

## **Provisions on the Prohibition and Control of the Export of Cultural Relics and Books**

**24-05-1950**

**The following categories of cultural relics and books are strictly prohibited from export:**

1. **Revolutionary documents and artifacts.**
2. **Paleontological items:** fossils, remains, and traces of ancient plants and animals.
3. **Prehistoric relics:** relics, remains, and fossils of prehistoric humans.
4. **Architectural works:** buildings, architectural models, and their accessories.
5. **Paintings:** all works by artists of previous dynasties; ancient murals from palaces, temples, and tombs; as well as embroidered paintings, woven paintings, lacquer paintings, etc. of high artistic value from past dynasties.
6. **Sculptures:** high-value reliefs and carvings, religious and ceremonial statues, and artistic carvings made of metal, stone, jade, bamboo, wood, bone, horn, ivory, ceramics, etc., from past dynasties.
7. **Inscriptions:** oracle bone inscriptions, seals, tally slips, carved wooden blocks, and inscribed objects made of metal, stone, jade, bamboo, wood, bricks, tiles, etc.
8. **Books and manuscripts:** bamboo and wooden slips, books, archives of historical value, calligraphy and writings of famous figures, and rare rubbings from stone and bronze inscriptions.
9. **Currency:** ancient shells, coins, knife money, spade money, ingots, paper currency, etc.
10. **Vehicles and apparel:** historically significant carts, carriages, ships, harnesses, crowns, shoes, clothing, belts, ornaments, and textiles.
11. **Utensils and implements:** ancient tools of production, weapons, ritual and musical instruments, ceremonial objects, funerary objects, scientific instruments, furniture, household goods, stationery, entertainment items, etc.

### **Article 3**

Cultural relics and books falling within the above categories may be exported only if approved by the State Council of the Central People's Government for purposes such as exhibition, exchange, or presentation abroad, and only upon the issuance of an export permit.

### **Article 4**

Cultural relics and books without revolutionary, historical, or cultural value, as well as reproductions and facsimiles of items with such value, may be permitted for export.

### **Article 5**

Export of cultural relics and books shall be limited to the customs offices of Tianjin, Shanghai, and Guangzhou, except in cases specified under Article 3.

### **Article 6**

Before shipping or mailing cultural relics and books for export, the consignor must prepare detailed lists specifying category, name, size, weight, and period, along with packing lists, and submit these to the foreign trade administration bureau at the permitted export locations. The bureau will forward the materials to the local Cultural Relics Export Appraisal Committee, which shall verify and appraise

each item against the lists provided. Based on the committee's certification, the foreign trade administration bureau may issue export permits. Customs or post offices shall release the items upon presentation of the permit.

**Article 7**

Cultural Relics Export Appraisal Committees shall be established in Tianjin (including Beijing), Shanghai, and Guangzhou. They shall be composed of experts invited by the Ministry of Culture of the Central People's Government, along with representatives from the foreign trade administration bureau, customs, and postal authorities.

**Article 8**

Cultural relics and books approved by local appraisal committees and issued export permits must be packed under the supervision of customs or postal personnel, who, together with the consignor, shall seal the packages to prevent substitution.

**Article 9**

Anyone who violates these regulations and attempts to smuggle out prohibited cultural relics and books, once discovered by customs or postal authorities, shall have the items confiscated and be punished according to the severity of the offense.

**Article 10**

These measures shall take effect from the date of promulgation.

*Note: The original measures were revised following suggestions by the Financial and Economic Committee of the State Council concerning Articles 3, 6, 7, and 8. The Ministry of Culture's Cultural Relics Bureau, in consultation with the Ministry of Trade, the General Administration of Customs, and other agencies, drafted the revisions, which were approved by the State Council. The Ministry of Culture announced the revised measures on June 6, 1951. The above text is the full revised version.*