

Conference “Not for Sale – Looted artefacts: Making the new laws work”, Geneva

5-6 February 2004

Irving Finkel (Department of the Ancient Near East, British Museum) was invited to attend this public conference which took place at the University of Geneva, hosted by the British Council. The participants included lawyers, police officers, customs officials, museum directors, ambassadors, collectors, dealers, politicians, curators, students and others.

The programme included

1. Introducing the problem;
2. Politics, Legal Frameworks, Damage and Ethics;
3. Trading and Collecting;
4. National and International Laws and Strategies and
5. Problems Solved.

Discussions were wide-ranging and fairly uninhibited, and were largely concerned with Iraq, but other areas such as Afghanistan and Tibet were also discussed. Speakers were allowed nine minutes each. All papers will soon be published in a volume by the British Council. The conference was also attended by a conference cartoonist, a conference poet and two bloggers, the fruits of whose labours, together with other details, can be retrieved from www.notforsale.ch.