

ORIENTAL INSTITUTE/GRAHAM SCHOOL OF GENERAL STUDIES SYMPOSIUM

LOOTING THE CRADLE OF CIVILIZATION

THE LOSS OF HISTORY IN IRAQ

The looting of the Iraq National Museum in Baghdad stunned the world in 2003. Much less well known is the ongoing looting of archaeological sites throughout Iraq, which poses an even greater threat to the history of the land that gave the world its earliest writing system, its first cities, and the concept of the rule of law. Mesopotamia — modern-day Iraq — is quite literally the cradle of civilization, making the disappearance of its cultural patrimony a loss for all humanity.

This symposium offers the unparalleled opportunity to examine the archaeological tragedy taking place in Iraq with scholars and experts who have experienced the situation first hand. Hear the latest information on the looting of the Iraq Museum, what has been lost and what has been recovered. See how illicit digging takes place at sites throughout Iraq, and the ways looted artifacts move from Iraq to art markets around the world. Discover how scholars are attempting to work with the United States military and the Iraqi government to protect Iraq's threatened archaeological sites. Learn about the laws safeguarding cultural property during wartime and the challenges these laws are facing in Iraq.

— SYMPOSIUM PRESENTERS INCLUDE —

DONNY GEORGE

Former Director of the Iraq National Museum in Baghdad

PATTY GERSTENBLITH

Professor, College of Law, DePaul University, Chicago,
and Director of DePaul's Program on Cultural Heritage Law

MCGUIRE GIBSON

Professor of Mesopotamian Archaeology, University of Chicago

ABDULAMIR HAMDANI

Director of Antiquities, Nasiriya Province in Southern Iraq

JOHN RUSSELL

Professor of Art, Massachusetts College, and former Deputy Advisor
to the Iraqi Minister of Culture and the Coalition Provisional Authority

ELIZABETH STONE

Professor of Mesopotamian Archaeology, SUNY Stony Brook University, New York

Offered in conjunction with the special Oriental Institute exhibit Catastrophe! The Looting and Destruction of Iraq's Past, this symposium also includes a viewing of the exhibit and the world-renowned collection of ancient art and artifacts on display in the Oriental Institute Museum's Edgar and Deborah Jannotta Mesopotamian Gallery.

Fee: \$65 for Oriental Institute members; \$75 for non-members. Includes packet of materials, morning coffee, exhibit viewing, and closing reception. Pre-registration required. Optional box lunches available upon registration; see page 10. CPDUs: 6

SATURDAY, APRIL 12, 2008 • 9:30 AM TO 4:00 PM
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