Proclamation No. 229 of 1960
Antiquities Proclamation...

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A Proclamation to Provide for the Protection and Preservation of Antiquities

CONQUERING LION OF THE TRIBE OF HIDAH
HAILE SELASSIE I
ELECT OF GOD, EMPEROR OF ETHIOPIA

WHEREAS, the ancient monuments, written documents and other relics which exist in Ethiopia bear witness to the history and tradition of our Country and its people and constitute the heritage and birthright of all Ethiopians; and

WHEREAS, it is essential that provision be made for the discovery, protection, preservation and study of such ancient monuments and relics.

NOW, THEREFORE, in accordance with Articles 11 and 23 of the Revised Constitution, we approve the resolutions of our Senate and Chamber of Deputies and we hereby proclaim as follows:

1. The Proclamation may be cited as the "Antiquities Proclamation 1960."

2. In the Proclamation, unless the context otherwise requires:
(i) "antiquity" shall mean any construction or any product of human activity, or any object of historical or archaeological interest, having its origins prior to 1850 A.D.;
(ii) "Administrative Authority" shall mean the head of the Office of Archaeology;
(iii) "person" shall mean any physical or juridical person, including any Church and any other organization.

3. (a) State Ownership of Antiquities.

[Further details of the proclamation follow.]
of the Proclamation are hereby declared to be the property of the State, to be administered in the manner hereinafter set forth. The Administering Authority shall, in consultation with the Ministry of Public Works and Communications, repair, reconstruct and restore said antiquities and shall administer, supervise, protect and preserve these antiquities at the time and in the manner herein specified.

The responsibilities for the administration and possession of and custody over all antiquities and, within the limits prescribed by this Proclamation, for the taking of all necessary steps with respect to their discovery, protection, preservation and study, is hereby vested in the Administering Authority.

1. Any person who discovers, acquires, or is in possession of any antiquity on or after the date on which this Proclamation enters into force, shall promptly notify the Administering Authority thereof.

Disposition of Antiquities

5. Any person who is in possession of any antiquity on the date on which this Proclamation enters into force may retain its possession of such antiquity until he is notified to transfer and antiquities to the Administering Authority in accordance with the provisions of Article 7; henceforth, subject to his submitting to the Administering Authority a detailed list of antiquities in his possession.

6. No antiquity may be sold, bartered, transferred or exported as a gift or otherwise except under a permit issued by the Administering Authority or a subordinate authority or after establishment pursuant to regulations issued in accordance with Article 11 hereof. Any person who sells, barter, transfers or exports an antiquity in the State, or transfers or export of any antiquities without said permit shall be punished as provided in Article 11 hereof.

7. The Administering Authority, may from time to time, pursuant to regulations issued pursuant to Article 11 hereof:

(a) transfer and supervise all historical objects which may exist in any Church without, however, the right to remove the transfer of possession of same.

(b) require the transfer and surrender of antiquities in the possession of private individuals or those which may be discovered hereafter, provided however that no private person shall be required to make such transfer and surrender except in accordance and upon compliance with the requirement of Article 11 of our Revised Constitution.
Explanation for Antiquities

9. No person shall carry on archaeological exploration activities within Ethiopia, whether on private or on Government land, unless he holds a permit duly issued by the Administrating Authority pursuant to regulations issued in accordance with Article 10 hereof.

Administrating Authority

10. The Administrating Authority may issue regulations:
(a) prescribing the basis upon which archaeological exploration permits shall be issued, the time and manner of making applications therefor and fees chargeable with respect thereto;
(b) prescribing the manner in which archaeological exploration operations shall be carried out by persons to whom such permits have been issued;
(c) requiring persons in possession of certain types of antiquities to give notice of their possession thereof to the Administrating Authority;
(d) prescribing the basis upon which permits to sell, barter, transfer and export antiquities from Ethiopia shall be issued, the time and manner of making applications therefor and fees chargeable with respect thereto and any subordinate authorities or officers empowered to issue such permits; and
(e) general rules for the better carrying out of the provisions of this Proclamation.

11. Any person who violates any of the provisions of this Proclamation or any regulation issued pursuant hereto shall be punished in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Penal Code of 1955.

12. Effective Date

This Proclamation shall enter into force on the date of its publication in the Negarit Gazette.

Done at Addis Ababa this 29th day of January, 1966.

ISRAEL FALAZ AKELI HABTE WOLD
Prime Minister and Minister of Pen.