



National Heritage Board of Latvia

## Work of Department for Circulation of Cultural Goods of National Heritage Board of Latvia



Painting of J. Rozentāls, exported from Latvia in 2021.

Photo: Liana Liepa, NHBL



Antiquities seized during the police criminal investigation in 2020.

Photo: Marcis Kalnins, NHBL



Antiquities seized during the police criminal investigation in 2021.

Photo: Marcis Kalnins, NHBL

Mārcis Kalniņš, Rīga, 16.06.2023



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**The European art and antiques market is the second largest in the world, making it a selling destination for legalizing money of unknown origin.**

**Internationally, there is evidence that a number of criminal and terrorist organizations use antiquities as sources of funding, including destroying cultural heritage objects and facilitating their illicit circulation. EU border countries, including Latvia, are in a specific situation, as they can be the region of acquisition and transit of the antiquities, as well as the destination countries.**

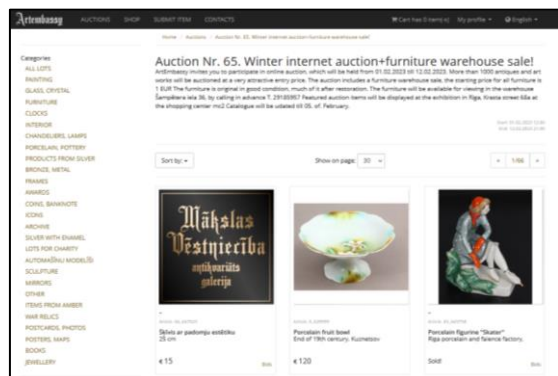


Antiquities-like items seized during the police criminal investigation in 2021.  
Photo: Marcis Kalnins, NHBL

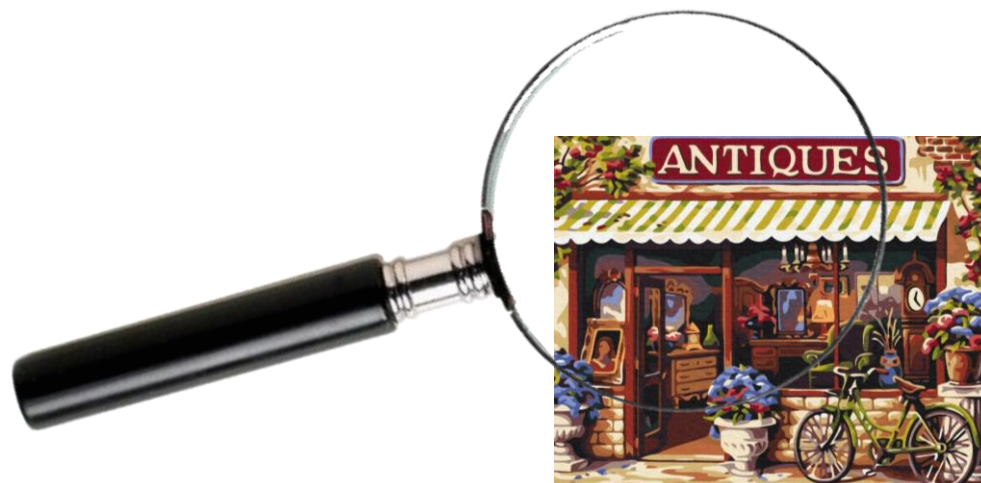




National Heritage Board of Latvia



In order to oversee and regulate the art and antique market and fight against the illegal circulation of cultural goods in Latvia in 2020 National Heritage Board established Department of Circulation of Cultural Goods.





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# Duties of the Department of Circulation of Cultural Goods of National Heritage Board of Latvia

- ✓ **Perform physical inspections in places where cultural objects are traded such as antiques, commission shops, art salons, auction places, etc..**

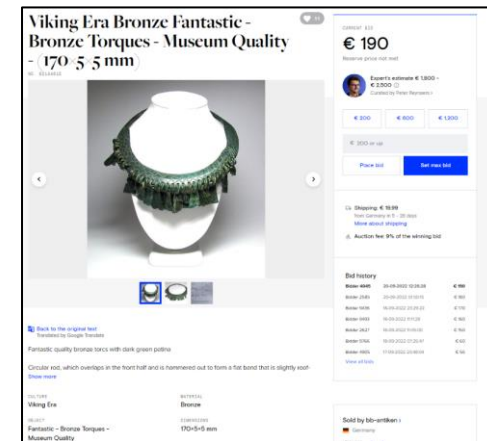




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# Duties of the Department of Circulation of Cultural Goods of National Heritage Board of Latvia

- ✓ **Monitoring of various local and international websites, virtual auction sites, social networking groups, pages and accounts where cultural objects are traded.**
- ✓ **Monitoring of various web pages, social network groups, pages and accounts, where treasure hunters (metal detectorists) share their findings.**







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# Duties of the Department of Circulation of Cultural Goods of National Heritage Board of Latvia

- ✓ **Maintain and renew the list of lost State protected movable cultural monuments**

No theft of a listed state-protected movable cultural monument has been recorded in the last ten years.

[www.nkmp.gov.lv/lv/zudusie-valsts-nozimes-kulturas-pieminekli](http://www.nkmp.gov.lv/lv/zudusie-valsts-nozimes-kulturas-pieminekli)

The screenshot displays the website interface for the National Heritage Board of Latvia, specifically the page for lost state-protected movable cultural monuments. The page title is "Zudusie valsts nozīmes kultūras pieminekļi". It features a search bar and several filters: "Datums no" (Date from), "Datums līdz" (Date to), "Atzīmētības numurs" (Inventory number), "Adrese" (Address), and "Pieminekļa apraksts" (Monument description). Below the filters, there are three entries, each with a small image and a list of details:

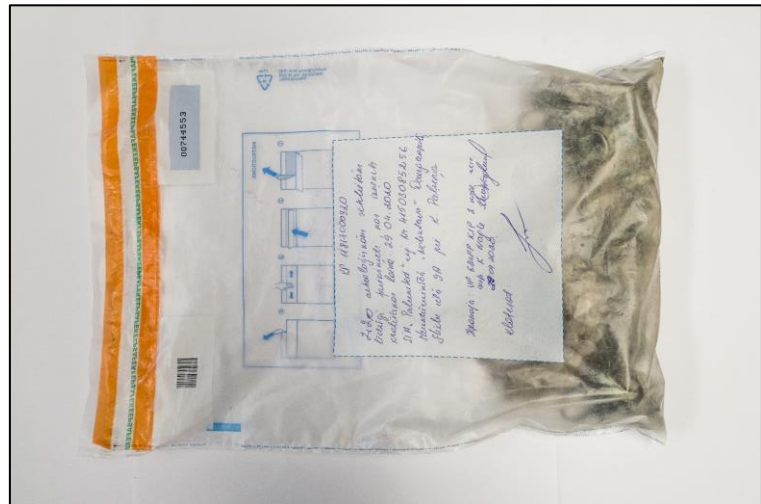
Atzīmētības numurs	Adrese	Pieminekļa apraksts
6392	Jurmala Emīļa Dārziņa iela 28 Ķēmeru viesnīca	20. gs. 30. gadi keramika kultūras gāzīša h - 62,5 cm
6396	Jurmala Emīļa Dārziņa iela 28 Ķēmeru viesnīca	20. gs. 30. gadi keramika kultūras gāzīša h - 62,5 cm
6388	Jurmala Emīļa Dārziņa iela 28 Ķēmeru viesnīca	20. gs. 30. gadi



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# Duties of the Department of Circulation of Cultural Goods of National Heritage Board of Latvia

- ✓ Report the recorded illegal activities to the State Police or conduct the administrative offence proceedings.
- ✓ Report the suspicious transactions with art and antiquities to the Financial Intelligence Unit of Latvia.
- ✓ Assist and help to the State Police and to the Financial Intelligence Unit in their investigations and other state bodies, like Customs, Border Guard, State Revenue Service etc.





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# Duties of the Department of Circulation of Cultural Goods of National Heritage Board of Latvia

- ✓ **Perform an examination of the antiquities seized within the framework of different proceedings.**
- Recognition and evaluation of art and antique object is performed by experts of Department of Circulation of Cultural goods of LNHB
- Recognition of archeological antiquities is performed by LNHB Commission for the Evaluation of Archeological Objects (Antiques)



Stolen icon of the Old Believers, submitted for expertise in 2023.  
Photo: Marcis Kalnins, NHBL



Antiquities-like items seized during the police criminal investigation in 2020.  
Photo: Marcis Kalnins, NHBL



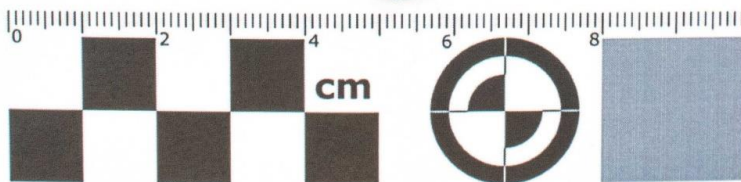


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## What is antiquity according to Latvian law?

**Antiquities are objects created as a result of intentional act of a human being - artefacts (for example, jewellery, weapons, tools, household objects, ceramic articles, coins in intact form or as fragments) which have been found in the ground, above the ground, or in water.**

LAW OF THE REPUBLIC OF LATVIA On Protection of Cultural Monuments  
Section 2. **Types of Cultural Monuments**



Modern necklace made from archaeological antiquities - one bronze diamond-shaped pendant, bronze diamond-shaped crosses (5 pieces), a bronze cross, bronze bells (6 pieces) and glass beads (36 pieces).

Date: 11.-16. c. AD

Seized in 2020.

Photo: Marcis Kalnins, NHBL

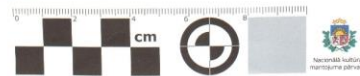


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## Who owns antiquities according to Latvian laws?

Archaeological sites which have acquired the status of a State protected or newly discovered cultural monument, and also **antiquities (dating back to the 17th century inclusive) found in the ground, above the ground, or in water in the protection zones thereof shall be under protection of and belong to the State and they shall be kept by public museums.** This provision shall **not apply to antiquities on which the person has reported to the National Heritage Board until 30 March 2013, as well as to antiquities the legal origin of which has been proved by the person after 30 March 2013 and has received a written certification from the National Heritage Board thereon**

LAW OF THE REPUBLIC OF LATVIA On Protection of Cultural Monuments Section 7. **Ownership Rights to Cultural Monuments**



Bronze sash-like bracelets and their fragments (10 pieces).

Date: 11.-14. c. AD

Seized in 2020

Photo: Marcis Kalnins, NHBL



Bronze pendants – bells (12 pieces).

Date: 12.-15. c. AD

Seized in 2020

Photo: Marcis Kalnins, NHBL



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Nacionālā kultūras  
mantojuma pārvalde



Bronze pendant - miniature axe.

Date: 11. c. AD

Seized in 2019

Photo: Jānis Meinerts, NHBL

**Newly-discovered objects**, having historical, scientific, artistic or other cultural value, irrespective of the ownership thereof, **shall be under State protection until the decision to include such objects in the list of State protected cultural monuments has been taken**, but not more than six months from the day the owner of the object was informed thereof.

**The finder shall, without delay, but not later than within five days, notify the National Heritage Board in writing of the objects** found in the ground, above the ground, in water, in buildings or parts and remains thereof and **which might have historical, scientific, artistic or other cultural value, as well as of the location and conditions thereof**

LAW OF THE REPUBLIC OF LATVIA On Protection of Cultural Monuments Section 17. **Protection of Newly-discovered Cultural Monuments**

It is **prohibited to alienate, acquire, store, move, and forward antiquities which belong to the State** of Latvia in accordance with the provisions of Section 7, Paragraph four of this Law.

LAW OF THE REPUBLIC OF LATVIA On Protection of Cultural Monuments Section 3-1. **Actions with Antiquities**





Bronze sash-like bracelets fragments (8 pieces).

Dating 11.-14. c. AD

Seized in 2021

Photo: Marcis Kalnins, NHBL



Silver bracelets fragments.

Dating 11.-12. c. AD

Seized in 2021

Photo: Marcis Kalnins, NHBL

# Criminal liability

(1) For a person who **commits illegal obtaining, storage, movement, forwarding, alienation of antiquities protected by the Republic of Latvia** which are not in the museum holding **or antiquities protected by another State, or commits illegal bringing out of the Republic of Latvia or bringing in the Republic of Latvia** thereof,

the applicable punishment is the deprivation of liberty for a period of up to one year or temporary deprivation of liberty, or community service, or a fine.

(2) For a person who **commits destruction of or damage to antiquities protected by the Republic of Latvia** which are not in the museum holding **or antiquities protected by another State,**

the applicable punishment is the deprivation of liberty for a period of up to two years or temporary deprivation of liberty, or community service, or a fine.

CRIMINAL LAW OF THE REPUBLIC OF LATVIA Section 229-1. **Illegal Acts with Antiquities**



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**952. Concealed property means all valuable property buried in the ground, immured or in any other way concealed, whose owner due to the length of time elapsed is no longer able to be known.**

Ownership of concealed property discovered on one's own land or on ownerless land accrues to the finder.

**953. It is prohibited to search for concealed property on the land of another person.** Those who act contrary to this provision, shall not acquire any of or anything from the concealed property they have found, and all such property shall accrue to the person who owns the land.

Those who accidentally find concealed property on the land of another person shall acquire half thereof but the other half accrues to the owner of the land.

The Civil Law. **Finding of Property (1937)**



Bronze pendants– crosses (9 pieces).

Date: 11.-14. c. AD

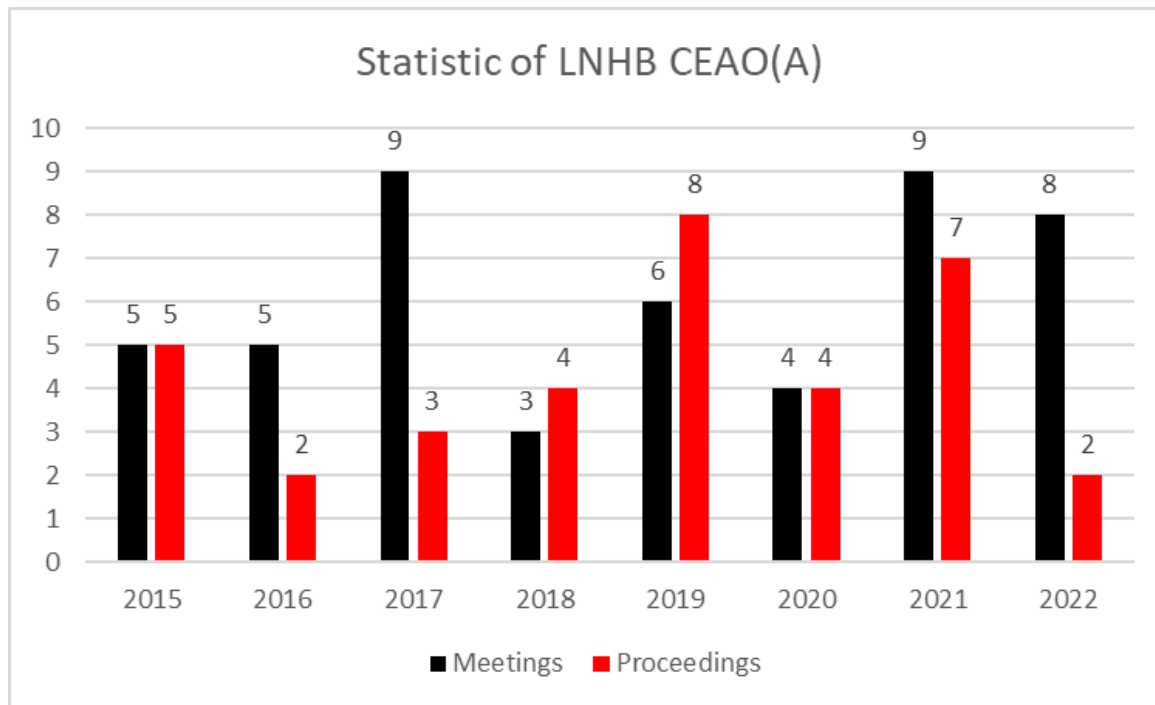
Seized in 2019

Photo: Egita Lūsēna, NHBL

# LNHB

## Commission for the Evaluation of Archaeological Objects (Antiques)

Since 2015 the commission has held 53 meeting



Bronze fibulas and their fragments.

Date: 1.-2. c. AD

Seized in 2021.

Photo: Marcis Kalnins, NHBL





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# Statistic of seized objects evaluated by LNHB CEAO(A)

From 2018 to 2022, **8455 objects** have been evaluated and **7255** were recognized as **archaeological antiquities** (finds older than 1701)



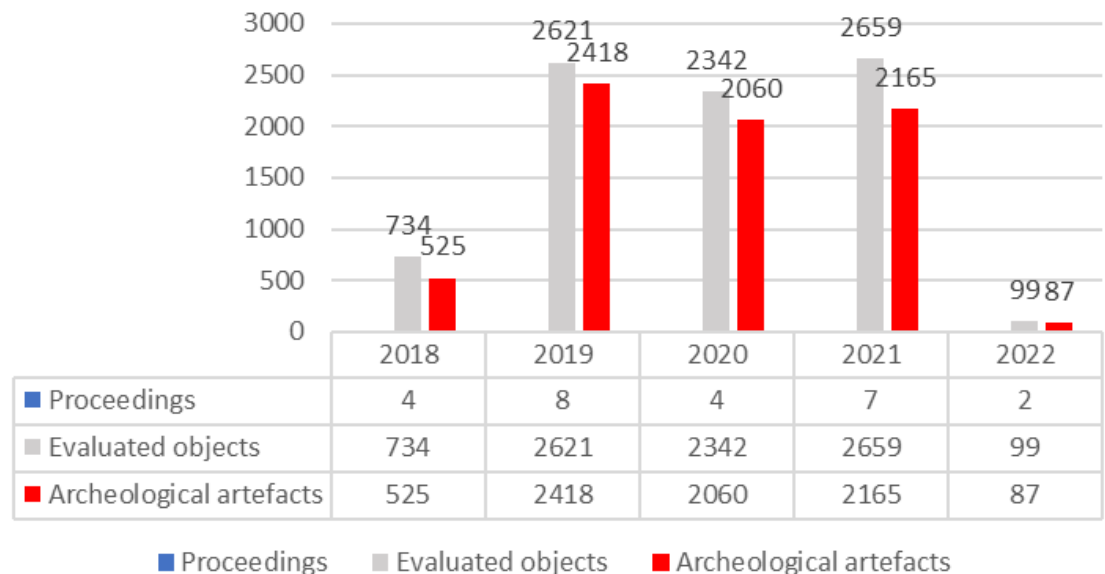
Bronze wheel-shape pins (3 pieces).

Date: 7.- 9. c. AD

Seized in 2019

Photo: Jānis Meinerts, NHBL

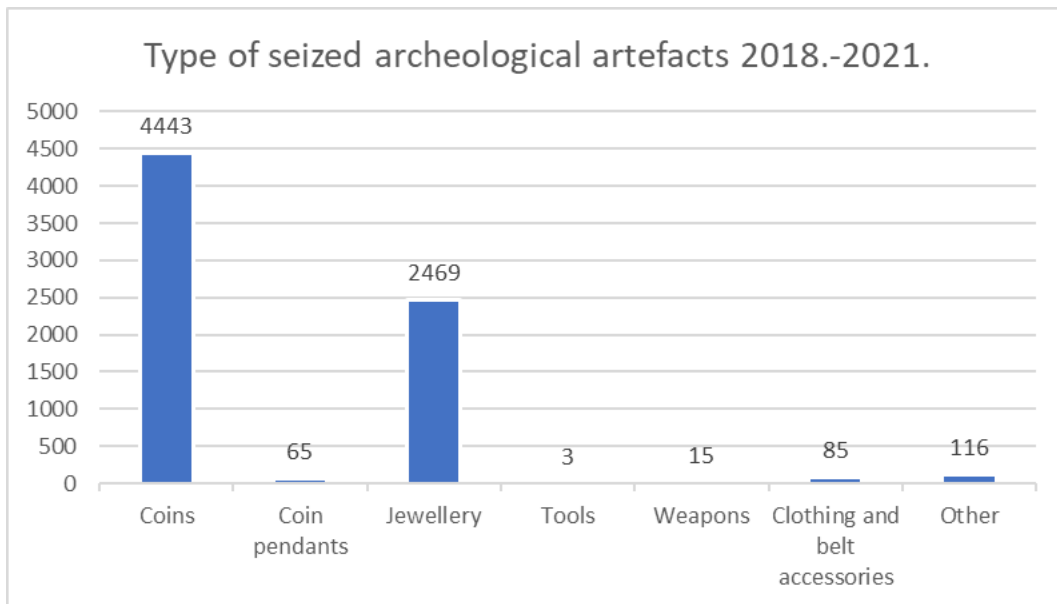
### Number of objects evaluated by LNHB CEAO(A)





National Heritage Board of Latvia

# Statistic of seized archaeological antiquities



Type of artefact	2018	2019	2020	2021	Total
Coins	326	1869	353	1895	<b>4443</b>
Coin pendants	4	5	13	43	<b>65</b>
Jewellery	188	450	1633	198	<b>2469</b>
Tools	0	0	3	0	<b>3</b>
Weapons	6	3	5	1	<b>15</b>
Clothing and belt accessories	11	27	43	4	<b>85</b>
Other	18	64	10	24	<b>116</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>553</b>	<b>2418</b>	<b>2060</b>	<b>2165</b>	<b>7196</b>



Corner type brooch with embossed floral ornaments.

Date: 16.-17. c. AD

Seized in 2021

Photo: Marcis Kalnins, NHBL



Coins 20 pieces – schillings, billon, minted in Riga freecity.

Date: 1570.-1578.

Seized in 2020

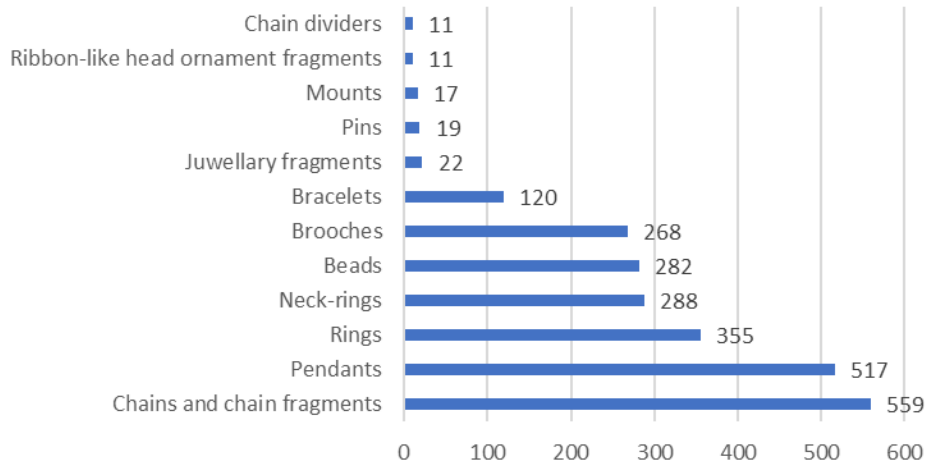
Photo: Marcis Kalnins, NHBL



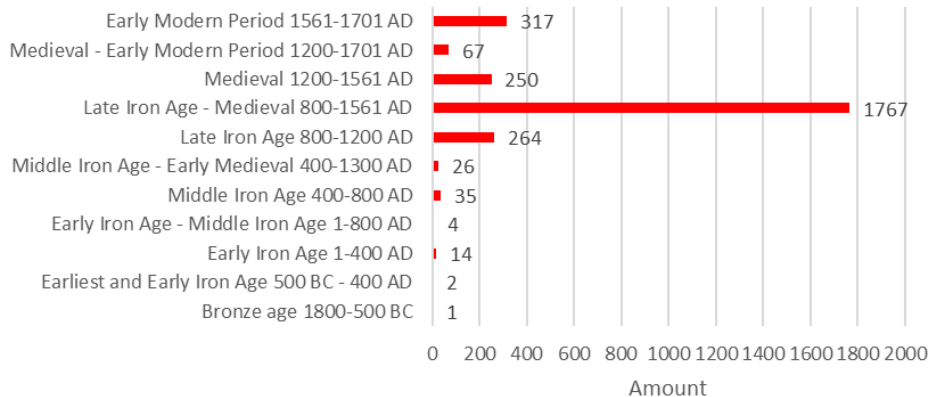
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# Statistic of seized archaeological jewelry 2018-2022

Type of seized archaeological jewellery



Dates of seized archeological jewellery



Bronze hoeshoe type brooches (6 pieces) with rolled ends.  
Date: 13.-17. c. AD  
Seized in 2021  
Photo: Marcis Kalnins, NHBL



Kauri shell pendants (69 pieces).  
Date: 8.-16.c. AD  
Seized in 2020  
Photo: Marcis Kalnins, NHBL





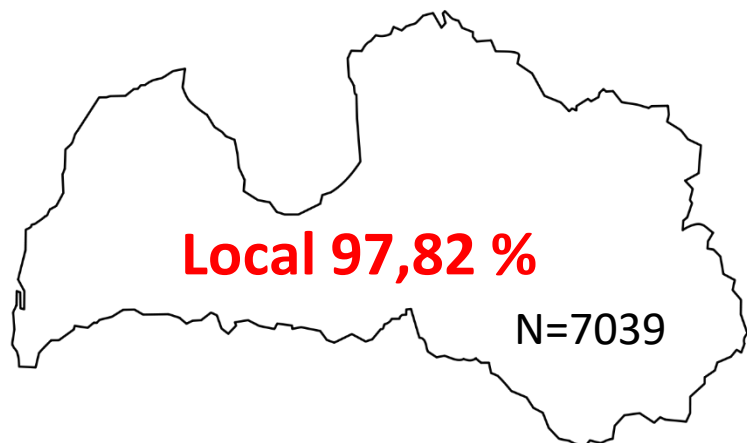
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# Region of origin of seized archaeological antiquities

2022



2018.-2021.



Coin pendants 31 pieces – produced from schillings, silver,  
minted in Revele (Tallin), Livonia.

Date: 15.-16. c. AD

Seized in 2021.

Photo: Marcis Kalnins, NHBL

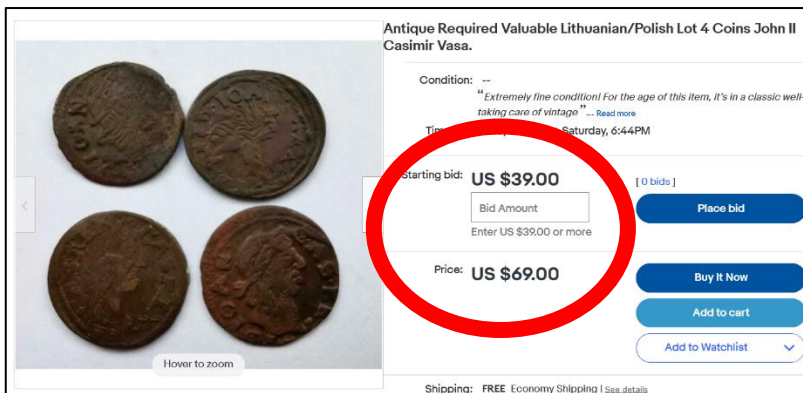
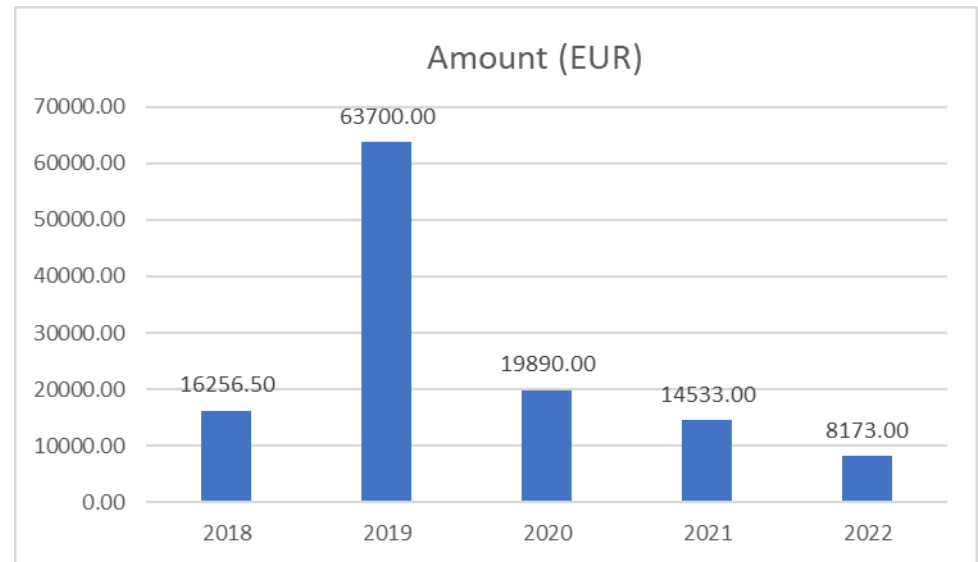
- Ukraine – 12 objects
- Black Sea region – 102 objects
- Russia – 36 objects
- South Europe – 1 object
- Far East – 2 objects
- Near/Middle East – 2 object
- Western Europe – 2 object



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# Financial value of seized archeological antiquities (evaluated by LNHM)

**6127** seized archeological antiquities from 2018 till 2022 have been valued financially by National History Museum of Latvia for a total amount of **EUR 122 552.50**



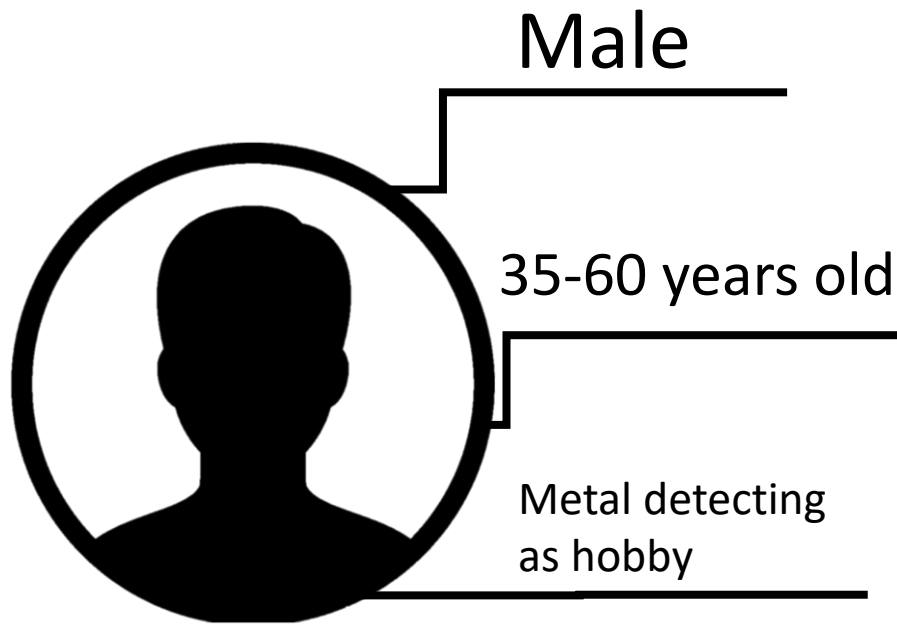
Coins 79 pieces. – solidus, copper, ruler *Jan Kazimír II* (1648–1668) of Polish–Lithuanian Commonwealth . Date: 1659.-1668. gads.  
Seized in 2021  
Photo: Marcis Kalnins, NHBL

**Evaluated: 79,00 EUR**



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# Average profile of person involved in illicit trade of archaeological antiquities in Latvia



Bronze horseshoe type brooches with animal head ends, complete and fragmentary (18 pieces).

Date: 12.-15. c. AD

Seized in 2019.

Photo: Egita Lūsēna, NHBL







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# Duties of the Department of Circulation of Cultural Goods of National Heritage Board of Latvia

✓ Issues certificates proving legal origin of antiquity dating back to the 17th century inclusive.

124 certificates were issued in 2022

 Nacionālā kultūras mantojuma pārvalde Maat Pils iela 19, Rīga, LV-1050, tāl. 26908600, e-pasts pastoti@mantojums.lv, www.nkmp.gov.lv			
<b>Apliecinājums Nr. 1 par senlietas likumīgu izcelsmi</b>			
<b>1. Senlietas apraksts</b> Monēta – akce, kalta Osmaņu impērijā.			
<b>2. Izmēri</b> Diametrs: 10.0 mm	<b>3. Masa</b> 0.31 g	<b>4. Datējums</b> 1595. -1603. g.	<b>5. Materiāls</b> Sudrabs
<b>6. Citas raksturīgas pazīmes</b> Aversā un reversā uzraksti arābu valodā.		<b>7. Izcelsmes vieta, valsts</b> Amerikas Savienotās Valstis Sākotnējā izcelsmes valsts nav zināma.	
<b>8. Senlietas attēls</b>			
			
<b>9. Iesnīgtie dokumenti, kas apliecina senlietas izcelsmi</b>			
Rēķins par priekšmetu iegādi 08.20.2010. no Great American Coin Group, LLC 11301 W Olympic Blvd., STE 609 Los Angeles, CA 90064			
<b>10. Apliecinājums</b> Apliecinu, ka visa sniegtā informācija un pavaddokuments norādītā informācija par senlietas izcelsmi ir patiesa. Personas kods: [redacted]		<b>11. Apliecinājuma izdevējiestāde</b> <b>Nacionālā kultūras mantojuma pārvalde</b> <b>Mazā pils iela 19,</b> <b>Rīga, LV-1050,</b> <b>Latvija</b> Z. v. Vieta: Rīga, Latvija Datums: 02.08.2022. Paraksts _____ /J.Asaris/	
Vieta: Rīga, Latvija Datums: 02.08.2022. Paraksts _____		Vieta: Rīga, Latvija Datums: 02.08.2022. Paraksts _____ /J.Asaris/	
12. Šai veidlapai ir pievienoti pielikumi uz 0 lapām			
* Apliecinājums apstiprina iesniedzēja tiesības uz senlietas īpašumtiesībām, bet nav uzskatāma par šī kultūras priekšmeta autentiskuma apliecinājumu.			

Certificates issued by the NHBL proving legal origin of antiquity

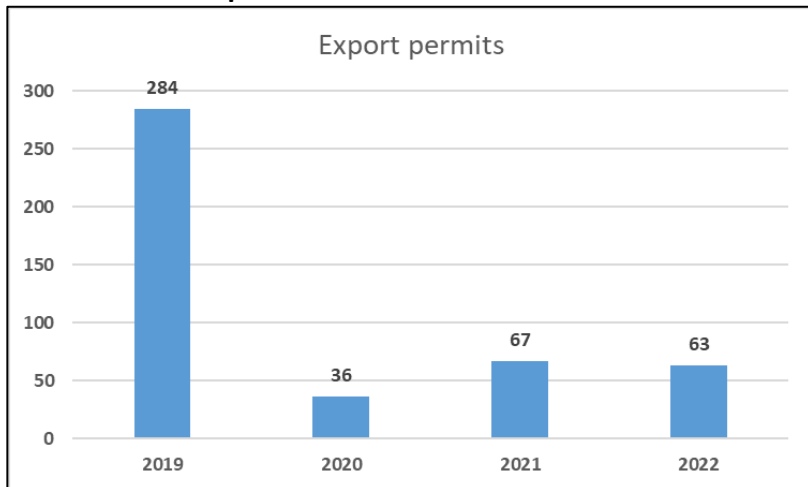


National Heritage Board of Latvia

# Duties of the Department of Circulation of Cultural Goods of National Heritage Board of Latvia

## ✓ Issuing permits for the export of art and antiques

Amount of issued export permits 2019-2022



## Export permit issued by the NHBL

Atļauja kultūras priekšmetu izvešanai no Latvijas Republikas (pamata dokumenti)	
1. Iesaukuma Nr. <b>2024/2022</b> Pasaules mantojuma Nr. <b>152756-11673</b> Mācītājam ieviešanai Nr. <b>43</b> , Rīga, LV-1002	2. Objektu* Nr. <b>143 171</b> - <b>Dzelzs stabi</b> (180000) Pārvietošanas datums <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pasaules mantojuma Nr. <b>152756-11673</b> Atļaujas izdevuma datums
3. Iesaukuma priekšmets	4. Objektu apraksts Nacionālā kultūras mantojuma priekšmets Mācītājam ieviešanai Nr. <b>43</b> , Rīga, LV-1002
5. Iesaukuma veids Izvešana	6. Valsts, no kuras kultūras priekšmets izvests Latvijas Republikā
7. Kultūras priekšmetu apraksts Kultūras priekšmets: <b>180000 - Dzelzs stabi</b> Izvešana: <b>2024/2022</b>	8. Kultūras priekšmetu apraksts Kultūras priekšmets: <b>180000 - Dzelzs stabi</b> Izvešana: <b>2024/2022</b>
*Ja objektu aprakstā ir minēti vairāki kultūras priekšmeti, katram no tiem jānorāda tā izvešanas datums un valsts, no kuras kultūras priekšmets izvests.	
**Valsts izvešana: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

Kultūras priekšmetu apraksts (objekti)	
1. Objektu apraksts <b>180000 - Dzelzs stabi</b>	2. Objektu apraksts <b>180000 - Dzelzs stabi</b>
3. Objektu apraksts <b>180000 - Dzelzs stabi</b>	4. Objektu apraksts <b>180000 - Dzelzs stabi</b>
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69. Objektu apraksts <b>180000 - Dzelzs stabi</b>	70. Objektu apraksts <b>180000 - Dzelzs stabi</b>
71. Objektu apraksts <b>180000 - Dzelzs stabi</b>	72. Objektu apraksts <b>180000 - Dzelzs stabi</b>
73. Objektu apraksts <b>180000 - Dzelzs stabi</b>	74. Objektu apraksts <b>180000 - Dzelzs stabi</b>
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81. Objektu apraksts <b>180000 - Dzelzs stabi</b>	82. Objektu apraksts <b>180000 - Dzelzs stabi</b>
83. Objektu apraksts <b>180000 - Dzelzs stabi</b>	84. Objektu apraksts <b>180000 - Dzelzs stabi</b>
85. Objektu apraksts <b>180000 - Dzelzs stabi</b>	86. Objektu apraksts <b>180000 - Dzelzs stabi</b>
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89. Objektu apraksts <b>180000 - Dzelzs stabi</b>	90. Objektu apraksts <b>180000 - Dzelzs stabi</b>
91. Objektu apraksts <b>180000 - Dzelzs stabi</b>	92. Objektu apraksts <b>180000 - Dzelzs stabi</b>
93. Objektu apraksts <b>180000 - Dzelzs stabi</b>	94. Objektu apraksts <b>180000 - Dzelzs stabi</b>
95. Objektu apraksts <b>180000 - Dzelzs stabi</b>	96. Objektu apraksts <b>180000 - Dzelzs stabi</b>
97. Objektu apraksts <b>180000 - Dzelzs stabi</b>	98. Objektu apraksts <b>180000 - Dzelzs stabi</b>
99. Objektu apraksts <b>180000 - Dzelzs stabi</b>	100. Objektu apraksts <b>180000 - Dzelzs stabi</b>



National Heritage  
Board of Latvia

# Duties of the Department of Circulation of Cultural Goods of National Heritage Board of Latvia

- ✓ Represents the state as a victim in criminal proceedings
- ✓ Propose and develop changes in laws regarding to the circulation of cultural goods
- ✓ To inform and educate the public about issues related to the circulation of cultural objects





National Heritage  
Board of Latvia

# Duties of the Department of Circulation of Cultural Goods of National Heritage Board of Latvia

- ✓ **Represent Latvia in various international and local working groups, projects, trainings etc. related to the circulation of cultural goods.**
- ✓ **Develops and promotes international cooperation in order to protect movable cultural heritage of Latvia.**



Participating OPFA-CULT project 2<sup>nd</sup> workshop  
in Romania, March 2023



Latvian, Lithuanian and Estonian movable heritage  
expert workshop and joint visit to antique flea market  
in Riga, June 2023





National Heritage  
Board of Latvia

# Thank you for attention!

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Orthodox icon, exported from  
Latvia in 2022  
Photo: Liana Liepa, NHBL



Antiquities recovered from  
looter 2023  
Date: 8.-16. c.  
Photo: Marcis Kalnins, NHBL