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Cultural Properties Advisory Committee  
Cultural Heritage Center  
US Department of State  
301 4th St. S.W.  
Washington D.C. 20547

Feb 4, 2007

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To the Cultural Property Advisory Committee,

This letter is to strongly urge you to include coins from Cyprus that are over 250 years old with other objects that cannot be exported from their country of origin. My background is that of an Art Historian in the Ancient Near East, and archaeologist. I excavated with the late <sup>Dr.</sup> Jacques Bordey, of the University of Pennsylvania, and his wife, the late <sup>Dr.</sup> Louise Bordey of Columbia University at the Neolithic site of Erbeba, in Turkey. I also spent four summers excavating the Late Bronze and Early Iron Age sites of Vounari and Melissa at Phtemoudhi on the North East Coast of Cyprus, under the direction of the late Dr. Edith Porada, of Columbia University. The excavation at Melissa was cut short by the Turkish invasion. I later helped Bonnie Burnham, at the Art Theft Archive, writing up descriptions of stolen artifacts from Northern Cypriot sites, as received from Interpol, which could then be circulated to dealers.

I did receive a Masters of Philosophy from Columbia University. I worked briefly at the Brooklyn Museum, taught one class at N.Y.U. and published some artifacts in Ladders to Heaven, edited by Oscar W. Muscarella. I was supposed to publish the Melissa site report, by myself, and was reprimanded for my other activities. I ended up with severe insomnia (and now a team from two departments is finishing the site report) so I never got my Ph.D, nor did I get paid.

I have witnessed in my travels throughout the Near East and Cyprus how kids and shop owners are always trying to sell you ancient coins, so they are clearly being looted and taken from their proper context, thus again I strongly urge you to include coins as protected archaeological materials in the U.S. - Cyprus bilateral agreement.

Sincerely

Daphne Achilles

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