

## ANCIENT COIN COLLECTORS GUILD

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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

7 January 2005

Mr. Kenneth Y. Tomlinson

330 Independence Avenue

Washington DC 20237

Chairman, Broadcasting Board of Governors

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Dear Mr. Tomlinson;

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Wayne G. Sayles

**WEB SITE** 

http://accg.us

On December 27th I wrote to you expressing my concerns over programming at the Voice of America that contained a distinctly biased view against the private collecting of antiquities in the United States. I was disappointed to see that article by Jeffrey Young, but disappointment does not begin to convey my feeling about the continuation of this bias in the January 6 article by Barbara Schoetzau titled "Cultural Leaders say Looting of Irag's Antiquities Continues." The report is grossly inaccurate, it presents the one-sided view of a Baathist Party holdover from the days of Saddam Hussein, who is widely known for his inflammatory and selfserving statements. Dr. Donny George blames the collector market for missing items, but the truth, as verified by independent U.S. scholars and investigators, is that most of the so-called "missing" items never left Iraq and according to press reports some were even returned by Baghdad museum employees under an amnesty program. An independent scholar from Belgium has concluded that about 2% of the items in the Baghdad Museum are actually missing or destroyed. The gullibility of VOA in allowing this sort of baseless propaganda which is fostered by the Archaeological Institute of America and aimed directly at the private collector community is not only discouraging, it is outright un-American. The collecting of antiquities in the United States is legal and it is popular. The AIA, for their own self

interests, would have it made illegal. For the VOA to press that agenda on behalf of the AIA and its international accomplices is totally unacceptable. Please look into

Sincerely yours,

this affront.

Wayne G. Sayles Executive Director