

APPENDIX VI

ANTIQUITIES PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS it is convenient to make provision for the conservation of ancient monuments and for the preservation of ancient objects of vertu and relics movable and immovable (hereinafter styled "Antiquities") in the Occupied Enemy Territory (South):

NOW THEREFORE I, MAJOR-GENERAL SIR ARTHUR WIGRAM MONEY, in exercise of the powers conferred upon me as Chief Administrator of Occupied Enemy Territory (South) by warrants dated 24th April and 29th October 1918, under the hand of the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief the Egyptian Expeditionary Force,

HEREBY ORDER AS FOLLOWS :—

1. Throughout the Occupied Enemy Territory (South) the property in all antiquities which were the property of the Ottoman Government or which have been discovered since the Occupation or shall hereafter be discovered shall be deemed to be vested in the Occupied Enemy Territory Administration (South).

2. The term "ancient" for the purpose of this Proclamation shall be deemed to signify antecedent to the year 1600 C.E.

3. No alteration, restoration, movement, or disposal of any antiquity or of any site of religious interest whether in public, private, or ecclesiastical custody may be made without the previous consent of the Occupied Enemy Territory Administration (South).

4. Any person who discovers an antiquity or who is aware of the discovery of an antiquity shall inform the Military Governor of the district within a period of 30 days.

5. No person who discovers an antiquity either on his own land or on the land of another may appropriate it to his own use or to the use of any public, private, or ecclesiastical body without the consent of the Occupied Enemy Territory Administration (South).

6. No person may negligently or maliciously destroy, deface, or in any way damage any ancient monument or any site which he has reason to believe to contain an antiquity or which is reputed to be of religious interest.

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7. No person shall traffic or abet the traffic in antiquities except under licence issued by the Occupied Enemy Territory Administration (South).

8. Any person who knowingly disobeys any direction of this Proclamation shall be punishable on conviction by either a Civil or Military Court with imprisonment for a term which may extend to one year or with a fine which may extend to £E.500 or with both. Any antiquities found with the person convicted or disposed of in contravention of the terms of this Proclamation and any property implicated may be confiscated.

9. Any person who reports the discovery of an antiquity over which the Administration decides to exercise its right of property shall be duly compensated, and when any such antiquity is relinquished by the Administration the Administration shall deliver the said antiquity to the person or corporation appearing to have the most proper claim thereto, together with a certificate authorizing the said antiquity to be transferred in accordance with the terms of this Proclamation.

10. The powers vested in the Administration under this Proclamation together with power to perform all necessary acts subsidiary thereto are hereby delegated to the Chief Administrator or such person or persons as he may appoint to act on his behalf.

11. The provisions of this Proclamation shall be substituted, so far as they apply, for the provisions of the Ottoman Law of Antiquities of 10th April 1322 H. throughout the whole of the Occupied Enemy Territory (South) but all the provisions of the law shall be deemed to have been in force up to the date of this Proclamation.

(Sgd.) A. W. MONEY, Major-General,
Chief Administrator.

Headquarters,
O.E.T.A. (South)
Jerusalem, 1 December 1918.