



Ministero per i Beni e le Attività Culturali

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Joint Statement from the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston and the Italian Ministry of Culture

**MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS, BOSTON AND ITALIAN MINISTRY
OF CULTURE SIGN AGREEMENT MARKING NEW ERA
OF CULTURAL EXCHANGE**

MFA Transfers 13 Antiquities to Italy

ROME, Italy (September 28, 2006)—Today, the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (MFA) transferred 13 antiquities to Italy and signed an agreement with the Italian Ministry of Culture marking the beginning of a new era of cultural exchange. The objects arrived in Rome a few days ago and were unveiled for the first time at today's press conference.

Francesco Rutelli, Minister of Culture, stated, "I am proud to announce this historic moment in international cooperation against illegal trafficking of antiquities. The great artistic importance of the works of art transferred, and above all, the quality and intensity of the rapport which we established with the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston are a testament to a fundamental moment in reciprocal cooperation and enhancement of the cultural patrimony of humanity. It is with great satisfaction that the merits go today to the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, a museum of enormous

prestige, with whom we are signing an agreement that will be a model for the future and we hope for similarly innovative agreements with other institutions around the world.”

“Both the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston and the Italian Ministry of Culture wish to see the end of the illicit excavation and trade of antiquities,” said Malcolm Rogers, Ann and Graham Gund Director of the Museum of Fine Arts. “Our partnership with the Italian government heralds an exciting new era of collaboration by making the world’s great artistic treasures available to the broadest possible audience.”

The agreement includes the creation of a partnership in which the Italian government will loan significant works from Italy to the MFA’s displays and special exhibitions program, and establishes a process by which the MFA and Italy will exchange information with respect to the Museum’s future acquisitions of Italian antiquities. The partnership also envisages collaboration in the areas of scholarship, conservation, archaeological investigation and exhibition planning.

The agreement between the MFA and the Italian Ministry of Culture follows several months of discussions, including two meetings in Rome which took place in May and July 2006. Today, the agreement was signed by MFA Director Malcolm Rogers and Giuseppe Proietti of the Italian Ministry of Culture, in the presence of Minister of Culture Francesco Rutelli.

The MFA has been a leader within the museum community in sharing the objects in its collection, and their provenance history, worldwide on its Web site. Currently, information about more than 330,000 objects is available at: www.mfa.org/collections.

Minister Francesco Rutelli will visit Boston’s Museum of Fine Arts in late November to underscore the significance of the collaboration established between Italy and the MFA.

To celebrate the extraordinary event of the transfer of these thirteen antiquities from the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston to Italy, they will be on view to the public at the Museo Nazionale Romano di Palazzo Massimo alle Terme in Rome for a week starting October 10, before being installed at museums in their historical territories.

Information regarding the 13 antiquities transferred to Italy, including their provenance and downloadable, high-resolution images, is available at www.mfa.org. Additional information can be found at www.beniculturali.it.

The objects transferred to Italy from the MFA are:

1. Two-handled vessel (nestoris)
about 420-410 B.C. (MFA accession number 1971.49)
2. Lekythos
about 500-490 B.C. (1977.713)
3. Water jar (kalpis-hydria) depicting Apollo making a libation before gods and goddesses
about 485 B.C. (1978.45)
4. Two-handled jar (pelike) depicting Phineus with the sons of Boreas
about 450 B.C. (1979.40)
5. Statue of Sabina
about A.D. 136 (1979.556)
6. Water jar (hydria)
about 530-520 B.C. (1979.614)
7. Vase for bath water (loutrophoros) depicting Pelops and Hippodameia in chariot
320-310 B.C. (1988.431)
8. Mixing bowl (bell-krater)
about 380-370 B.C. (1988.532)
9. Oil flask (lekythos)
about 490 B.C. (1989.317)
10. Two-handled jar (amphora) depicting the murder of Atreus
about 340–330 B.C. (1991.437)
11. Triangular support for a candelabrum shaft, decorative colonette, or small basin
A.D. 20-60 (1992.310)
12. Two-handled vessel (nestoris) depicting athletes in conversation with girls
late fifth century B.C. (1998.588)
13. Mixing bowl (bell-krater) with Thracian hunters
about 440-430 B.C. (1999.735)

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