Ethics in Acquisition: HOW KNOWING PROVENANCES OF ANTIQUITIES CAN INCREASE THEIR VALUE?

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Exclusive Collector Forum 2019
What To Look For When Buying A Work of Art?
Guennol lionness

CHRISTIE’S TO OFFER A 3,000-YEAR-OLD ASSYRIAN RELIEF OF A WINGED GENIUS FROM THE PALACE OF ASHURNASIRPAL II

• Finest example of Assyrian art to come to market in decades
• One of the earliest works of ancient art sent to America in 1899
• Sold by the Virginia Theological Seminary to underwrite a scholarship fund

New York – Christie’s announcement on 31 December of the opening of its New York auction of Ancient Near Eastern Art, part of which is comprised of a collection from the late scholar, teacher and philanthropist, Dr. William A. Alanson Hawes, on 9 February 2016.

The Assyrian winged genius relief from the palace of Ashurnasirpal II is among the highlights of the sale. According to Dr. Max Brann, the Delaware Art Museum’s head of Antiquities, “This Assyrian relief is without question the most exquisite piece ever to be offered in more than a generation. In terms of the date, condition and beauty of the piece, it is without equal. It is an exceptional example of one of the greatest and most influential periods of ancient art.”

The piece was acquired by Hawes in 1900, and according to a Museum of Art publication, Hawes, “bought the winged genius out of a London auction in 1900 when it sold for nearly 251 dollars.” The Virginia Theological Seminary acquired this relief through the American missionary Dr. Hannah Bayton Hawes (1851-1934) in 1899, who
Circulating Artefacts: A cross-platform alliance against the looting of pharaonic antiquities

The Department of Egypt & Sudan has received numerous requests from UNESCO and other international organizations to assist in the recovery of stolen artefacts. The collaboration of national and international institutions is crucial in combating this illicit trade.

Pharaonic artefacts are among the most valuable and historically significant of all ancient civilizations. The theft of these artefacts poses a significant threat to the cultural heritage of the region. The international community must unite to address this issue.

The British Museum has been at the forefront of this effort, working closely with relevant organizations to ensure the safe recovery of stolen artefacts. The Museum is committed to returning these artefacts to their countries of origin, preserving them for future generations.

Collection catalogues

The British Museum has a comprehensive collection of pharaonic artefacts, which are documented in detailed catalogues. These catalogues serve as an essential tool in the fight against looting, as they provide a record of the artefacts and their provenance.

The catalogues are available online, allowing researchers, scholars, and the public to access this invaluable information. This transparency is crucial in curbing the trade of stolen artefacts.

The British Museum encourages all stakeholders to support efforts to combat this illegal trade, ensuring that these artefacts remain where they belong, enriching our shared cultural heritage.
Exhibition catalogues

Collections
Statue d’une dédicante (Kont)
Début Ve avant.-C.
Céladon
90.5 x 15 x 6.5 cm
FGN-ARCH-01886

LIEU DE CREATION
Chypre

ART CHYPRE-ARCHAIC

PROVENANCE

Steel la base inscription d’mince “G. BESNIER, M. of Berlin and Founders” (1967-1973)
Pulic venus Chypre der, G. B. iner. 1857, MD C. 71
Acquis tras chantier de l'École des Beaux-Arts, à Cézanne, le 01/08/2011.

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