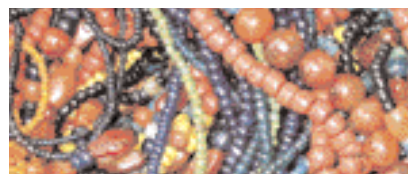
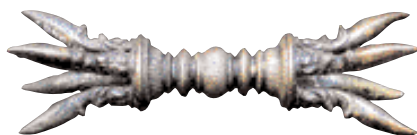


RED LIST OF
CAMBODIAN
ANTIQUITIES
AT RISK



INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF MUSEUMS
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RED LIST OF CAMBODIAN ANTIQUITIES AT RISK

For more than two millennia the Khmer have produced objects that are widely regarded for their æsthetic value. Many such objects are integral parts of the thousands of ancient sites throughout Cambodia which are now testament to the kingdom's rich history. The Prehistoric past of Cambodia remains largely unexplored and undocumented. The looting of sites from all periods of Cambodia's past robs the world of the chance to understand the unique beginnings and continuous evolution of the Khmer civilization. It is imperative that the illicit trade in antiquities be brought to an end.

If you suspect an item may be an illegal antiquity, please contact:

**Patrimony Police
Ministry of Interior, Cambodia**

Phone: +855 (0) 12 826 015

Fax: +855 (0) 23 726 975

Contact: General TAN Chay

**Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts
Cambodia**

Phone: +855 (0) 12 872 703/16 825 893/

16 873 328

Fax: +855 (0) 23 218 147

Email: ok_sophon@yahoo.com

Contact: H.E. Mr. OK Sophon

**National Museum of Cambodia
(Phnom Penh)**

Phone/Fax: +855 (0) 23 211 753

Email: museum_cam@camnet.com.kh

Contact: Mr. HAB Touch

The cultural heritage of Cambodia is protected by the following laws and agreements:

NATIONAL LAWS

*Royal Decree 0196/26 On the Protection of Cultural Heritage,
January 25, 1996*

*Sub-decree No 98 Concerning the Execution of the Protection
of Cultural Patrimony, September 17, 2002*

Royal Decree 0295/12 Establishing APSARA, February 19, 1995

Royal Decree 0199/18 2nd Decree regarding APSARA, January 22, 1999

Royal Decree 001/NS Establishing Protected Cultural Zones, May, 1994

Royal Decree 0705/323 Transferring Koh Ker to APSARA Authority

Royal Decree 0504/070 Establishing site of Koh Ker, June 05, 2004

Provisions Dated September 10, 1992

*Relating to the Judiciary and Criminal Law and Procedure
Applicable in Cambodia During the Transitional Period,
Article 47: Receiving and Concealing Cultural Goods*

Provisions Dated September 10, 1992

*Relating to the Judiciary and Criminal Law and Procedure
Applicable in Cambodia During the Transitional Period,
Article 44: Misdemeanors Concerning Cultural Property*

Law on Customs, Article 8, February 2003

INTERNATIONAL TREATIES

*The Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property
in the Event of Armed Conflict and its first Protocol,
May 14, 1954*

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

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

*Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage,
November 6, 2001*

*Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage,
November 17, 2003*

*Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity
of Cultural Expressions,
October 20, 2005*

BILATERAL AGREEMENTS WITH:

Thailand and United States of America

Introduction

The Cambodian government takes considerable measures to protect the country's cultural heritage, but despite them, widespread looting and destruction of archaeological sites continues. Looters have targeted Angkorian and Post-Angkorian metal objects and stone sculptural elements for decades. Recently, a new tide of destruction has arisen with the looting of Prehistoric cemetery sites across the country.

The search for ancient artefacts is driven by demand in Cambodia and in the international market place. The illicit trafficking of objects of all types and materials, dating from the Prehistoric period to the 19th century, is stripping the country of its rich cultural heritage. Sculpture, architectural elements, ancient religious documents, bronzes, iron artefacts, wooden objects and ceramics are still being exported illegally at an alarming rate.

Cambodia's cultural resources are very important to its people. Their pride in their heritage is symbolized by the choice of depicting the ancient temple of Angkor Wat on the nation's flag. Moreover, sites such as the Angkor Park are enormously popular with international tourists and constitute an economic resource for Cambodia. Threats to Cambodian heritage therefore continue to be taken seriously by the international community.



Purpose

This *Red List* has been developed to assist museums, collectors, dealers in art and antiquities, and customs and other law enforcement officials in recognizing objects that may have been looted and illicitly exported from Cambodia. To facilitate this, the List illustrates and describes several categories of objects at risk of being illicitly traded on the antiquities market. These objects are protected under Cambodian law banning their sale and export. Therefore, ICOM appeals to interested parties to refrain from purchasing these objects without first checking thoroughly their origin and provenance documentation.

Because of the diversity of Cambodian objects, the *Red List of Cambodian Antiquities at Risk* is not exhaustive, and any antiquity that may have originated in Cambodia should be subjected to detailed scrutiny and precautionary measures.

Looted temple at Bakan. © Andrew Burke

There is a vibrant craft industry in Cambodia today. Artisans produce textiles, lacquer-ware and carvings in stone and wood that emulate those made in the ancient past. The trade in these objects is crucial to the continued development of Cambodia's ongoing craft traditions, and is not meant to be hindered by the publication of this List.

RED LIST OF CAMBODIA

The objects are grouped according to the material they are made of. The photographs which illustrate the categories were provided by the National Museum of Cambodia, the Ecole Française d'Extrême-Orient, and the Heritage Watch, hereafter respectively referred to as NMC, EFO and HW for the copyrights. At the date of this printing, these images do not reproduce stolen objects; they serve only to illustrate the categories of objects which are the target of illicit traffic. Within these categories, the objects are presented in four time periods.

THE RED LIST INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES OF OBJECTS.

STONE (including semi-precious stone)

PREHISTORY (from 5th century B.C. to 5th century A.D.)

A. Tools: adzes, axes, and axe-like chopping implements varying in size from 10 to 40 cm. [illus. 1]

B. Beads: most are made of semi-precious stone including carnelian (an orange colour) and agate (banded brown); some may be etched. [illus. 2-3]



1. Adzes, stone ca. 15 x 18 cm. © HW
2. Beads, carnelian and agate ca. 4 cm. © HW
3. Bead, agate. © HW

PRE-ANGKOR (from 6th to 8th centuries A.D.)

A. Sculpture: carved representations or fragments (hands, feet, heads, and torsos) of human and animal forms. [illus. 4-5-6-7]



4. Linga, sandstone, 83 x 25 x 24 cm. © NMC
5. Head of Buddha, sandstone, 27 x 16 x 17 cm. © NMC



6. Vishnu, sandstone, 133 x 48 x 25 cm. © NMC
7. Ganesha, sandstone, 76 x 42 x 20 cm. © NMC

B. Architectural elements and fragments: colonnettes, columns, lintels, pediments, pedestals, and bas-reliefs. [illus. 8-9]



C. Inscriptions: on stelae and door jambs. [illus. 10]

8. Lintel, sandstone, 34 x 109 x 21 cm. © NMC
9. Lintel and columns, sandstone, 171 x 16 cm (diameter: 15 cm). © NMC
10. Stele with Nandin the bull on a lotus, sandstone, 97 x 42 x 8 cm. © NMC

N A N T I Q U I T I E S A T R I S K

ANGKOR (from 9th to 13th centuries A.D.)

A. Sculpture: carved representations or fragments (hands, feet, heads, and torsos) of human and animal forms. [illus. 11-12]

B. Architectural elements and fragments. [illus. 13-14-15]



11. Female divinity, sandstone, 125 x 26 x 26 cm. © NMC

12. Shiva with Uma and Ganga, sandstone, 101 x 53 x 13 cm. © NMC

C. Grinding stones: flat slabs usually worn into a concave shape; they are often accompanied by a tubular grinder also of stone. [illus. 16]



16. Grinding stone with tubular grinder, sandstone. © EFEO

D. Inscriptions. [illus. 17]

17. Stele with Yama on a buffalo, sandstone, 60 x 34 x 14 cm. © NMC



13. Lintel, sandstone, 60 x 173 cm. © NMC

14. Balustrade with Naga and Garuda, sandstone, 158 x 94 x 50 cm. © NMC

15. Bas-relief depicting multiple-armed Lokesvara, sandstone, 230 x 180 x 31 cm. © NMC



POST-ANGKOR (from 14th to early 20th centuries A.D.)

A. Sima: boundary markers, slabs of stone with a gently peaked top sometimes with Buddhist iconography. [illus.18]



18. Sima, sandstone, 59 x 32 x 9.5 cm. © NMC

RED LIST OF CAMBODIA

METAL (comprising bronze, copper, iron, gold, and silver)

PREHISTORY (from 5th century B.C. to 5th century A.D.)

A. Ceremonial objects: large and waisted drums with decorated top surface often with a central star and decorated bands, bell-shaped hollow vessels with decorative motifs, and bells. [illus. 19-20]

B. Adornments: bangles, beads, torques, buffalo-head finger rings, earrings, and mirrors; many bronzes have delicate spiral motifs. [illus. 21]

PRE-ANGKOR (from 6th to 8th centuries A.D.)

A. Sculpture: symbolic and anthropomorphic figures. [illus. 22-23]

ANGKOR (from 9th to 13th centuries A.D.)

A. Ceremonial and ritual objects: vajra, bells, conches, tripods, and incense burners, chariot/paliquin of bronze. [illus. 24-25-26-27]

24. Palanquin hooks, rings and tubular pole decoration, bronze. © NMC



B. Adornments: finger rings, earrings, diadems, necklaces, ankle rings, arm bands, and mirrors made of bronze or gold. [illus. 28]

C. Utensils: spoons/ladles, bowls, and chisels. [illus. 29]

D. Sculpture. [illus. 30]

POST-ANGKOR (from 14th to early 20th centuries A.D.)

A. Utensils: spoons, urns, bowls, and cooking/tea pots of bronze. [illus. 31-32-33]



31. Ladle, bronze, 30 cm. © EFEO
32. Lime pot, bronze, 17 x 16 cm. © EFEO
33. Utensils, metal. © EFEO



B. Weapons: iron daggers and swords, usually with decorated hilts. [illus. 34]

34. Dagger, bronze, 25 x 8.5 x 2 cm. © EFEO

C. Religious objects: both symbolic and anthropomorphic, bells, chariot fixtures, popil, percussion instruments including varying sizes of gongs and cymbals, candlesticks, and betel containers made of bronze. [illus. 35-36]



19. Bell, bronze, 57 x 27.5 x 32 cm. © NMC



20. Drum, bronze, 56.5 x 95 cm. © NMC



21. Bangles, bronze, 9 to 10 cm in diameter. © HW

22. Lokeshvara, bronze, 24 x 7 x 7 cm. © NMC

23. Bull, Shiva's mount, bronze, 36 x 64 x 32 cm. © NMC



25. Ritual bell, bronze, 14 x 7 cm. © NMC

26. Vajra, bronze, 12.5 x 4 x 4 cm. © NMC

27. Ritual conch (sankha) with stand, bronze, 29 x 11 x 11 cm (conch). © NMC

28. Ring, bronze, 4.7 x 1.7 cm. © NMC

29. Betel container, metal, 41 x 9.7 cm. © EFEO



30. Kneeling female figure, support for mirror, bronze, 34 x 24 cm. © NMC



35. Buddha, silver, 36.7 x 28 x 14 cm. © NMC

36. Popil (ritual candlestick), bronze, 25 x 10.5 x 0.7 cm. © NMC



ORGANIC MATERIAL

POST-ANGKOR (from 14th to early 20th centuries A.D.)

A. Architectural elements: wooden doors and carved panels. [illus. 37]

37. Wooden carved panel. © EFEO



B. Sculptures of the Adorned Buddha: usually of wood decorated with lacquer, gold leaf, paint and incrustations of glass. [illus. 38]

38. Kneeling worshipper, wood with red lacquer and gilding, 92 x 42 x 54 cm. © NMC



C. Manuscripts: of palm leaf and/or paper. [illus. 39]



39. Manuscript, palm leaf, 55.5 x 5.5 x 8.5 cm. © NMC

CERAMICS AND GLASS

PREHISTORY (from 5th century B.C. to 5th century A.D.)

A. Vessels and containers: pots, bowls, plates, footed bowls. [illus. 40]

B. Ceramic adornments: epaulettes. [illus. 41]

C. Glass beads: usually small, seed-like objects in a range of colours from terracotta to blue, yellow, green, and red. [illus. 42]



40. Pot, earthenware, 45 x 30 cm. © HW

41. Epaulette, earthenware with iron, ca. 10 x 10 cm. © HW



ANGKOR (from 9th to 13th centuries A.D.)

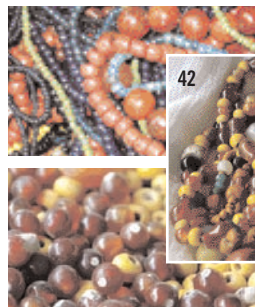
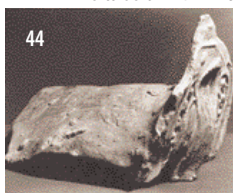
Ceramics from the Angkorian period are mostly stoneware, unglazed or glazed of creamy white, pale green, straw-yellow, reddish-brown, brown, olive, and black.

A. Vessels and containers: pots, urns, vases, burial jars, lidded bowls/boxes, zoomorphic vessels, deformed vessels (kiln wasters). [illus. 43]



43. Ceramic containers. © EFEO

44-45. Roof tiles, ceramic, 20 to 50 cm. © EFEO



42. Beads, glass, 0.2 to 0.5 cm. © HW



B. Decorative roof tiles. [illus. 44-45]

POST-ANGKOR (from 14th to early 20th centuries A.D.)

A. Ceramics: shipwrecks in Cambodian waters may hold various trade goods including Chinese, Sukhothai or Vietnamese vessels. [illus. 46]

46. Jar, fired clay with brown glaze, 61 x 43 cm. © NMC





The International Council of Museums (ICOM) is the principal international organization of museums and museum professionals committed to the conservation, continuation and communication to society of the world's natural and cultural heritage, present and future, tangible and intangible.

With over 26,000 members in 151 countries, ICOM is an international network of museum professionals expert in a wide variety of disciplines.

Created in 1946, ICOM is a not-for-profit non-governmental organization (NGO) maintaining formal relations with UNESCO and having a consultative status with the United Nations' Economic and Social Council.

ICOM considers combating illicit trade in cultural property to be one of the core aims of its programme of action. The *Red List of Cambodian Antiquities at Risk* has been designed to prevent pillage, theft, and the illegal export of cultural property from Cambodia; and to help protect the country's cultural heritage. This Red List is an addition to the collection of Red Lists already published for Africa, Latin America, Iraq, Afghanistan and Peru.

<http://icom.museum/redlist>

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*U.S. Department of State
Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs*



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