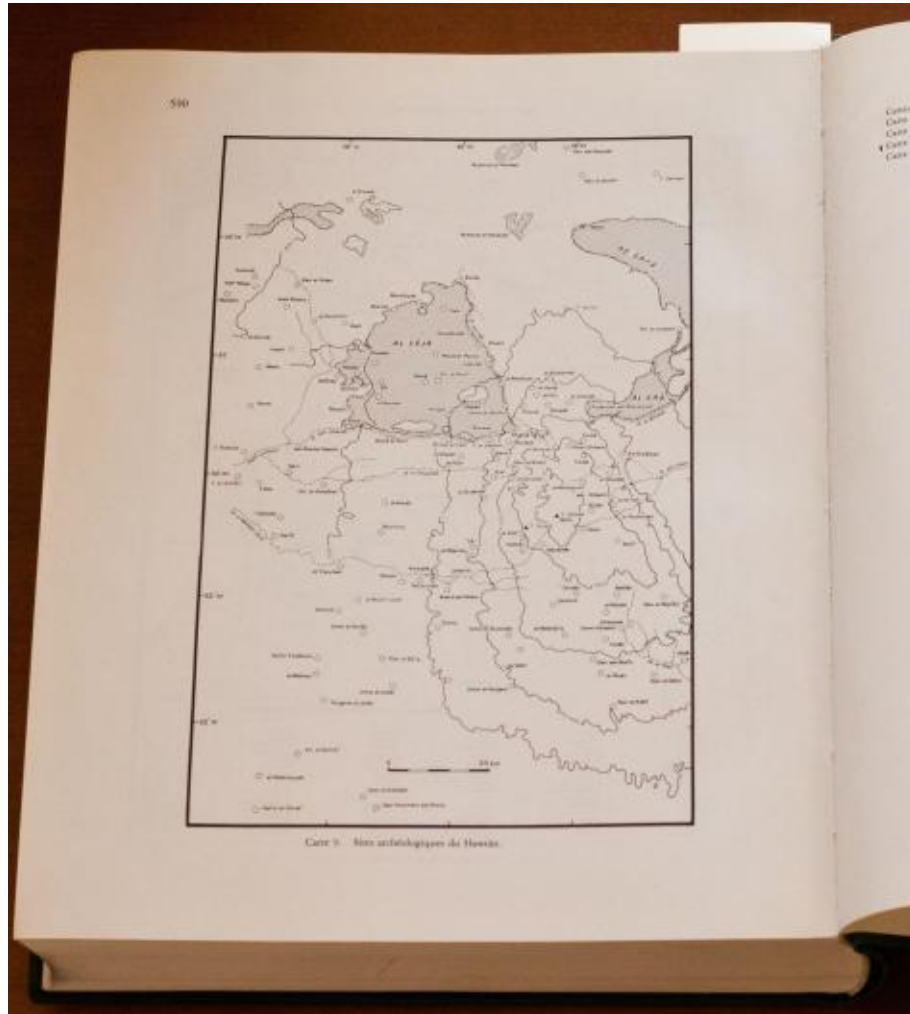


Ar-Raqqa Museum

After my last post identifying the *Archéologie et Histoire de la Syrie* (1989) as the volume confiscated from ISIS fighters, Professor Winfried Orthmann, one of the editors of this German collection of essays on the archaeology of Syria, sent me an email. He informed me that he had sent a copy of the book to the director of antiquities at the [Ar-Raqqa Museum](#). It is also possible that he had an additional copy of the book. Raqqa, a city in the Euphrates River in the northern region of Syria, has been a stronghold of ISIS for a while, and the looting of its museum has been widely online (see, for example, [this](#) and [this](#)). In any event, it is certainly possible that this relatively rare academic volume seen in the photos was one of the copies from the Ar-Raqqa Museum.

l'Archeologie et Histoire de la Syrie

(Orthmann and Dentzer, 1989)



Die Pyramiden (Verner, 1998)



Another German-language book on Egyptology





**A 650-year-old Ottoman plaque ‘looted’ from a
‘Syrian shrine’?**

© Tulli via Yle Uutiset, 5th June 2015



**A 120-year-old Persian tile that may have been
made for export...**

© Tulli via International Business Times, 5th June 2015

conflict antiquities investigations

| | |
|--|--|
| geolocation of suspects | identification of facilitators |
| organisational allegiances | organisational alliances |
| organisational activities (e.g. looting, theft, forgery) | routes and/or methods of smuggling of people and arms as well as antiquities |
| complexity of organisation | capacity of organisation |
| easier prosecution of serious organised criminals and armed groups | protection of economically-significant markets (despite themselves) |
| reduction in financing for conflict | reduction in financing for terrorism |

**A problem shared is a problem
halved**

samarkeolog@gmail.com