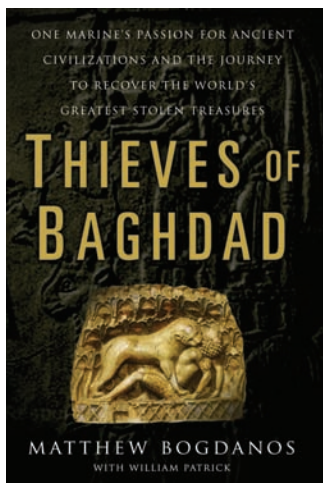


## **THIEVES OF BAGHDAD AT COOPER UNION**

**New York, February 20, 2006**—SAFE/Saving Antiquities for Everyone presents a lecture, presentation and book signing featuring Matthew Bogdanos, author of *Thieves of Baghdad* (Bloomsbury). The event will take place on Tuesday, February 28, 2006 at 6:30pm at Cooper Union's Wollman Auditorium, 51 Astor Place, 8th Street between Third and Fourth Avenues. The event is free to the public.



Matthew Bogdanos will speak on his efforts to recover irreplaceable antiquities looted from the Iraq Museum in 2003. He will also discuss the ongoing looting of archaeological sites in the region and the thriving global illicit antiquities trade. Combining a lecture with more than a hundred photographs, it will also expose the flourishing black market in stolen antiquities (including the recently discovered evidence that the trade is funding the insurgency in Iraq), and address the future of international efforts to stop the smugglers.

“We are grateful to the contribution Colonel Bogdanos and his team have made to help recover antiquities looted from the National Museum of Iraq,” says Cindy Ho, founder and President of SAFE.

“His detailed account in *Thieves of Baghdad* will go a long way to keep the ongoing problem of looting and the illicit antiquities trade in the public eye.”

A colonel in the Marine reserves and a New York homicide prosecutor with a lifelong passion for the classics, Bogdanos set out with a select group from his special-ops interagency task force to recover the looted artifacts. His team conducted raids, negotiated recoveries, set up an amnesty program, and tracked down leads from Amman and Zurich to London and New York. He received a 2005 National Humanities Medal from President Bush for his work recovering Iraq's treasures. Royalties from the sale of his book, *Thieves of Baghdad*, are being donated to the Iraq Museum.

For more information visit <http://www.savingantiquities.org/MBogdanos.htm>

### **About SAFE**

SAFE/Saving Antiquities for Everyone, Inc. creates educational programs and media campaigns to raise public awareness about the importance of preserving cultural heritage world-wide. SAFE is a coalition of professionals in communications, media, and advertising working alongside experts in the academic, legal and law enforcement communities. SAFE has no political affiliations.