### ALABASTER STONE INSCRIPTION



#### **DESCRIPTION**

**Date of Creation:** 3rd century CE

Date Stolen: Between 2009-2011

**Last Known Location**: At auction

in Paris, France

Look For: An alabaster stone,

approx. 58 cm x 26.8 cm, engraved

with text

**Origin:** Awam Temple, Marib, Yemen

#### **THEFT**

This tablet was ripped from the floor of the Awam Temple between 2009 and 2011. Yemen's archaeological sites remain at risk due to the ongoing civil war.

#### **REWARD**

Yemen has been ravaged by war, and the recovery of this object along with others that have been looted will help the nation during this painful chapter.

### **OLD SUMMER PALACE ZODIAC HEADS**



#### **DESCRIPTION**

**Date of Creation:** Mid 1700s CE

**Date Stolen:** Fall, 1860

**Origin:** Beijing's Old Summer

Palace, China

**Look For:** Snake, Goat, Rooster, and Dog heads, approx. 30 cm. (A Dragon

head remains unauthenticated.) **Designer:** Giuseppe Castiglione

#### <u>THEFT</u>

During the Second Opium War, Anglo-French troops tore apart the opulent Qing Dynasty palace, looting some imperial riches and razing the rest.

#### **REWARD**

China has recovered 7 of the heads, but those absent remain a painful scar from an era of foreign interference. Reunion would excite Chinese cultural pride.

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### **LION ATTACKING A NUBIAN**



#### **DESCRIPTION**

**Date of Creation: 700s BCE** 

Date Stolen: April, 2003

Last Known Location: The Iraq

Museum, Baghdad

**Look For:** A dramatic ivory relief, almost identical to the one pictured

above from the British Museum

**Origin:** Palace of Ashurnasirpal II, Iraq

#### **THEFT**

In the tumult of war, looters carried away the pride of the world's greatest collection of Mesopotamian art from the Iraq Museum.

#### REWARD

The people of Iraq would extol the return of this dazzling icon of Iraqi and world heritage, one of only two of its type known to exist.

### **STATUE OF GANESHA**



#### **DESCRIPTION**

**Date of Creation:** Early 900s CE

Date Stolen: Post-1939,

likely 1970s

**Last Known Location:** Koh Ker

**Look For:** Stone figure of the

elephant-headed god, approximately

165 cm tall

**Origin:** Cambodia

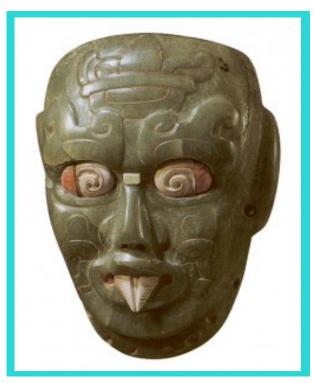
#### **THEFT**

The Khmer Rouge ravaged the Cambodian people and their heritage, including the site of Koh Ker, where looters stripped dozens of temples of their statuary.

#### **REWARD**

Cambodia has recently recovered a number of Koh Ker's stolen masterpieces. Locating this statue would help the nation close a tragic chapter of loss.

### **RÍO AZUL MASK**



#### **DESCRIPTION**

**Date of Creation: 250 - 900 CE** 

**Date Stolen:** Likely late 1970s

**Last Known Location:** On

temporary exhibition in Spain, 1999

**Look For:** Mask made of green stone depicting Kinich Ahau, the sun god

Origin: Classic Maya site of Río Azul,

Guatemala

#### <u>THEFT</u>

Thieves likely stole the mask from the site of Río Azul between 1962 and 1981, before illegally smuggling it into the United States and then Europe.

#### **REWARD**

Guatemala has sought the return of this treasured object for years. Its recovery would be celebrated across the country.

### **PEKING MAN**



#### **DESCRIPTION**

Date Excavated: 1920s-30s CE

Date Lost: December, 1941

Last Known Location: Packed in

boxes to be given to U.S. Marines

**Look For:** Nearly 200 Homo erectus fossils from more than 40 individuals

**Age:** Possibly up to 770,000 years **Origin:** Zhoukoudian caves, China

#### LOSS

To save the landmark find from the advancing Japanese army, Chinese workers packed the fossils for safe transport to America. They vanished in the fog of war.

#### **REWARD**

This paleoanthropological prize—perhaps the best sample of Homo erectus ever found—could significantly enrich our knowledge of early humans.

### **KOLOMOKI MOUND ARTIFACTS**



#### **DESCRIPTION**

**Date of Creation: 300–800 CE** 

Date Stolen: March, 1974

**Last Known Location:** Kolomoki

Mounds State Park, Georgia, USA

**Look For:** Fine ceremonial burial pottery and animal figurines, some with spiritually-significant holes **Maker:** Craftsmen of Kolomoki

#### <u>THEFT</u>

Thieves broke into a burial mound-side museum and stripped it of 129 of the most exquisite examples of Southeastern U.S. indigenous ceramics.

#### **REWARD**

Some pieces have been recovered, but dozens remain missing. The works bear inestimable educational and cultural value.

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### STATUE OF NEFERTITI MAKING OFFERINGS



#### **DESCRIPTION**

Date of Creation: 1349–1336 BCE Look For: A 43 cm unfinished

Date Stolen: January 28, 2011

**Last Known Location:** Egyptian

Museum of Cairo

limestone statue

**Maker:** New Kingdom sculptors

Origin: Tell el-Amarna, Egypt

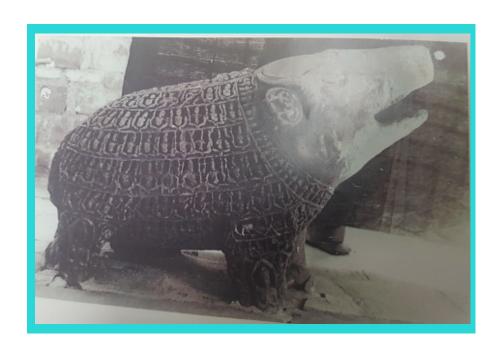
#### **THEFT**

Amid the 2011 political upheaval, hundreds looted irreplaceable antiquities from sites and museums, including this valued piece of Egyptian heritage.

#### REWARD

Returning this notable work would restore splendor to the once-battered Egyptian Museum and pride to the people of Egypt.

### STATUE OF VARAHA, VISHNU'S AVATAR



#### **DESCRIPTION**

**Date of Creation:** 5th-6th c CE

Date Stolen: 1988

**Last Known Location:** Private

museum in Switzerland

**Look For:** Inscribed stone figurine that weighs over 500 kilograms

**Origin:** Temple Complex in Atru

District, Baran in Rajasthan, India

#### <u>THEFT</u>

In order to steal this heavy statue, criminals yanked an iron chain over its legs and used a truck to break the legs, freeing the sculpture from its pedestal.

#### **REWARD**

This object's recovery could help strengthen the case against a connected antiquities trafficker to help recover more of his loot.

### KWER'ATA RE'ESU ICON



#### **DESCRIPTION**

Date of Creation: 16th c CE

Date Stolen: April, 1868

**Last Known Location:** Private

collection, Portugal

Look For: Painting that shows Christ looking downward with hands raised **Stolen From:** Emperor Tewodros' Mountain Fortress, Magdala, Ethiopia

#### THEFT

The 1867–68 British Expedition pillaged this relic and so many others that 15 elephants and 200 mules were needed to carry their loot to auction.

#### **REWARD**

While the locations of most plundered Magdala treasures are well known, very few of the artifacts have been returned. This remarkable icon is one of the few whose whereabout is unknown and its recovery would be celebrated.

## Image Credits

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