

Republic of Iraq

Statute 40 of 1958 of the General Directorate of Antiquities¹

In the name of the people;

The Sovereignty Council, pursuant to Article 1 of the Ministry of Education No. Law 39 of 1958;
Article 2 of the Ministry of Education Statute No. 19 of 1958; and
The Minister of Education proposal approved by the cabinet;
We decree as follows:

Article 1

The General Directorate for Antiquities shall be run by a general manager specialized in antiquities who should have a higher education degree and shall be in charge of maintaining antiquities and archeological explorations and running the affairs of museums and archeological and art exhibitions. The General Manager shall report to the Ministry of Education² concerning the application of the Antiquities Law and running the affairs of the General Directorate and its affiliated departments and sections pursuant to the laws, regulations and rules in force. The General Manager shall be assisted by one deputy or more who will perform whatever tasks assigned and report to the General Manager.

Article 2

The following departments and sections shall be affiliated to the General Manager:

- 1- Inspection and Protection of Archeological Sites.
- 2- Museums and Exhibitions.
- 3- Archeological Engineering and Maintenance.
- 4- Technical Lab.
- 5- Publishing and Photography.
- 6- Library.
- 7- Registry.
- 8- Accounts.
- 9- Equipment.

Article 3: Inspection

Inspection shall be carried out by a public servant ranked specialized inspector or by a general inspector experienced in management, museums and archeology. The inspector shall report directly to the Minister of Education

¹ General Directorate of Antiquities is currently affiliated to the Ministry of Culture and Guidance.

² The General Director of Antiquities is currently under the authority of the Ministry of Culture and Guidance.

but shall cooperate in all technical matters with the General Manager. The inspector shall be assisted by managers, engineers, excavators, drawers, specialists in ancient languages and pre-Islamic and Islamic antiquities and employees as needed.

The duties of inspector shall be:

- 1- Organize management and the affairs of antiquities institutions and supervise the works of museums pursuant to the directives and instructions issued by the General Manager.
- 2- Organize and run the affairs of archeological explorations carried out by the General Directorate.
- 3- Oversee the archeological explorations carried out by authorized Arab and foreign exploration missions and apply the provisions of the Antiquities Law and its directives concerning the works of such missions.
- 4- Keep reports and documents pertaining to the explorations carried out by the General Directorate and by Arab and foreign exploration missions.
- 5- Collect and make reports about exploration results, prepare these reports for publishing, conduct scientific tests on antiquities and other findings, conduct researches and compile scientific bulletins and booklets.
- 6- Study technical and cultural relations between the General Directorate and the regional and international scientific institutions and organizations.

Article 4

The Inspection and Protection of Archeological Sites Department/Section shall be run by a public servant ranked manager or by a specialized inspector with adequate experience in inspection and protection of archeological sites and historical buildings. The manager or inspector shall be assisted by a number of inspectors, assistant inspectors, attachés, antiquities officers and supervisors and guards of archeological sites and historical buildings. The duties of manager or inspector shall be:

- 1- Check all archeological sites and historical buildings and submit reports to the General Manager.
- 2- Prevent illegal explorations, combat smuggling of antiquities and take all the necessary measures against violators.
- 3- Inspect, survey and register all archeological sites and historical buildings and draw up the necessary files and maps
- 4- Survey archeological sites located within private and public projects areas and put forward the necessary proposals.
- 5- Perform the other duties stipulated in the Antiquities Law concerning the protection of antiquities.

Article 5

The Museums and Exhibitions Department/Section shall be run by a specialized museum manager or trustee experienced in the affairs of museums. The manager or trustee shall report to the General Manager and

shall be assisted by technical assistants and observers, guides and other civil servants and employees.

The duties of manager or trustee shall be:

- 1- Keep antiquities in museums according to technical principles and methods observed, protect antiquities from any damage and exhibit permitted items.
- 2- Keep museums records, draw up index cards and write down the scientific description of antiquities and other exhibited or stored items.
- 3- Draw up museums guide books, take part in preparing brochures and train guides.
- 4- Refer antiquities to the Technical Lab for treatment and protection and also refer all non-archeological items possessed by museums.
- 5- Organize the visits to museums and archeological sites.
- 6- Keep pictures and paintings and organize their files.

Article 6

The Archeological Engineering and Maintenance Department/Section shall be run by an engineer experienced in the maintenance of historical buildings. The engineer shall report to the General Manager and shall be assisted by experts, asst. engineers, technicians, drawers, civil servants and employees as needed.

The duties of engineer shall be:

- 1- Draw up inspection sheets and detailed designs of historical buildings.
- 2- Supervise and oversee maintenance works of historical buildings.
- 3- Draw designs and supervise construction works carried out by antiquities institutions.
- 4- Regularly inspect historical buildings and take the necessary measures to protect them.

Article 7

The Technical Lab shall be run by a specialized manager with technical experience. The manager shall report to the General Manager and shall be assisted by civil servants employees and technicians as needed.

The duties of Lab shall be:

- 1- Handle and fix antiquities referred to it according to technical principles.
- 2- Handle and restore antiquities on site.
- 3- Take part in showing antiquities in museums and antiquities.
- 4- Check exhibited and stored antiquities to ensure their safety and take the necessary measures to treat antiquities and non-archeological items as needed.

Article 8

The Publishing and Photography Department/Section shall be run by a manager experienced in the publishing and photography affairs. The manager shall report to the General Manager and shall be assisted by civil servants and by employees experienced in translation, publishing, photography and binding as needed.

The duties of manager shall be:

- 1- Run the affairs of Somer Magazine.
- 2- Run prints and publishing affairs.
- 3- Manage the photographing of antiquities, archeological sites, historical buildings and other.
- 4- Classify and register films, photographs, paintings, pictures and other.
- 5- Collect statistics related to the works of the General Directorate.

Article 9

The Library shall be run by a manager with broad experience in librarianship and bibliography. The manager shall report to the General Manager and shall be assisted by civil servants and employees as needed.

The duties of manager shall be:

- 1- Keep, maintain and bind books, magazines, newspapers and bulletins.
- 2- Keep and safeguard old scriptures and documents deposited in the library.
- 3- Make records and varied index cards for all prints and manuscripts in the Library.
- 4- Prepare periodic publication lists for the Library's assets.
- 5- Follow up scientific books and publications issued and put forward recommendations to possess them.
- 6- Provide readers and researchers with needed references.

Article 10

The Accounts Department/Section works shall be run by an experienced accountant and shall report to the General Manager and shall be assisted by civil servants and employees as needed.

Article 11

The Equipment Department/Section shall be managed by a superintendent or chief superintendent assisted by officers and clerks as needed and shall run the affairs of warehouses, equipment, carpentry and stationery and shall also be in charge of the cars of the General Directorate.

Article 12

This Statute shall come into force as of date of its issuance in the official gazette.

Article 13

The Minister of Education and Guidance³ shall assume the responsibility of implementing this Statute.

Composed in Baghdad on December 9th 1958

p.s. Statute of the General Directorate of Antiquities was published in Issue 97 of the Iraqi newspaper Al-Waqay issued 18/12/1958

³ The Minister of Education is at present in charge of applying this statute.