



Australian Government

Protection of Movable Cultural Heritage Act 1986

Buying legally—making sure it's above board

Before buying cultural property do your research. Buying legally is your way to make sure it's above board.

The seller

- Verify the identity of the seller.
- Buy from a member of a professional trade association.

The object

Check the object against:

- The Movable Cultural Heritage Prohibited Exports Register.
- Australia's standing agreements with foreign countries.
- The databases of stolen art such as
The Art Loss Register www.artloss.com/
Nazi Looted Art www.lootedart.com
INTERPOL www.interpol.int/public/workofart/.
- The Red List: a detailed website listing the cultural objects which are at risk from Africa, Latin America, Iraq, Afghanistan, Peru, Cambodia, Central America and Mexico:
<http://archives.icom.museum/redlist/>.

Documentation

Check any documentation about the history of the object, for example:

- Is there a history of ownership relating to the object?
- Is there a certificate of authenticity?
- Is there a condition report available?
- If the object comes from a foreign country is there an export permit?



www.arts.gov.au/movable
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Credits: Private William Currey's war medals © Australian War Memorial; Newmont's Normandy Nugget © Newmont Mining Corporation; Clayton and Shuttleworth steam traction engine, Milnthorpe and District Historical Society © Department of Communications and the Arts.

If you buy the object ensure that you have a written invoice, signed and dated by the seller, with their name, address and full details of the object.



Image: Jordanian pots, Hasemite Kingdom of Jordan © Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.

International cultural heritage laws

If the object comes from a foreign country check the relevant international cultural heritage law on the UNESCO website www.unesco.org/culture/natlaws.

If you have any suspicions about an object and believe that a criminal offence has taken place you can report it to the police on Crime Stoppers Australia 1800 333 000. www.crimestoppers.com.au or to:

Cultural Property Section
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