

## **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.

## WANTED

### **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.



## 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

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

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.



## 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.

## WANTED

### 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.





#### **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.

# 

## **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

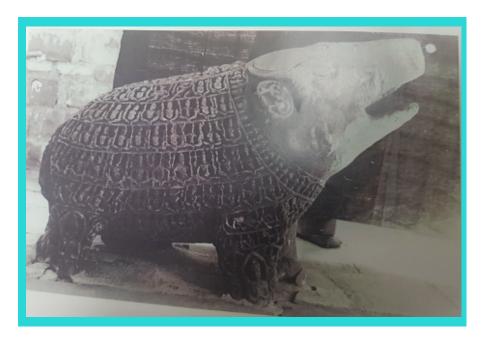
Amid the 2011 political upheaval, hundreds looted irreplaceable antiquities from sites and museums, including this valued piece of Egyptian heritage.

#### REWARD

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

## WANTED

## 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.





#### **DESCRIPTION**

<b>Date of Creation:</b> 2nd quarter of the	Look For: Sandstone statue
10th century	approximately 163 cm high, its twin
Date Stolen: Around 1997	lives in the Met Museum
Last Known Location: Koh Ker	Origin: Cambodia

#### **THEFT**

Stolen from Prasat Thom, known for its massive step pyramid. Looted by Toek Tik, a Khmer Rouge guerilla-turned professional looter, and then laundered by the notorious Douglas Latchford onto the global art market.

#### **REWARD**

This piece is an important part of the Prasat Thom temple complex. Cambodia is urgently seeking its return to restore it to its rightful home.

## Image Credits

Alabaster Stone Inscription Courtesy of Dr. Zaydoon Zaid.

Old Summer Palace Zodiac Heads Images via Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Lion Attacking a Nubian Image via https://www.elcamino.edu/faculty/eatherton/summary\_of\_looted\_objects.htm

Statue of Uma Image Via Adoration and Glory

Río Azul Mask Image by Elizabeth Wagner via Milan Kovac.

Peking Man Image by Yan Li via CC by 3.0.

Kolomoki Mound Artifacts Image courtesy of the Kolomoki Mounds Museum.

Statue of Nefertiti Making Offerings Image by Adel Mahmoud via the Egyptian Museum of Cairo.

Statue of Varaha, Vishnu's Avatar Courtesy of India Pride Project.

Kwer'ata Re'esu Icon Image via AFROMET.