

CYPRUS

ANTIQUITIES

CHAPTER 31 OF THE LAWS

1959 EDITION

PRINTED BY

C. F. ROWORTH LIMITED, 54, GRAFTON WAY, LONDON, W.1.

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1959

CHAPTER 31.

ANTIQUITIES.

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A LAW TO CONSOLIDATE AND AMEND THE LAW RELATING TO
ANTIQUITIES.

[31st December, 1935.]

1949 Cap. 43.

1. This Law may be cited as the Antiquities Law. Short title.
2. In this Law—
 - “ ancient monument ” means— Interpreta-
tion.
 - (a) any object, building or site specified in the First or Second Schedule to this Law ; First
Schedule.
 - (b) any other object, building or site in respect of which the Governor in Council has made an Order under section 6 of this Law, Second
Schedule.

and shall include any part of the adjoining land which may be required for the purpose of fencing, covering, or otherwise preserving the monument from injury, as also the means of access to such monument ;

“ antiquity ” means any object, whether movable or immovable or a part of the soil, which has been constructed, shaped, inscribed, erected, excavated or otherwise produced or modified by human agency earlier than the year A.D. 1700, together with any part thereof which has at a later date been added, reconstructed or restored ;

“ Director ” means the Director of Antiquities ;

“ land ” includes land (with the grazing rights, and all water and water rights on, over or under such land), buildings, trees, easements and standing crops ;

“ owner ” includes—

 - (a) in the case of property in the occupation of any See, Monastery or Church, the Bishop of the Diocese, the governing body of the monastery or the duly constituted committee of management of the church, for the time being, as the case may be ;
 - (b) in the case of property in the occupation of any Mosque, Tekye or other Moslem religious body or institution, the High Council of Evcaf or other person administering the trusts of the same for the time being, as the case may be.

PART I.

GENERAL.

3. Subject to the provisions of this Law, all antiquities lying undiscovered at the date of the coming into operation Property in
antiquities.

of this Law in or upon any land shall be the property of the Government.

Antiquities
accidentally
discovered
by un-
licensed
persons to be
delivered to
the mukhtar
or other
authorized
person.

4. (1) Any person who accidentally discovers an antiquity whether in or upon his own land or land the property of another person or of the Government without being in possession of a licence to excavate in accordance with section 14 of this Law shall forthwith give notice of his discovery and if portable deliver the antiquity, to the mukhtar of the nearest village or to such other person as the Commissioner of the District may appoint in that behalf or to the Curator of the Cyprus or a District Museum and shall at the same time sufficiently indicate or describe the place where he found it.

(2) The mukhtar or other person authorized to take delivery of the antiquity shall give to the person who delivers it a receipt containing a full description of such antiquity and shall send a duplicate of the receipt to the Director and shall, pending instructions from him, retain the antiquity in safe custody.

(3) Any person who fails to comply with any of the provisions of subsection (1) of this section shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable to imprisonment not exceeding six months or to a fine not exceeding fifty pounds or to both, and any antiquity in respect of which the offence has been committed shall be delivered to the Director and the finder shall not be entitled to any payment therefor.

Disposal of
antiquities
accidentally
discovered.

5. (1) The Director upon receiving notice of the discovery of an antiquity as in section 4 of this Law mentioned shall consider whether such antiquity should be acquired for the Cyprus Museum or for any District Museum and if it appears to him that the antiquity should be so acquired, he shall pay to the finder such sum as appears to him to be the fair market value for the same.

(2) If the Director decides not to acquire the antiquity he may offer it to the Trustees of the British Museum who if they wish to acquire it, may do so on condition that they pay to the finder such sum as appears to the Director to be the fair market price for the same.

(3) If the finder is dissatisfied with the value fixed by the Director, the value of the antiquity shall be fixed by an

arbitrator appointed by the Chief Justice and the decision of the arbitrator shall be binding upon both parties.

(4) If neither the Director nor the trustees of the British Museum desire to acquire the antiquity, the Director shall deliver it to the finder and shall give him a permit authorizing him to retain, sell or otherwise dispose of the same either within or without the Colony :

Provided that the finder may, with the permission of the Director, deposit such antiquity among the duplicate antiquities exposed for sale at the Cyprus Museum and the price obtained for it, if sold, shall be paid over to him by the Director without any deduction.

PART II.

ANCIENT MONUMENTS.

6. (1) The Governor in Council may, on the recommendation of the Director, from time to time by Order in the Gazette—

Power to Governor in Council to declare ancient monuments.

(a) declare any object, building or site which he considers to be of public interest by reason of the historic, architectural, traditional, artistic or archæological interest attaching thereto to be an ancient monument and shall at the same time declare whether such monument shall be added to the First or to the Second Schedule to this Law, as the case may be ;

(b) direct that any ancient monument specified in, or added to, either Schedule be transferred to the other Schedule to this Law.

(2) No object, building or site shall be declared an ancient monument unless the Director gives notice in the Gazette of the proposed declaration not less than one month before the making of the Order, and any person whose interests may be prejudicially affected by the proposed declaration may, within the period of one month aforesaid, lodge an objection for consideration by the Governor in Council whose decision thereon shall be final and conclusive.

7. The ancient monuments specified in the First Schedule to this Law together with such other ancient monuments as may from time to time be added thereto shall be the property of the Government.

Ancient monuments in the First Schedule to be the property of the Government.
First Schedule.

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