

Save
the past
for our
future.

is a group of professionals and scholars dedicated to raising public awareness

about the importance of preserving cultural heritage worldwide. While the impetus to found SAFE was the ransacking of the National Museum of Iraq in Baghdad, our efforts are global.

Why?

Every day the forces of nature, poverty, tourism, commercial exploitation, war and neglect destroy remains of archaeological, historical, religious, cultural and artistic value. Among the strongest and most immediate threat is the illicit trade of antiquities.

Antiquities are the building blocks of human history; they complete our view of ancient life and enrich our understanding of life today.

“The work that SAFE is doing is critical, not only for Iraq’s cultural heritage, but also for the heritage of all mankind. All those who enjoy the benefits of democracy have a duty to stand up and support those actions that will stop the destruction of history!”

—Dr. Donny George Youkhanna,
Director General of the National Museum of Iraq

If this destruction is allowed to continue, we will lose our most precious non-renewable resource, the physical evidence of our shared beginnings.

Now is the time for each of us to participate in safeguarding the past for our future—our children and grandchildren. The events in Iraq must be a wake-up call. And while the looting in Iraq was a call to action, the situation is equally severe in many other parts of the world. Everyone who cares about human history must become aware of the severity of this situation and understand what is at stake. Relying on existing legislation and treaties will not stem the tide without concerted international action.



Marble statue head
Warka, Iraq
ca. 3000 B.C.

Hinter Verlag

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Buddhist relief sculptures
Preah Khan, Cambodia 12th c.

Ewen Bell

What?

SAFE’s projects focus on education, advertising, advocacy, cultural tourism and student internship. Our work-in-progress includes:

www.savingantiquities.org is an online resource highlighting issues related to cultural heritage, vulnerability of these treasures to looting and the illicit antiquities trade.

Advocacy efforts rally support for legislations to protect cultural heritage worldwide.

The World’s Ancient Cultures in Danger Map is a wall map designed for school children that highlights the most endangered sites and cultures around the world. It will be available free of charge to teachers. An interactive version with more detailed content and imagery will appear on our website.



Public Service Announcements raise awareness about the damaging effects of the illicit antiquities trade and why preservation of ancient cultural heritage should be everyone’s concern.

SAFE Internship Program gives tomorrow’s leaders practical experience by recruiting students at universities, junior colleges, and cooperative extension programs to work alongside top industry professionals and academics in a variety of disciplines to create targeted public awareness campaigns.

Student Recruitment Poster Competition 2004 challenges students worldwide to help recruit their peers in the effort to safeguard cultural heritage.

Web-based Archaeological Context Interactive Feature will explain the meaning of archaeological context and its significance through the use of interactive graphics.

Children’s Book Series is being planned to illustrate the importance and relevance of antiquities to contemporary life.

SAFE Essay Contests encourage students to study and research topics related to the importance of preserving cultural heritage.

SAFE Cultural Tourism will produce materials to promote the concept of sustainable tourism.

How?

We use our advertising and marketing experience to deliver the message that the world’s cultural heritage has fallen prey to the black market trade in antiquities, and that illegal excavation of archaeological sites and monuments threatens our ability to properly understand human history.

Who?

SAFE is a nonprofit group of communications, media, and advertising professionals working with experts from academia and museum communities. Our members are law students, advertising copywriters, graphic designers, art conservators, teachers, archaeologists, and professors. SAFE’s members come from around the world.

In addition, we pay special attention to students around the globe because SAFE believes these future policy makers and rulers will be in the position to enjoy their cultural heritage for themselves, and generations to come.



The Benevolent King (detail)
Longmen Caves, China
ca. A.D. 675

John C. Huntington. Courtesy of the Huntington Archive, The Ohio State University

Where?

We focus our efforts on those parts of the world that are most vulnerable to the destruction of cultural heritage. Typically, these countries are culturally rich but economically poor. At the same time, we communicate to those economically rich countries that represent the demand side of the illegal antiquities trade.



Burial mask
Dos Cabezas, Peru
A.D. 100-800

Kenneth Garrett

Join us. Be a part of SAFE's global community of members to help spread the word about the importance of preserving cultural heritage. For more details please contact Cindy Ho at cho@savingantiquities.org or 917-916-5748. Or visit our website at <http://www.savingantiquities.org/bb-join.htm>.



Become a SAFE member and contribute to our projects with a \$25 annual basic membership. You may also choose to join as an Associate (\$50), a Contributor (\$100), a Patron (\$250), a Benefactor (\$500), or a Donor (\$750). Please complete our membership form online and make checks payable to the New York Foundation for the Arts, clearly marked for “SAFE”, and mail to SAFE, 113 Pavonia Avenue #151, Jersey City, NJ 07310. Contributions are tax-deductible.

Work with us as a SAFE volunteer. Be a part of the concept development, decision making, and the actual execution of our projects. This is a great opportunity for professionals to contribute their time and experience to an important cause. It can also be a great learning experience for students.

Be a SAFE intern. Working with SAFE may qualify you for academic credit. Please submit the Intern form available on our website.

When? Right now. As Edmund Burke said, “All that it is required for evil to prevail is for good men [and women] to do nothing.”

SAFE SAVING ANTIQUITIES FOR EVERYONE

It's not too late. Yet.