

I, **Lic. Guillermina A. Nadal Zayas**, Court Interpreter of the Court of First Instance of the National District, duly sworn for the legal exercise of my position, **CERTIFY**: that I have translated a document originally written in Spanish and that the following version in English is correct and true, according to the best knowledge of the undersigned.

**Decree No. 4347 (of December 15, 1903) which Declares
Archaeological Objects Property of the State. Official Gazette
No. 1522 of December 26, 1903.**

**CARLOS F. MORALES L.,
President of the Provisional Government of the Republic**

Considering: that the archaeological objects existing in the Dominican territory are national monuments which need to be preserved for the glory of the Republic;

Considering: that the Government must organize the creation of a National Museum where, above all, antiquities, which have not until now been sufficiently appreciated and venerated, may find a place of honor to prevent them from being given a different fate than they deserve, contemplated in the light of a truly illustrated patriotism.

Considering that many specimens of these precious relics have been removed from the country to enhance the wealth of foreign museums, and that if ensuing measures are not adopted at once, the day will come when all of the greatest and most important pieces of the same will have disappeared;

Having heard the views of the Board of Secretaries of State,

I DECREE:

Art. 1. Archaeological objects found in the territory of the Republic are those which belonged to our indigenous population, to the era of the discovery of the Island by Columbus or to the times immediately following that glorious event; and they are located on the surface or the womb of the earth, in caves, caverns, woods, sites of cities buried by earthquakes and the ruins of those destroyed by time or abandoned by their inhabitants, as well as other locations.

Art. 2. These objects are declared the exclusive property of

the Nation and, thus, may not be removed from the country, or appropriated by second parties.

*Individual collections formed prior to the date of this decree are exempted; however, these may not under any circumstance be removed from the Republic.

**Official note shall be taken of such individual collections for all ensuing purposes.

Art. 3. Anyone who hereinafter makes a finding of any such objects is compelled to deliver it, against a receipt, to the superior authority of the province, district, municipality, canton, or section where it has been found. If the authority referred to were the Governor of the Province or District, he shall have the object deposited in his office or appropriate place, shall inform the Government, and publish it in the local newspapers. Were it the Mayor, Head of the Municipality or Canton who receives the object, he shall forward it without delay to the Governor of the Province or District.

Art. 4. Anyone who finds and presents an object of this type shall be deemed as a collaborator of the Foundation of the Museum and shall deserve an honorable mention, until the Government determines something better.

Art. 5. Governors shall have a record kept of all objects found, with their date of presentation and the name of the person who made the finding.

Art. 6. Anyone who infringes the provisions of this decree shall be sanctioned pursuant to the Decree.

Art. 7. The Secretary of Development and Public Works is in charge of enforcing this decree.

Given in the National Palace of Santo Domingo, capital of the Republic, on the 15th day of the month of December of 1903, 60 years of Independence and 41 of Restoration.

MORALES L.

Countersigned: The Secretary of Development and Public Works – Eladio Victoria

This is a correct and true translation of its original in Spanish, nothing was omitted, done in Santo Domingo, National District, Capital of the Dominican Republic, on this 16th. day of January of the year 2010.

Lic. Guillermina A. Nadal Zayas
Court Interpreter