



RedList
Κόκκινη Λίστα
ICOM



RED LIST OF GREEK CULTURAL OBJECTS AT RISK



RED LIST

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Why a Red List for Greece?

The cultural heritage of Greece is protected by strong national and international laws, but this diverse heritage remains at risk of being stolen, looted, or illegally traded. The purpose of the *Red List of Greek Cultural Objects at Risk* is to contribute to the protection of cultural heritage by identifying the type of objects that are most at risk.

Museums, auction houses, art dealers and collectors are urged not to acquire objects like those presented in this Red List, without having carefully and thoroughly researched their origin and all relevant legal documentation. Any cultural artefact that could have originated from Greece should be subject to detailed scrutiny and precautionary measures before a transaction is concluded.

In cooperation with ICOM Greece and a dedicated team of specialists in Greece, ICOM has published this *Red List of Greek Cultural Objects at Risk* thanks to the support of the Hellenic Ministry of Culture.

Protecting cultural heritage

Every day, somewhere in the world, objects are stolen, looted, or illegally sold on the market and online, resulting in an irreparable loss of heritage of great historical, scientific and societal value. Over the past 30 years, the illicit trade in art and antiquities has become a serious issue that transcends borders and whose impact reaches far beyond the loss of cultural heritage.

Since 2000, ICOM has published Red Lists that detail categories of endangered cultural objects from all over the world. These Red Lists have become important instruments in the fight against the illicit traffic of cultural heritage. Red Lists are practical tools that help art and heritage professionals, as well as law enforcement officials, to identify cultural objects that are protected by national and international legislation.

The ICOM Red Lists were preceded by the *One Hundred Missing Objects* series: an ICOM publication that highlighted missing cultural objects. For decades, ICOM has been at the forefront of actions to protect heritage from illicit trafficking, using the unique experience of museum professionals to assist heritage and non-heritage experts alike identify and protect cultural heritage.

Should you suspect that a cultural object originating from Greece may be stolen, looted or illegally exported, contact your local authorities. Should you require further information or assistance, please contact:

International Council of Museums (ICOM)
15, rue Lasson - 75012 Paris - France
Tel.: +33 (0)1 47 34 05 00
E-mail: illicit-traffic@icom.museum

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15 Agion Asomaton str., Athens 10553, Attica
Greece
Tel.: +30 210 32 39 414
E-mail: icom@otenet.gr

Hellenic Ministry of Culture
Directorate of Documentation and Protection
of Cultural Goods
33 Agion Asomaton str., Athens 10553, Attica
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Tel.: +30 210 32 38 877
Email: dtpa@culture.gr

IMPORTANT NOTE

A Red List is NOT a list of actual stolen objects.

The cultural goods depicted are catalogued objects of museum collections and constitute public property of the State. They serve to illustrate the categories of cultural goods protected by legislation which are most vulnerable to illicit traffic.

Main regulations protecting cultural heritage in Greece

This list is non-exhaustive. All instruments and regulations should be read to include eventual amendments and/or implementation acts.

INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS

The Hague *Convention of 14 May 1954 for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict.*

Ratification 8 January 1981

First Protocol of 14 May 1954

Ratification 8 January 1981

Second Protocol of 26 March 1999

Ratification 22 February 2005

UNESCO *Convention of 14 November 1970 on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property.*

Ratification 29 December 1980

UNESCO *Convention of 16 November 1972 Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage.*

Ratification 10 February 1981

UNIDROIT *Convention of 24 June 1995 on Stolen or Illegally Exported Cultural Objects.*

Ratification 23 June 2005

EUROPEAN INSTRUMENTS

The Council of Europe *Convention on the Protection of Archaeological Heritage of Valetta, 16 January 1992.*

Ratification 19 August 2005

The Council of Europe *Convention on Offenses relating to Cultural Property of Nicosia, 3 May 2017.*

Ratification 4 November 2020

NATIONAL LEGISLATION

Law 4858/2021 *Ratifying the Code of Legislation on the Protection of Antiquities and Cultural Heritage in General (2021).*

Law 3658/2008

on Measures for the Protection of Cultural Objects (2008).

Law 3028/2002

on the Protection of Antiquities and Cultural Heritage in General (2002).

The current legislation describes certain categories of cultural goods considered to be monuments (all artefacts dating up to 1453 and objects that constitute a find from excavation or have been removed from an immovable monument, as well as icons and liturgical objects dating up to 1830). It also provides that any cultural good can be classified as a monument with an *ad hoc* decision of the Minister of Culture on account of its social, technical, folk, ethnological, artistic, architectural, industrial, or general historical or scientific significance.

EUROPEAN UNION REGULATIONS

Directive 2014/60/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 May 2014 *on the return of cultural objects unlawfully removed from the territory of a Member State.*

Council Regulation (EC) No 116/2009 of 18 December 2008 *on the export of cultural goods.*

Regulation (EU) 2019/880 of the European parliament and of the Council of 17 April 2019 *on the introduction and the import of cultural goods.*

ICOM wishes to thank all of the museums and institutions who so generously provided the photographs presented in this Red List of Greek Cultural Objects at Risk.

All institutions are credited in the captions with their acronyms. Please see their full institutional names and acronyms in the following list:

AMTh: Archaeological Museum of Thessaloniki

BCM: Byzantine and Christian Museum

DML: Diachronic Museum of Larissa

EUA: Ephorate of Underwater Antiquities

HAM: Heraklion Archaeological Museum

HNAM: Hellenic National Archaeological Museum

NM: Numismatic Museum

MBC: Museum of Byzantine Culture

MMGC: Museum of Modern Greek Culture

TIMELINE OF PERIODS

Prehistoric Times

Early Neolithic period (6500-5600 BC)

Middle Neolithic period (5600-5300 BC)

Late Neolithic period (5300-4500 BC)

Final Neolithic period (4500-3200 BC)

Early Bronze Age (Cycladic culture) (3200-2100 BC)

Middle Bronze Age (2100-1600 BC)

Late Bronze Age (Mycenaean culture) (1600-1100 BC)

Historical Times

Geometric period (1100-700 BC)

Archaic period (700-490/480 BC)

Classical period (490/480-323 BC)

Hellenistic period (323-31 BC)

Roman period (31 BC-330 AD)

Early Byzantine period (330-842 AD)

Middle Byzantine period (842-1204 AD)

Late Byzantine period (1204-1453 AD)

Post Byzantine period (1453-1830 AD)

Modern period (after 1830 AD)

RED LIST OF GREEK CULTURE

THE RED LIST INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES AND SUB-CATEGORIES:

Sculptures

ca. 6500 BC - 5th century AD

Statues and figurines: representing humans and animals in stone, marble, clay and metal. [1–8]



1. Statue representing a naked youth (kouros), marble, Anavyssos, Attica, ca. 530 BC, 194 x 54 x 50 cm. © HNAM

2. Statuette of Aphrodite, marble, Chaeroneia, Boeotia, Central Greece, late 2nd century BC, 51 x 18 x 11.5 cm. © HNAM

3. Female figurine, clay, Platykampos, Larissa, Thessaly, Early-Middle Neolithic period 6500-5300 BC, 12.4 x 4.75 x 3 cm. © DML

4. Female figurine (Cycladic type), marble, Phourni, Crete, Early-Middle Bronze Age 2300-1900 BC, 21.8 x 9.1 x 1.8 cm. © HAM

5. Mycenaean figurines representing humans and animals, clay, Mycenae, Nauplion and Prosymna, Peloponnese, 12th-11th century BC, 9-12 x 4.8-12.2 x 2.5-6.7 cm (variable). © HNAM

6. Horse figurine, bronze, Pherai, Thessaly, late 8th century BC, 6 x 5.3 x 1.5 cm. © HNAM

7. Griffin bust element (from a cauldron), bronze, Ancient Olympia, Peloponnese, ca. 640 BC, 35 x 14 cm. © HNAM

8. Female figurine (Tanagraia type), clay, Tanagra, Boeotia, Central Greece, ca. 200 BC, 19 x 6 cm. © HNAM

Terracotta female and male busts: from sanctuaries, settlements and graves. (6th - 2nd/early 1st century BC). [9]

Votive and funerary reliefs: votive marble reliefs dedicated to sanctuaries; funerary reliefs used as tombstones. (6th century BC - late 3rd century AD). [10–11]



9. Female bust, terracotta, Derveni/Lete, Thessaloniki, late 4th - early 3rd century BC, 27.3 x 22.3 x 7 cm. © AMTh

10. Votive relief with banquet scene, marble, Old Phaleron, Attica, ca. 350 BC, 53 x 58 x 9 cm. © HNAM

11. Attic funerary lekythos with a relief scene, marble, Athens, 420-410 BC, 110 x Ø 40 cm. © HNAM

Vessels - Sarcophagi

6th millennium BC - mid-15th century AD

Vessels: variously shaped with different uses in marble, clay, bronze, glass; plain or decorated; hand- and wheel-made. [12–17]



12. Cycladic necked jar, marble, Paros, Cyclades, 3200-2800 BC, 12.5 x Ø max. 10.6 cm. © HNAM

13. Stirrup jar, clay, Kopreza, Attica, 13th century BC, 11.6 x Ø max. 11.2 cm. © HNAM

14. Large calyx-krater, bronze, Sevaste, Pieria, Macedonia, ca. 340-330 BC, 60.5 x Ø max. 40.3 cm. © AMTh

TURAL OBJECTS AT RISK



15

15. Oil lamps, clay, Thessaloniki region, early 5th century BC-4th century AD, 3-9.5 x 8-17 cm (variable). © AMTh



16

16. Thasian amphora from the Polyaios shipwreck, clay, marine deposits, late 5th-early 4th century BC, 58 x Ø max. 33.5 cm. © EUA



17

17. Bowl with a representation of a bird, glazed clay, Thessaloniki, 13th-14th century AD, 8.4 x Ø 14.6 cm. © MBC

White ground lekythoi: decorated with funerary scenes depicting relatives of the deceased visiting the grave monument (ca. 470-400 BC). [18]

Black-figure and red-figure pottery: black-figure pottery shows figures drawn in glossy black pigment (ca. 700-530 BC); Red-figure pottery figures are red with black background (late 6th-late 4th century BC). Both categories are decorated with scenes from mythology, religion, theatre, everyday life. [19-20]

Sarcophagi (larnaces): chest- or bathtub-shaped, in clay painted with floral motifs, marine animals (stylised octopodes and fish), human or mythical figures, and death scenes (14th-12th centuries BC). [21]



18

18. Attic white ground lekythos, clay, Eretria, Euboea Island, 500-450 BC, 40 x Ø max. 11 cm. © HNAM



19

19. Attic black-figure calyx krater, clay, Pharsala, Thessaly, ca. 530 BC, 38 x Ø max. 41 cm. © HNAM



20

20. Attic red-figure pelike, clay, Athens, 440-430 BC, 35.7 x Ø max. 27.5 cm. © HNAM



21

21. Larnax [chest-shaped coffin], clay with painted decoration, Vassilika, Anogia, Crete, ca.1300 BC, 103 x 86 x 42 cm. © HAM

Architectural Elements

2nd millennium BC - 20th century AD

Frescoes, marble capitals, marble decorative reliefs (2nd millennium BC – 19th century AD); marble skylights (18th-20th century AD), carved wood and/or painted sanctuary doors. [22-26]



22

22. Fragment of a fresco with a military Saint, mortar, Church of Saint Nicholas, Euboea Island, end of 13th century AD, 48 x 42.5 x 5 cm. © BCM



23

23. Fragment of a door frame, marble, Thessaloniki, late 5th-early 6th century AD, 72 x 40 x 10 cm. © MBC



24

24. Closure slab with griffins on either side of the Tree of Life, marble, Thessaloniki, 10th century AD, 110 x 70 x 7 cm. © MBC



25

25. Skylight with carved bird, marble, Tinos, Cyclades, 1750-1800 AD, 73 x 101 x 3.5 cm. © MMGC



26

26. Sanctuary doors with Saint Basil and Saint Charalambos, egg tempera and gilding on carved wood, Thessaloniki, 18th century AD, 26 x 68 x 9.6 cm. © MBC



RED LIST OF GREEK CUL

Armour

Early Bronze Age (ca. 3300 BC) - mid-15th century AD

Defensive and offensive objects in bronze or iron, including helmets, breastplates, shins, shields, weapons such as swords, knives, daggers, spearheads, arrowheads, lead sling bullets. [27–28]



27



28

27. "Illyrian" helmet decorated with bands of gold, bronze, Nea Philadelphia, Thessaloniki, late 6th century BC, 24 x 21 x 4 cm. © AMTh

28. Spear head, iron, Nea Philadelphia, Thessaloniki, ca. 500 BC, 27.5 x 3.7 cm. © AMTh

Numismatics - Sigillography

6th century BC - mid-15th century AD

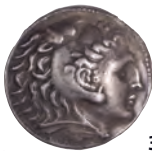
Ancient Greek, Roman, Byzantine, and Medieval coins in gold, silver, bronze and billon; Seals, tokens and weights. [29–35]



29



30



31



32



33



34



35



29. Tetradrachm of Athens with Goddess Athena and owl, silver, Cyclades, Delos "hoard"/1910, 4th century BC, Ø 1.9 cm, 16.63 g. © NM

30. Tetradrachm of Alexander III, Mint of Pella, silver, Thessaly, Karditsa "hoard" (Palaiokastros)/1929, 336-323 BC, Ø 2.8 cm, 16.75 g. © NM

31. Half-Follis, Justinus II and Sophia, Mint of Thessaloniki, bronze, Peloponnese, Achaia "hoard" (Kleitoria)/1933, 568-569 AD, Ø 1.8 cm, 4.96 g. © NM

32. Denar tornese, Principality of Achaia, Charles I of Anjou, Mint of Clarentia, billon (silver alloy), Attica; from the Kapandriti "hoard"/1924, 1278-1285 AD, Ø 1.8 cm, 0.74 g. © NM

33. Seal, Stephanos Vlefaras, lead, Thebes, Boeotia, Central Greece, 11th century AD, Ø 3.1 cm. © NM

34. Jury's token of Athens, 299-290 BC, Attica, Ø 1.9 cm. © NM

35. Weight of Athens, 1/8 of mina, lead, Piraeus, 4th-2nd century BC, 2.5 x 2.5 x 1 cm, 58.00 g. © NM

Jewellery - Accessories

6th millennium BC - mid-15th century AD

Earrings, necklaces, rings, fibulae, pins, pendants, wreaths, in gold, silver, bronze; bone, shell, stone, metal and clay beads. [36–40]



36



37



38



39



40

36. Pair of earrings with Eros, gold with inset garnet at centre, Neapolis, Thessaloniki, ca. 300-275 BC, 4 x 1.3 cm each, 4.7 g each. © AMTh

37. Necklaces, gold beads and chains, Mycenae, Peloponnese, 15th-14th century BC, 20-92 cm (variable), 4.8-25.68 g (variable). © HNAM

38. Olive wreath, gold, Aghios Athanasios, Thessaloniki, late 4th-early 3rd century BC, Ø 20.3 cm, 35.2 g. © AMTh

39. Seal with Goddess between griffins, stone, Knossos, Crete, 1450-1350 BC, Ø 3.5 cm. © HAM

40. Pendants, "Macedonian Bronze" type, bronze, Olynthos, Chauchitsa and Aenea, Macedonia, 1050-480 BC, ca. 2.5-7 cm (variable). © AMTh

Ecclesiastical - Liturgical Objects

6th - 19th century AD

Objects related to the Christian religion, including reliquaries in metal, Service artefacts, religious clothing. [41–44]



41

41. Reliquary, silver, partially gold plated, Monastery of Timios Prodromos, Serres, Macedonia, 1761 AD, 12 x 26.5 x 15 cm. © BCM



42

42. Chalice, silver and gold, Thessaloniki, 18th century AD, 20.5 x Ø max. 12.5 cm. © MBC



43

43. Blessing cross, carved wood with silver and gold plating and semi-precious stones, Ioannina, Epirus, 18th century AD, 22.5 x 10.5 x 1.5 cm. © BCM



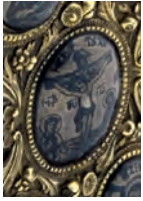
44

44. Epitaphios (embroidery used during the Liturgy of the Holy and Great Saturday), embroidered with silk and silver threads, Thessaloniki, 1647 AD, 121 x 177 cm. © MBC

Books, Documents and Prints

6th - 19th century AD

Religious books with gilded (gold) or plated (silver) bindings, religious manuscripts, religious paper icons. [45–48]



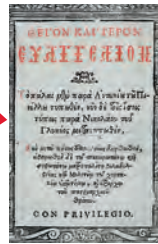
45

45. Gospel and Revelation of John, printed book with silver binding partially gold plated and niello roundels, Athens, printed in Venice, 1805 AD, 10.5 x 7.5 x 2 cm. © BCM



46

46. Gospel, printed on paper, Thessaloniki, 1671 AD, 32 x 24 x 6 cm. © MBC



47

47. Folio from the Four Gospels with Luke the Evangelist, parchment, egg tempera, gold leaf and ink, Constantinople, 14th century AD, 18 x 12.5 cm. © BCM



48

48. Virgin, the Great Lavra Monastery and scenes from the Life of Saint Athanasios, copper plate engraving on paper, Mount Athos, Macedonia, 1810 AD, 68 x 48 cm. © BCM



Paintings

6th - 20th century AD

Icons on wood, metal, cloth, and paper; triptychs painted on wood. (6th-19th century AD); Folk paintings (20th century AD). [49–52]



49

49. Icon depicting the Baptism of Christ, egg tempera on wood, Crete, 15th century AD, 51 x 39 x 2.5 cm. © BCM



50

50. Icon of the Virgin and Child, egg tempera on wood, Kefalonia, Ionian Islands, 18th century AD, 93.5 x 72.5 x 4 cm. © BCM



51

51. Triptych of the Virgin Zoodochos Pigi and Saints Nikolaos, George, Athanasios and Dimitrios, egg tempera on wood, Thessaloniki, 1753 AD, 35 x 51 cm. © MBC

52

52. *Herotocritus and Aretousa* by Theophilos Chadzimichael, tempera on cardboard pasted on wood, Lesbos Northeast Aegean Sea, ca. 1930 AD, framed: 81 x 53 x 6 cm; unframed: 61 x 36 x 2.4 cm. © MMGC



ICOM AND THE PROTECTION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE

The International Council of Museums (ICOM) was established in 1946 to represent museums and museum professionals worldwide. ICOM is committed to the promotion and protection of natural and cultural heritage, present and future, tangible and intangible. With a unique network of over 57,000 members in 129 countries and territories (2023), ICOM is active in a wide range of museum and heritage related disciplines.

ICOM maintains formal relations with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and has a consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) as an expert in the fight against illicit traffic in cultural goods. ICOM also works in collaboration with organisations such as INTERPOL, the World Customs Organization (WCO) and UNIDROIT to carry out some of its international public service missions.

The protection of heritage in the event of natural disaster or armed conflict is also at the core of ICOM's work, supported by its members, and its national and international committees and through its strong involvement in the Blue Shield, of which it is a founding member. In the event of a crisis, ICOM can mobilise its network of experts in the field of cultural heritage from all over the world.

In 2013, ICOM also created the first *International Observatory on Illicit Traffic in Cultural Goods* in order to reinforce its actions in fighting illicit traffic with a database of resources on the subject available online (<https://www.obs-traffic.museum/>).

The Red Lists are designed as practical tools to fight the illegal trade in cultural objects. ICOM is grateful for the unwavering commitment of the experts and institutions who generously contribute to the success of the Red Lists.

All the Red Lists are available on ICOM website: <https://icom.museum/en/>

With the generous support of:

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