

785016

ACC

10000/145/309

20904/3B

CRATES FROM TRIPOLITANIA

OCT. 1944 - MAR. 1946

785016

MFAS

20904/3/B

Crates from  
TRIPOLITANIA

HQ. UNITED COMMISSION APO 394

S/C for documents, fine arts & archives

File # 20904/3/B

Crates from TRIPOLITANIA

| Date   | To    |
|--------|-------|
| 1 Aug  | CAS   |
| 2 Aug  | 19/AA |
| 3 Aug  | CAS   |
| 20 Oct | CAS   |
| 22 Oct | 19/AA |
| 23 Nov | CAS   |

785016

| Date   | To   |
|--------|------|
| 1 Aug  | CAS  |
| 2 Aug  | 1944 |
| 3 Aug  | END  |
| 20 Oct | CAS  |
| 22 Oct | 1944 |
| 23 Nov | CAS  |

10000

145

309

THIS

CONTAINS

FROM OCT. 1944

TO MAR. 1946

CATALOGUE

785016

7

MFAA. S/c

Letter Signed and file returned.

B. Thomeon  
CA.

CAS. 29/3.

5177

785016

20904/3/B/MFAA

To CA Section

They must be psychic! They were drafting a letter for the CC produced the desired answer. Now we've got to get at the stuff & check it. If you will sign this, I'll have them by telephone in a few days. (7)

Desautels Lt. Col

Attn: MFAA S/C. 3 Aug '45

CAS.

For approval and signatures (6) please

MFAA S/C. 20 Oct 45

Desautels Lt. Col.

X 442.

In FAA: Letter signed &amp; file returned. J. H. M. Maj. C. A. Beckman.

22 Oct.  
358.

(6)

5176

C. A. Sec.

Letter for signature please. This is one of your Fine Arts' Advisor's things & is his draft.

H. E. Beckman

MFAA S/C

28 March 46

20904/3/5/ITAA

MINUTES:

To: VP, CA Section

①

See accompanying correspondence:

- a. In mid-May 1945 agents, of the Ministry of Africa Italiana removed to Rome from Lombardia two crates of very important and valuable archaeological material (see report at 4A). These crates had been brought to Rome from Cyrenaica in 1942 for safe custody and subsequently removed to the North. Unofficial enquiry confirms the crates are in fact now in Rome.
- b. On 10 June we wrote to the Ministry (at 2) and got no reply. Our hastener of 9 July (at 3) has been similarly disregarded.
- c. The Ministry are evidently hoping that a policy of masterly inactivity may serve to prevent this material returning to CYRENAICA where it belongs. I feel it is time for a high-level rocket. If you agree, may I prepare a draft, and if so for whom, to whom?

J.B. Ward Perkins

J.B. WARD PERKINS  
Lt.Col., R.A.  
Deputy Director, MPAA S/C.

1 Aug 45

Draft a letter to P 9 from CC

5175

②

To VP, CA Section.

Draft herewith as instructed.

J.B. Ward Perkins Lt. Col.

A/Dir. MPAA S/C. 2 Aug 45

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION  
APO 394  
CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTION

209043/B

29 March 1946

TO: The Chief Secretary H.E.  
BIA TRIPOLITANIA

5174

Reference your 3/V7 of 7 March 46

1. Herewith inventories of the contents of two crates of antiquities from Tripolitania & Cyrenaica at present stored in the Museo Coloniale, Rome. It is regretted that, by an oversight, these were not despatched earlier.

2. Your request for the early return of all antiquities, palaeontological specimens, and books is noted and arrangements will be made to have the material crated and ready for travel. This headquarters would however welcome any suggestion as to the practical means of moving it at the present time from Italy to Tripoli. There do not appear to be any direct shipping facilities, and the material is of considerable bulk and value. The Allied Commission is strongly of the opinion that the heavy responsibility for safe shipment ought to rest with the Italian Government and should not be assumed by Allied authority.

3. Perhaps you would care to discuss the matter in detail with Mr. Ward Perkins who, it is understood, has been asked to visit BIA Tripolitania in the near future.

For the Chief Commissioner



H. Carr  
Brigadier  
Vice President

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION  
ATO 394  
Subcommission for Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives  
( Tel. 489081, ext 442 & 254 )

20901/1/B

20th March 1946

SUBJECT: Material from Tripolitania

TO : The Director General of Fine Arts  
Ministry of Public Instruction

1. The Allied Commission has received from the Military Administration of Tripolitania a request that the Commission should examine the possibility of arranging for the return to Tripolitania ( and to Cyrenaica ) of various objects, at present held in Italy either on temporary loan or for safe-custody during the war.
2. The objects in question are:
  - a) Bronze antiquities from Tripolitania, loaned to the Mostra d'Oltremare, and at present housed in Rome at the Museo Coloniale.
  - b) The contents of two crates of coins and ethnographic jewelry, brought in 1941 from Tripoli & Cyrenaica for safe custody and now housed in Rome at the Museo Coloniale.
  - c) A series of palaeontological specimens from the Museo Libico di Storia Naturale on loan to the Istituto di Paleontologia of Rome University for study by Professor Petroschi.
  - d) A number of books from the library of the Superintendency in Cyrenaica, loaned to Professor Oliverio in 1938.
  - e) Classical sculptures from Tripolitania & Cyrenaica, loaned to the Mostra d'Oltremare, and at present housed in Naples Museum.
3. It is appreciated that the actual transport of these objects may not be immediately practical. It is however understood that the Italian Government is agreed in principle to their restitution.

2

to their proper home; and it would seem therefore desirable, not only to put formally on record the intention to return them at the earliest opportunity, but also to collect and crate them ready to take advantage of any opportunity for transport which may offer.

4. It is further appreciated that many or all of the objects mentioned fall within the competence of the Ministry of African Affairs. This letter is however addressed to the Director General in the belief that you will prefer all problems of administration to pass through the same office.
5. It is believed that you already possess inventories of most of the objects represented. If required however copies are available for inspection in the files of this administration.

H.E.B.

S. J. PILL

Major, A.S.C.

Director

Copy to: Mr. B.A. Tripolitano, Major Haynes, Intelligence Officer  
Copy to: Prof. Carlo Levi (in confirmation of conversation)

5172

785016

MFAA 1/c

D

Subject: Archaeological Material  
from Africa.

-----

H.Q. F.I.A.  
Tripoli 23F  
Auto. Tel. 2178

2/3/7

7th March, 1946.  
18 MAR 1946

H.Q., Allied Commission  
Civil Affairs Section,  
A.P.O. 394.

-----

1. Reference your letters 20904/3/3/MFAA dated Oct. '45 and 20904/3/3/MFAA dated 7 Jan. '46.

2. I am directed to inquire whether the inventory of the contents of the two crates of antiquities referred to in paras 1 and 2 of the first letter quoted above is now available.

3. It is considered desirable that all the antiquities and paleontological specimens referred to in this letter should be returned to their appropriate places in this territory and Cyrenaica as soon as possible; and that the books referred to in the second letter should be recovered from Prof. Cliverio for the library of Derna.

4. I am to ask <sup>whether</sup> ~~the~~ arrangements to transport these objects and books to this Headquarters can be made as soon as convenient.

5171

H.E. Haynes

(S.S.I. HAYNES),  
Major,  
for Chief Secretary.

BLLH/01



785016



*Ministero  
della Pubblica Istruzione*

DIREZIONE GENERALE  
PER LE ANTICHITA' E BELLE ARTI

Div. II<sup>a</sup>

*Prot. N° 2455*

OGGETTO

Materiali archeologici della Libia.-

Mod. 1 (Belle Arti)

3 - NOV. 1945

*Recep. 2 NOV 1945*

Alla Commissione Alleg  
ta - Sezione Affari Civi  
li

ROMA

*Registralo al f. del* ottobre 45  
*Dir. Sec. N°*

Ringrazio codesta Commissione delle noti-  
zie inviate a questo Ministero intorno ai materiali  
archeologici della Libia già portati in Italia e  
depositi al Museo Coloniale e all'Istituto di  
Paleontologia della R. Università di Roma.

IL MINISTRO

*F.to Bianchi-Bandinelli*

5170  
5511

785016

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION  
APO 394  
CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTION

JEW/P/11

13  
11/20

20904/3/B/MFAA

27 October 45

SUBJECT: Archaeological Material from Africa.

TO : DCCAG, Tripolitania.  
DCCAG, Cyrenaica.

160

1. This HQ's 20904/3/MFAA of 19 Oct 44 enclosed a report by Prof Micacchi on two crates of precious antiquities transferred from Libya to Rome for safe-custody and removed thence by the Republican Fascist Government.

2. These have been recovered intact and in good condition, and are at present stored in the Museo Coloniale at Rome. They have been inspected and inventorized by a joint Commission upon which the Monuments and Fine Arts Subcommittee was represented. A copy of the agreed inventory will follow as soon as received.

3. In addition to the above, the following palaeontological specimens are at the Istituto di Paleontologia della R. Università di Roma, in the custody of Prof C. Petrocchi, until 1940 Director of the Museo Libico di Storia Naturale in Tripoli, and excavator of the important fossil-bed at Sahabi in Cyrenaica. They had been loaned provisionally for study to the excavator by the Government of Libya:

1. Mandible of MASTODON SIVALENSIS (cast)
2. Mandible of RINOCEROS (cast)
3. Shell of TESTUDO (cast)
4. Complete head of CROCODYLUS (original)
5. Molar of MASTODON SIVALENSIS (original)
6. Molar of STEGOTRABELLON (original)
7. Molar of STEGOLOPHODON (original)
8. Skull of BOVID (original)

3169

4. The small metal classical exhibits from the Mostra d'Oltremare at Naples, now stored in the Museo Coloniale at Rome, were inspected in May 1945 (20034/5/A/MFAA of 27 June 45, para 4 refers). Several were found in poor condition owing to humidity of storage. By kind arrangement with the Ministry of Public Instruction, such measures as are practicable are being taken to arrest deterioration.

For the CHIEF COMMISSIONER:



H. CARR,  
Brigadier,  
VP CA Sec.

-----

Copies to:

Marchese Cittadini-Cesi, Representative  
of Ministry of Foreign Affairs, HQ ALCOM (2)  
Minister of Public Instruction  
Sir Leonard Woolley, Archaeological Adviser,  
The War Office, London.

2164

785016

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION  
APO 394

NTN/rc

Subcommission for Monuments Fine Arts & Archives  
(Tel. 489081, ext. 442 & 254; 478480)

20904/3/B/MFAA

18 October 45

SUBJECT: Archeological Material from Africa.

TO : Marchese Cittadini-Cesi, Representative of Ministry  
of Foreign Affairs, HQ ALCOM, Rm 39, 3rd Floor.

1. Our letter, same file and subject, of 5 Sept 45  
requested three authenticated copies of the report of examina-  
tion and of the inventory of the archeological material in  
question.

2. To date no reply has been received to our request.  
When may we expect to receive it?

*W* J. B. WARD PERKINS  
Lt. Col., RA  
Director

5167

785016

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION  
APO 391.

WEN/ps

Subcommission for Monuments Fine Arts & Archives  
(Tel. 439084, ext. 42 & 254; 478480)

20904/3/B/FMA

5 September 1945

SUBJECT: Archaeological Material from Africa

TO : Marchese Cittadini-Gesi, Representative of Ministry  
of Foreign Affairs, HQ ALOOM, Ita 39, 3rd Floor.

1. Reference is made to our memorandum of 4 Aug 45, file as above, forwarding letter of CA Sec, this HQ, 20904/3/B/FMA of 3 Aug 45.

2. Since the examination of the archaeological material in question (as requested by the letter of 3 Aug 45) has been completed, may the Director of the Museo Coloniale please be asked to furnish this Subcommission with authenticated copies (in triplicate) of the report of the examination and of the definitive inventory compiled in the course of the examination.

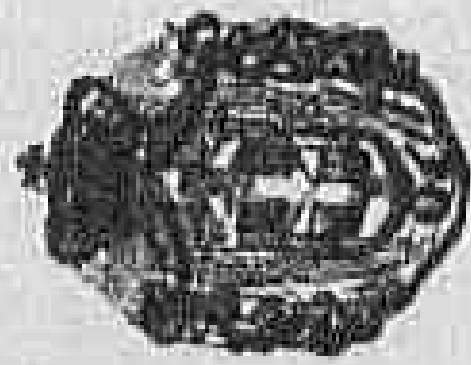
For the Director:

NDU  
HUGHAN T. NEWTON  
Major, Air Corps,  
A/Deputy Director.

In triplicate

5166

785016



Ci

**URGENTE**

Ministero dell'Africa Italiana

UFFICIO STUDI

11 AGO 1945

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

ATO 394

CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTION

R O M A

- Via Vittorio Veneto -

Prot. N° 800918 bis Allegati  
 Risposta al f. N° 20904/3/B/MTAA  
 del 3 agosto 1945

Oggetto: Archaeological material, CYRENAICA.-

In riferimento al foglio n. 20904/3/D/MTAA in data 3 corrente, di codesta Commissione, si ha il pregio di comunicare che una apposita Commissione Ministeriale sta procedendo alla precisa ricognizione delle monete d'oro e di argento e dei vari monili della Libia contenute nelle due cassette recuperate nell'Italia del Nord.-

Questo Ministero sarà ben lieto che un rappresentante della Sottocommissione Monumenti e Delle Arti di codesta Commissione Alleata assista ai lavori della suddetta Commissione prendendo in proposito accordi con il Museo Colonniale in Via Aldrovandi (Comm. Vitale - telefono 873712).-

5165

Caff. Maresca has been detailed

to attend.

d'ordine

IL MINISTRO

Oggetto: Archaeological material, CYRENAICA.-

(7)  
In riferimento al foglio n. 20904/3/B/MPAA in data 3 corrente, di codesta Commissione, si ha il pregio di comunicare che una apposita Commissione Ministeriale sta procedendo alla precisa ricognizione delle monete d'oro e di argento e dei vari monili della Libia contenute nelle due cassette recuperate nell'Italia del Nord.-

Questo Ministero sarà ben lieto che un rappresentante della Sottocommissione Monumenti e Belle Arti di codesta Commissione Alleata assista ai lavori della suddetta Commissione prendendo in proposito accordi con il Museo Colonniale in Via Aldrovandi (Comm. Vitale - telefono 873712).-

Capt. Maxe has been detailed to attend.

Wm. M. M.

Wait down?  
16 Oct 45 M. M.

3165

Al d'ordine  
IL MINISTRO  
IL CAPO DI CABINETTO

M. M.

|                            |
|----------------------------|
| A. C. C.                   |
| MONUMENTS FILE 1913 & 1945 |
| QUARANTY SECTION           |
| 13 AUG 1945                |
| FILE No 20904/3/B          |

(2021)

785016

8 AGO 1945

9  
HWAHEADQUARTERS  
ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT  
LOMBARDIA REGION

APO 394

Division of Monuments, Fine Arts &amp; Archives

8 August 45

20909/MFA&amp;A/LR

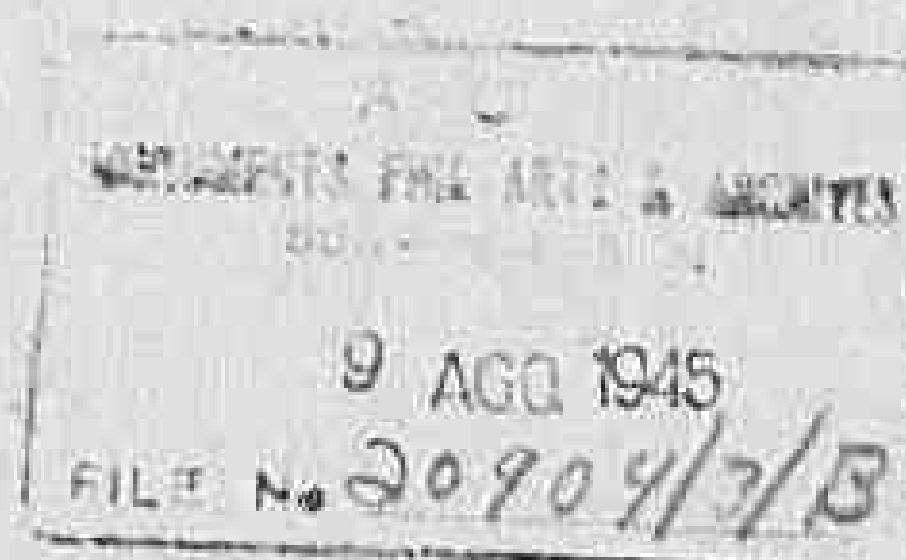
SUBJECT : Cases containing gold antiquities  
from Tripolitania.TO : Director  
MFA&A Subcommission  
Hq. A.C.

9A

1. Please find enclosed copy of document  
re subject forwarded to this Division by MFA&A Officer,  
AMG Piemonte Region.

*Perry M. Carr*  
PERRY M. CARR, Lieut. USAR  
Regional Monuments, & Fine  
Arts Officer.

5164



9 AGO 1945

C O P I A

da : LEGIONE TERRITORIALE DEI CARABINIERI REALE DI TORINO  
COMPAGNIA DI VERBANIA

N. 22/48

Verbania 28 Luglio 1945

OGGETTO : Esito ricerche di casse del Museo Coloniale di Roma

A seguito degli accertamenti praticati da questa compagnia comunicasi :

Il 15 maggio 1945 le casse in argomento vennero fatte trasportare a Milano da Cittiglio dal Maggiore Amedeo Guillet che le aveva prese regolarmente in consegna e quindi da Milano a Roma e messe a disposizione del Governo Italiano. Per tale operazione venne redatto un documento che qui di seguito si trascrive :

"Io sottoscritto maggiore Guillet, per ordine del Governo Italiano e per ordine del Generale Cadorna -Capo di Stato Maggiore dell'Esercito Italiano, dichiaro di aver ricevuto in data odierna (15.5.1945) dai Sigg. Nino Fraschini-Ten. Emilio Rizzi e Antonio Fraschini :

n. 2 cassette contenenti valori appartenenti al Ministero dell'Africa Italiana e che furono prese in custodia dai succitati Sigg. Fraschini Nino, Ten. Emilio Rizzi - Antonio Fraschini il giorno 26 aprile 1945 per conto del Comando Settore Nord Varese e del Comitato di Liberazione di Cittiglio.

5183

Dichiara inoltre di aver provveduto alla verifica degli oggetti contenuti nelle due casse e di aver constatato di presenza che il numero degli stessi corrisponde esattamente all'elenco

aveva preso regolarmente in consegna e quindi da Milano a Roma e messe a disposizione del Governo Italiano. Per tale operazione venne redatto un documento che qui di seguito si trascrive :

"Io sottoscritto maggiore Guillet, per ordine del Governo Italiano e per ordine del Generale Cadorna -Capo di Stato Maggiore dell'Esercito Italiano, dichiaro di aver ricevuto in data odierna (15.5.1945) dai Sigg.Nino Fraschini-Ten.Emilio Rizzi e Antonio Fraschini :

n.2 cassette contenenti valori appartenenti al Ministero dell'Africa Italiana e che furono prese in custodia dai succitati Sigg. Fraschini Nino, Ten.Emilio Rizzi - Antonio Fraschini il giorno 26 aprile 1945 per conto del Comando Settore Nord Varese e del Comitato di Liberazione di Cittiglio.

5163

Dichiaro inoltre di aver provveduto alla verifica degli oggetti convenuti nelle due casse e di aver constatato di presenza che il numero degli stessi corrisponde esattamente all'elenco qui allegato in copia.

L'elenco controfirmato dei Sigg.Antonio Fraschini-Attilio Viapiano-Arrigo Umberto-V.Balduini-Cellini Giuseppe, trovati in ogni cassa. In presenza del sottoscritto le due carrette sono state munite di n.3 (tre) reggette col sigillo della Conceria Fraschini S.A. Brenta.

In fede Pto : Maggiore Amedeo Guillet.

La presente dichiarazione consta di un originale e n.6 copie numerate . I testimoni : Antonio Fraschini, Attilio Viapiano; Arrigo Umberto, Nino Fraschini, C. Rava, ten.Rizzi N.Di Aleso.  
A Cittiglio li 15 maggio 1945

Il Capitano  
Comandante la Compagnia  
Pto : Dante Adami.

20904/3/B/MFAA

4 AUG 1945

MEMORANDUM

To: Marchese Cittadini-Cesi, Representative of Ministry  
of Foreign Affairs, HQ. ALCOM, Rm.39, 3rd Floor.

The original of the attached copy-letter 20904/3/B/MFAA  
of 3 August was sent direct through misunderstanding. The  
present copies are forwarded to secure rapid delivery.

*Done*  
J.B. WARD PERKINS  
Lt. Col., R.A.  
A/Director

5162

785016

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION  
APO 394  
CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTION

JBP/ps

20904/3/1/12PA

3 August 1946

Subject: Archaeological Material, CROAZIA

To : Ministry of Africa Italiana.

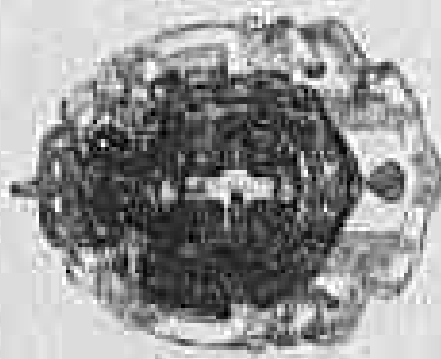
It is noted with pleasure that the important archaeological material referred to in your letter Prot. No. 800919 of 30 July 1945 is safe and in Rome.

Will you please make arrangements for a check of the contents to be undertaken in the presence of a representative of the Monuments and Fine Arts Subcommission (tel. 478450, ext. 142). In view of the delay of nearly two months in obtaining a reply to an initial query, it would be greatly appreciated if these arrangements could be made without further delay.

Signed by Lt Col B-C

for S.R. URJONE, Brig.  
VP, CA Sec

5161



Ministero dell'Africa Italiana

UFFICIO STUDI  
SEGRETERIA

Dist. N° 90949

Allegato

Risposta al f. N° 20904/3/NFAA

del 10 giugno 1945

OGGETTO: Archeological Material

In risposta alla lettera sopra distinta si ha il pregio di comunicare che il materiale archeologico del quale sono state chieste notizie da codesta Commissione e' stato ritrovato e trovato ora a Roma.

30 LUG 1945

2- AGO 1945

30 LUG. 1945

Roma

⑥

MPAA

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

APC 394

CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTION

via Vittorio Veneto

R O M A

IL MINISTRO

onato

R MORELLI

Min. Fin. Affari

Under Secretary

for Italian

Command

5160

In risposta alla lettera sopra distinta si ha il pregio di comunicare che il materiale archeologico del quale sono state chieste notizie da codesta Commissione e' stato ritrovato e trovato ora a Roma.

IL MINISTRO

*R. Morelli*

*onore*

*R. MORELLI*

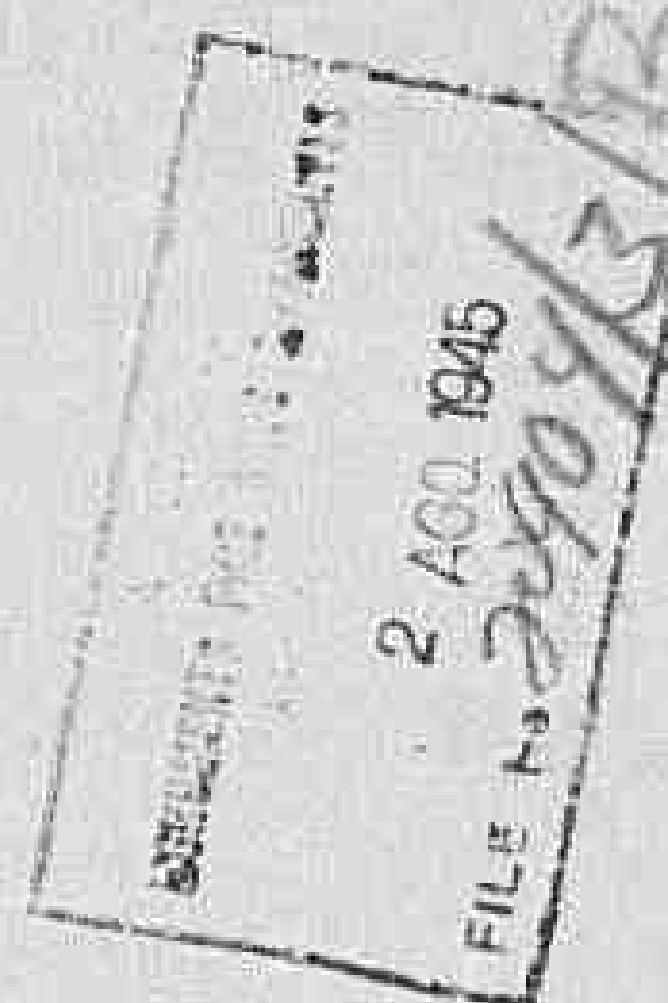
*Min. Fin. Affari*

*< Under Secretary*

*for Parliament*

*Abroad >*

5160



785016

DRAFT

(5)

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION  
Office of the Chief Commissioner

APO 394

Ref: 20904/3/E/AFAA

August 1945

My dear Mr. Prime Minister:

In December 1942 two crates, containing important and valuable archaeological material from Cyrenaica and Tripolitania, were brought to Rome for safe-custody and were lodged in the Museo Coloniale. In May 1944 they were removed to North Italy by Comm. Achille Ragni of the Republican Fascist Government.

About the middle of May a representative of the Ministry of Africa Italiana presented himself at Pallanza, the seat of the Ministry of Africa Italiana in North Italy, and without any authorization from the Allied Military Government removed the two crates for transport to Rome.

On 10 June the Civil Affairs Section of the Allied Commission addressed a letter (20904/3/AFAA) to the Ministry of Africa Italiana requesting information as to the whereabouts of these crates. On 9 July the enquiry was repeated. To neither of these letters has any reply been received.

I must request therefore that you instruct the Commissario of the Ministry of Africa Italiana to notify this Commission forthwith of the whereabouts of the two crates, and that, in the event of their being in his charge, he be further instructed to arrange for a check of the contents to take place at an early date in the presence of a representative of the Monuments & Fine Arts Subcommittee of this Commission.

Yours very truly,

5159

Removed to North Italy by Com. Achille Ragni of the  
Republican Fascist Government.

About the middle of May a representative of the Ministry of Africa Italiana presented himself at Pallanza, the seat of the Ministry of Africa Italiana in North Italy, and without any authorization from the Allied Military Government removed the two crates for transport to Rome.

On 10 June the Civil Affairs Section of the Allied Commission addressed a letter (20904/5/AFIA) to the Ministry of Africa Italiana requesting information as to the whereabouts of these crates. On 9 July the enquiry was repeated. To neither of these letters has any reply been received.

I must request therefore that you instruct the Commissario of the Ministry of Africa Italiana to notify this Commission forthwith of the whereabouts of the two crates, and that, in the event of their being in his charge, he be further instructed to arrange for a check of the contents to take place at an early date in the presence of a representative of the Monuments & Fine Arts Subcommission of this Commission.

Yours very truly,

5159

MILVY W. STUBBS  
Rear Admiral, USNR  
Chief Commissioner

Professor Ferruccio Parri  
The President of the Council of Ministers  
Italian Government  
Rome

Not full up as it crossed with receipt of reply  
dated 30 July

785016

HEADQUARTERS  
VENEZIE REGION

ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT

Division of Monuments Fine Arts and Archives

NTN/ev

RXII/MFA/Dep/2

17 July 1945

SUBJECT: Cases containing gold antiquities from Tripolitania.

TO : Regional MFPA Officer, HQ Lombardia Region AMG.

1. Ref your unnumbered inquiry of 19 June, and our  
RXII/MFA/Dep/2 of 25 June to PC Verona.

2. PPSO Verona informs us:  
"The Questura has inquired into this matter and reports  
that the Ministero dell'Africa Italiana has never had its HQ  
in Verona but at Cremona. The two cases containing prehisto-  
rical material were never brought to Verona".

*Newton*  
NORMAN T. NEWTON,  
Major, Air Corps,  
Regional MFPA Officer.

Copies to:

Subc MFPA, HQ AC  
PPSO, Verona.

5158

785016

The Questura has inquired into this matter and reports that the Ministero dell'Africa Italiana has never had its HQ in Verona but at Cremona. The two cases containing prehistorical material were never brought to Verona".

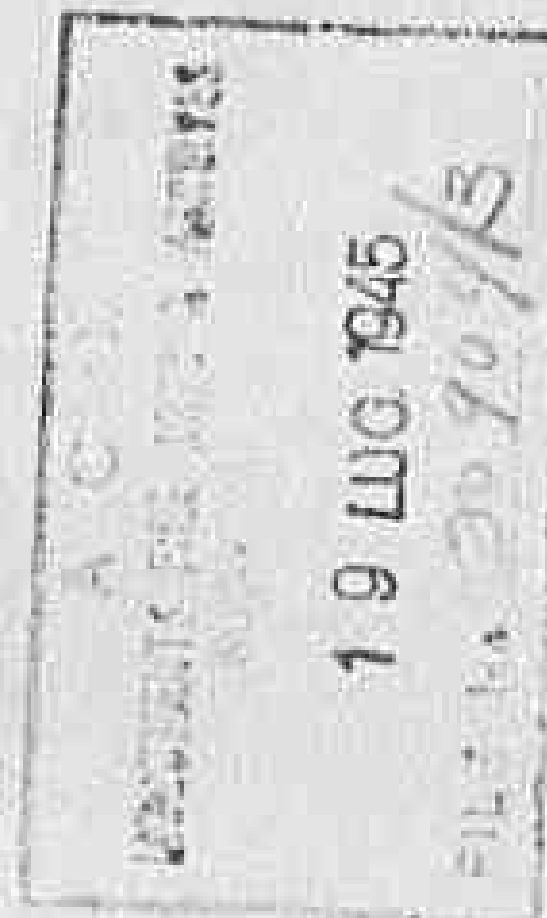
*Norman*

NORMAN T. NEWTON,  
Major, Air Corps,  
Regional MFIA Officer.

Copies to:

Subc MPAA, HQ AC  
PPSO, Verona.

5158



17 LUG 1945

NTN/gv

HEADQUARTERS  
VENEZIE REGION  
ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT  
Division of Monuments Fine Arts and Archives

RXII/MFA/Dep/2

25 June 1945

SUBJECT: Cases containing gold antiquities from Tripolitania.

TO : Provincial Commissioner, Verona.

1. MFAA Officer of Lombardia Region enlists our aid in tracing the whereabouts of two cases containing prehistorical material (gold figurines, rings, etc.) found in Tripolitania and first deposited in the Museo Coloniale at Rome.
2. The Museo Coloniale is known to have consigned the two cases to the (Fascist) Ministero dell'Africa Italiana at Verona in November or December 1943.
3. From Verona it is believed that the cases were later moved to the HQ of the above Ministero at Pallanza, on Lago Maggiore. Nothing further is known of their movements.
4. It would be appreciated if any light could be thrown on the question by inquiry through our own and Italian offices in Verona. It is of course particularly desirable to ascertain whether anyone now under your control knows of the arrival of the cases in Verona and/or their shipment away from there.

1. MFAA Officer of Lombardia Region enlists our aid in tracing the whereabouts of two cases containing prehistorical material (gold figurines, rings, etc.) found in Tripolitania and first deposited in the Museo Coloniale at Rome.

2. The Museo Coloniale is known to have consigned the two cases to the (Fascist) Ministero dell'Africa Italiana at Verona in November or December 1943.

3. From Verona it is believed that the cases were later moved to the HQ of the above Ministero at Palianza, on Lago Maggiore. Nothing further is known of their movements.

4. It would be appreciated if any light could be thrown on the question by inquiry through our own and Italian offices in Verona. It is of course particularly desirable to ascertain whether anyone now under your control knows of the arrival of the cases in Verona and/or their shipment away from there.

5157

MM

NORMAN T. NEWTON,  
Major, Air Corps,  
Regional MFAA Officer.

Copy to:

MFAA Officer, Lombardia Region.

785016

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION  
APO 394  
CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTION

20904/3/MFAA

Subject: Archaeological Material, CYRENAICA.

To : Il Ministro dell'Africa Italiana.

17 JULY  
10 June 1945  
4475  
4615

1. In December 1942 two crates, containing important archaeological material from CYRENAICA and TRIPOLI and destined for the Mostra d'Oltremare, were sent to ROME and stored in the Museo Coloniale. In May 1944 they were taken to the North by Comm. Achille RAGNI, who was attached to the Republican Fascist Government and was then living in CREMONA (see attached report by Comm. Micacchi).

2. Would you please advise this Headquarters of any further information you may possess regarding this matter.

For the CHIEF COMMISSIONER:

Bonham Carter, Lt. Col.

for G.R. UPJOHN, Brig.  
VP CA Sec.

5156

=====

Above COPY sent as agreed in telephone conversation today with this office.

→ 17 July 1945

E. T. De Wald  
Ernest T. De Wald  
Lt. Col. Spec. Res.  
Director

785016

16 LUG 1945

(4)

HEADQUARTERS  
ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT  
LOMBARDIA REGION  
APO 394

Division of Monuments, Fine Arts &amp; Archives

16 July 1945

MFA 20909/LR

SUBJECT : Cases containing gold antiquities  
from Tripolitania.TO : Director  
MFAAA Subcommission  
Hq. A.C.

(4A)

1. Enclosed is copy of letter re cases containing gold antiquities from Tripolitania transmitted to this Division by MFA Officer, Piemonte Region, in reply to my request of 19 June 45 for information re present location of cases in question.

2. Since Prof. ROMANELLI, Director General of Fine Arts, Rome, requested this Division to investigate it is requested that he be advised of contents of enclosure.

*Perry B. Cote*PERRY B. COTE, Lieut. USNR  
Regional Monuments, & Fine  
Arts Officer.

5155

Enc

Handdate copy letter  
JUL 17 1945

|                                |
|--------------------------------|
| A C C                          |
| RECEIVED FINE ARTS & MONUMENTS |
| 17 LUG 1945                    |
| FILE NO. 20904/3               |

16 LUG 1945

COPIA DI LETTERA

C. L. N. A. I.

MINISTERO AFRICA ITALIANA

Milano 2 Luglio 1945

Prot. n. 672/Co

Al Sig. Magg. BAGGET  
Comando Militare Alleato  
PALLANZA

A seguito e con riferimento alla verbale richiesta della S.V. in merito ad oggetti d'interesse archeologico a suo tempo esportati dai fascisti da Roma e custoditi presso la Sede del Ministero Africa Italiana in Pallanza, comunico che da una prima inchiesta al riguardo esperita personalmente dal sottoscritto è risultato quanto segue :

"Verso la metà di maggio e cioè prima della nomina del sottoscritto a Commissario si è presentato agli uffici di Pallanza un incaricato dal Ministero Africa Italiana (con sede in Roma) il quale ha preso in consegna due colli-medaglieri contenenti preziosi di epoca antica ed ha provveduto all'immediato trasporto di essi a Roma".

Mi è stata segnalato che i medaglieri sono arrivati regolarmente a Roma alla Sede del Ministero A.I. alla quale coteato

4A)

4B is  
translation

A seguito e con riferimento alla verbale richiesta della S.V. in merito ad oggetti d'interesse archeologico a suo tempo esportati dai fascisti da Roma e custoditi presso la Sede del Ministero Africa Italiana in Pallanza, comunico che da una prima inchiesta al riguardo esperita personalmente dal sottoscritto è risultato quanto segue :

"Verso la metà di maggio e cioè prima della nomina del sottoscritto a Commissario si è presentato agli uffici di Pallanza un incaricato del Ministero Africa Italiana (con sede in Roma) il quale ha preso in consegna due colli-medaglieri contenenti preziosi di epoca antica ed ha provveduto all'immediato trasporto di essi a Roma".

Mi è stata segnalato che i medaglieri sono arrivati regolarmente a Roma alla Sede del Ministero A.I. alla quale coteo Comando potrà eventualmente rivolgersi per ulteriori precisazioni.

In ogni modo resto a disposizione per tutti quei chiarimenti in merito all'argomento che coteo Comando stesso ritenesse necessario.

IL COMMISSARIO

Fto : V.M. Vanzo

C.I.N.A.I.

Ministry of Italian Africa(Translation  
B 4A)

Prot. n. 672/Co

MILAN 2 July 45

To: Major Bagget  
Allied Military HQ.  
PALLANZA

In compliance with your verbal enquiry in the matter of objects of archaeological interest removed by the Fascists from ROME and kept in the offices of the Ministry of Italian Africa at PALLANZA, I notify the following results of an initial investigation personally carried out by the undersigned:

"Towards the middle of May (before, that is, the undersigned was nominated for the post of Commissary) there presented himself at the PALLANZA office an agent of the ROME Ministry of Italian Africa. This individual took on consignment two metal-cases containing precious objects of ancient date and proceeded to their immediate transport to ROME."

Information<sup>by me</sup> was received that the collection arrived in due course at ROME in the offices of the Ministry of Italian Africa, to whom your HQ. may apply should there be need of further information.

In any event I remain at your disposal with regard to securing my further clarification on the matter in question which your HQ. may require.

THE COMMISSARY

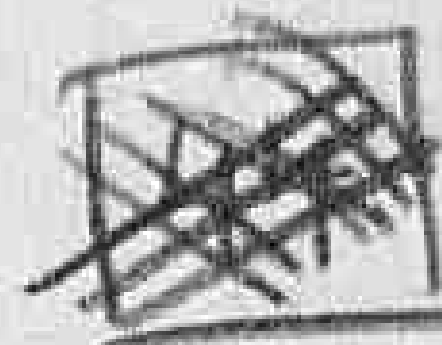
5153

(signed) V.M. Vanzo.

785016

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION  
APO 394  
CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTION

JBWP/ps



(3)

20901/3/AFAA

9 July 1945

Subject: Archaeological Material, CYPRUS.

To : Il Ministro dell'Africa Italiana.

(2)

Ref. our 20901/3/AFAA of 10 June, enquiring about  
two crates of archaeological material from LIBIA, a reply  
would be much appreciated.

For the CHIEF COMMISSIONER:

G.R. UPJOHN, Brig.  
VP CA Sec

5152

785016

7. CIV. 1045

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION  
APO 394  
CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTION

מס' / תאריך

10 June 1945

20904/3/MPAA

Subject: Archaeological Material, CYPRUS/ALCA.

To : ~~Il~~ Il Ministro dell'Africa Italiana

1. In December 1942 two crates, containing important archaeological material from GYRUSAKA and TRIPOLI (and destined for the Mostra d'Oltresare), were sent to ROMA and stored in the Museo Coloniale. In May 1944 they were taken to the North by Comm. Achille RACCHI, who was attached to the Republican Fascist Government and was then living in GROMA (see attached report by Comm. Nicacchi).

This is an error (not important in this context)

Book

2. Would you please advise this Headquarters of any further information you may possess regarding this matter.

FOR THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER:

G. A. DUNSTON, Br's.  
VP CA Sec

5154

10010. 1945

①

HQ. ACC. MPAA 3/C

Report by Prof. Micscchi, Head of the Inspectorate for schools and Antiquities in Italian Africa, on two crates of material sent for safe-custody from Libya.

Nel dicembre 1942, il Governo generale della Libia inviava al dott. Rodolfo Micscchi, nella sua qualità di Capo dell'Ispettorato per le Scuole e l'Archeologia nel Ministero dell'Africa Italiana, due cassette di tipo militare contenenti il tesoro archeologico della Libia, fino allora in consegna alla Cassa di Risparmio della Libia, e precisamente:

- a. le monete della Collezione Melin (in inventario 35 d'oro, 924 d'argento e 1658 di bronzo, oltre ad alcune centinaia di buste contenenti monete della collezione stessa, non meglio specificate;
- b. monete della Cirenaica (e cioè 46 d'oro, 117 d'argento e 281 di bronzo, oltre a 1541 monete d'argento dell'età di Domiziano, Nerva e Traiano);
- c. monete della Tripolitania (307 d'oro, 207 d'argento e 593 di bronzo);
- d. gli oggetti ripervenuti nella stipe votiva dell'Artemision di Cirene (in bronzo, osso, oro, argento);
- e. bronzetti, gioielli, gemme incise, monili d'oro, idoletti d'oro (da Uadân) etc.

Le due cassette giunsero a Roma la sera del 6 gennaio 1943, scortate da un Maresciallo dei R.R.CC. e vennero consegnate al dott. Micscchi, a cura del quale, la mattina seguente, vennero depositate presso l'Economo del Ministero dell'Africa Italiana, affinché la Direzione generale del personale (Ufficio Affari Generali) provvedesse alla loro custodia insieme con gli altri oggetti di valore del Ministero.

5150

Della consegna fu redatto regolare verbale.

Dopo l'8 settembre 1943, le due cassette, che erano rimaste presso il predetto economo, vennero, a cura del Commissario del tempo, S.E. Cerulli, trasportate al Museo Coloniale e chiuse in un

- e 281 di bronzo, oltre a 1541 monete d'argento dell'età di Domiziano, Nerva e Traiano);
- c. monete della Tripolitania (307 d'oro, 207 d'argento e 593 di bronzo);
- d. gli oggetti ripvenuti nella stipe votiva dell'Artemision di Cirene (in bronzo, osso, oro, argento);
- e. bronzetti, gioielli, gemme incise, monili d'oro, idoletti d'oro (da Uaddei) etc.

Le due cassette giunsero a Roma la sera del 6 gennaio 1943, scortate da un Maresciallo del RE.CO. e vennero consegnate al dott. Miccicchi, a cura del quale, la mattina seguente, vennero depositate presso l'Economato del Ministero dell'Africa Italiana, affinché la Direzione generale del Personale (Ufficio Affari Generali) provvedesse alla loro custodia insieme con gli altri oggetti di valore del Ministero.

5150

Della consegna fu redatto regolare verbale.

Dopo l'8 settembre 1943, le due cassette, che erano rimaste presso il predetto economato, vennero, a cura del Commissario del tempo, S.E. Cerulli, trasportate al Museo Coloniale e chiuse in un nascondiglio efficacemente protetto.

Successivamente, il capo del predetto Ufficio per gli Affari Generali, Comm. Achille Ragni, il quale aveva aderito al Governo repubblicano fascista e si era trasferito a Cremona, richiese al Direttore del Museo Coloniale, Comm. U. Giglio, le due cassette per portarle seco nel Nord.

Una prima volta il Comm. Giglio riuscì a frustrare la richiesta del Ragni; ma questi non si diede per vinto e, nel maggio

*Infatti*

- 2 -

1944, tornato a Roma, rinnovò la richiesta e, a vincere l'opposizione del Direttore del Museo, presentò un ordine scritto del Comm. Alfredo Siniscalchi il quale, in quel momento, era a capo degli Uffici del Ministero dell'Africa Italiana rimasti a Roma.

In seguito alla presentazione di tale ordine, il Direttore del Museo consegnò le due cassette che dal Regni vennero esportate dal Ministero, e, si ritiene, portate a Cremona.

Del fatto il dott. Micacchi ha sporto denuncia al Sottosegretario di Stato per gli Italiani all'Estero del quale attualmente dipende l'Amministrazione coloniale.

5149



785016

15A  
 Mosca d'Oltremare at Naples. A part of this material has been checked already at Naples. The remainder will be inspected shortly in the Museo Coloniale in Rome. It is stated to be safe.

2. The second (and 2) concerns the finest small objects from Cirenaica, sent for safety and subsequently moved thence to N. Italy to Cirenaica. These will be subject to further enquiry in due course.

3. Major David Partridge, formerly Advisor on Antiquities to the Tripoli and Cyrenaica in 1943, had commenced a detailed survey of antiquities and works of art removed from Cirenaica to Tripoli (Report on Conservation of Antiquities in Cyrenaica, dated 28 Sept 43, addressed to WHO Cyrenaica, copy to XMAS Tripolitania, with enclosure: (a) Schedule of antiquities and inscriptions from Cyrenaica in the Museum at Leptis Magna, (b) List of antiquities-material from Cirenaica of which details have still to be submitted). If this survey was completed, say a copy please be supplied to this H. in view of the large numbers of N. African objects at present in Italy and the conflicting evidence available in certain cases.

5148

W. S. Dillard, Major

For the ATTORNEY GENERAL

W. S. Dillard, Major  
 VP DA Sec.  
 Dep. Sec. of A.

2 Lines

Encl. 1 - Report by Prof. Minacchi, Head of the Inspectorate for Schools and Antiquities in Italian Africa, on objects sent to Italy for display at the Mostra d'Oltremare.

Encl. 2 - Report by Prof. Minacchi, Head of the Inspectorate for Schools and Antiquities in Italian Africa, on two crates of material sent for safe-custody from Libya.

HQ. ACC. MPAA S/C

Report by Prof. Micacchi, Head of the Inspectorate for schools and Antiquities in Italian Africa on objects sent to Italy for display at the Mostra d'Oltremare.

Il Governo Generale della Libia aveva anche inviato alla Mostra triennale delle terre italiane d'Oltremare anche alcuni oggetti preziosi di carattere numismatico ed etnografico ed alcuni notevoli pezzi archeologici e precisamente:

n. 40 monete d'oro della Collezione Melia;  
n. 245 monete d'argento della Collezione stessa;  
n. 9 altre monete d'argento;  
n. 12 monili d'oro di carattere etnografico;  
n. 108 monili d'argento di carattere etnografico (antichi)  
n. 228 monili d'argento di carattere etnografico (moderni)  
n. 43 monili d'argento dorato di carattere etnografico.

Inoltre:

Bassarilievi delle Menadi (7 frammenti)  
Statue di Ninfa sedute  
Pusti di Giove  
Pezzi vari archeologici e iscrizioni (n. 15 frammenti)  
Un elmo in bronzo, una lampada cristiana in bronzo, un bassorilievo in bronzo rappresentante un astiro ed altri oggetti di piccole dimensioni.

Per la diligente premura del Comm. Marducci, il materiale archeologico di maggiori dimensioni venne dato in custodia alla Soprintendenza alle antichità di Napoli, le monete, i monili, e il materiale archeologico di piccole dimensioni venne trasportato a Roma e consegnato al Direttore del Museo coloniale ed è in salvo.

n. 228 monili d'argento di carattere etnografico (antichi)  
n. 45 monili d'argento di carattere etnografico (moderni)

Inoltre:

Bassorilievi delle Menadi (7 frammenti)

Statua di Minfa seduta

Busti di Giove

Pezzi vari archeologici e iscrizioni (n. 15 frammenti)

Un elmo in bronzo, una lampada cristiana in bronzo, un  
bassorilievo in bronzo rappresentante un astiro ed al-  
tri oggetti di piccole dimensioni.

Per la diligente premura del Comm. Narducci, il materiale  
archeologico di maggiori dimensioni venne dato in custodia alla  
Soprintendenza alle antichità di Napoli, le monete, i monili, e  
il materiale archeologico di piccole dimensioni venne trasportato  
a Roma e consegnato al Direttore del Museo coloniale ed è in salvo.

5147

Del 1

