

**EN**

**Working Group on Orphan Objects**  
*Second Session*

**Rome, 11-13 December 2024**

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## **WORKING NOTE ON THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF ORPHAN CULTURAL OBJECTS**

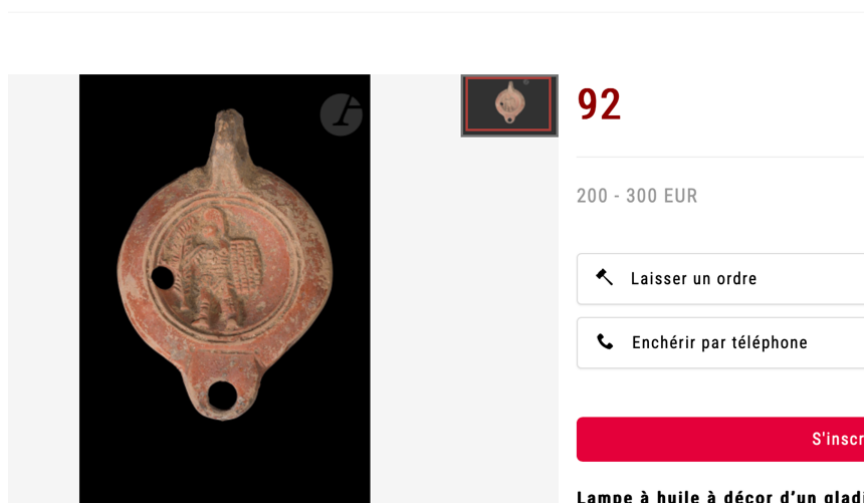
During the first session of the Working Group on Orphan objects, representatives of the art market underlined that in view of the economic value of the objects, the due diligence requirements and those for clearing an object as to its provenance could prove to be, in particular circumstances, unduly burdensome.

Taking a pragmatic approach to the issues to be dealt with it is suggested that the Working Group reflect on this issue on the basis of the following three different categories of orphan cultural objects, based on real-life situations.

The three proposed categories relate to the financial and/or cultural value of the objects, bearing in mind that the following examples all relate to the category of antiquities.

### **1. Low financial value, low cultural value**

In this category, we find objects produced in big numbers, such as antique terracotta lamps, modelled or moulded and made in hundreds of copies, or glass vessels from the Imperial Roman period, not moulded but mass-produced, currently selling for a maximum of a few hundred euros/USD.



92

200 - 300 EUR

Laisser un ordre

Enchérir par téléphone

S'inscrire

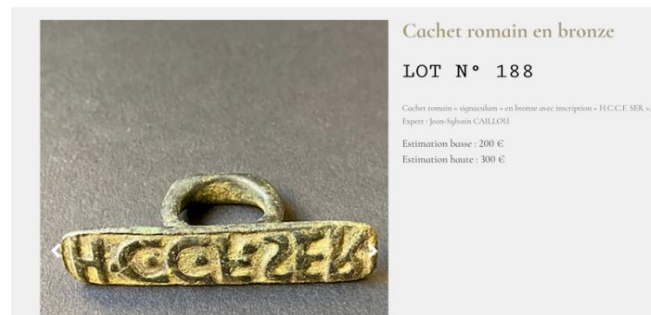
Lampe à huile à décor d'un gladi

## 2. Low financial value, high cultural value

These are objects made of material of little value (terracotta) or of small dimensions, but which bear inscriptions that give a historical context or names or scenes. A Mesopotamian or Neo-Assyrian 'foundation nail' (3rd-1st millennium BC) would sell for approximately 800 Euros/ 850 USD, but, although the inscription on it is generally repetitive, it may include new names of rulers or deities.



Another, later example: Roman bronze seals (*signacula*): estimated at 200/400 Euros; here too, however, the inscription may be important.



## 3. High financial value, high cultural value

The rarity of the object in the historical context in which it was created is an important factor. Objects in this category are often made from precious or rare materials, with little-documented forms, scenes or inscriptions. An example might be a Roman cameo glass vase, with a value that could reach several million euros/dollars, as it would be a unique, important, museum piece. Another example would be a votive stele from Asia Minor with a Greek inscription.

