

## IRAQ ANTIQUITIES ADVOCATES TAKE THE SPOTLIGHT AT ANNUAL RECEPTION

**NEW YORK OCTOBER 4, 2004**—The non-profit group Saving Antiquities for Everyone (SAFE) will honor Dr. John Malcolm Russell for his work to safeguard Iraq's cultural heritage at its annual benefit on Thursday, October 14th.

Called a "real life Indiana Jones" by the Boston Globe, Dr. Russell is Chairman of the Critical Studies Department and a Professor of Art History at the Massachusetts College of Art. Unlike the fictional character portrayed in the Indiana Jones films, however, Dr. Russell is an advocate for the proper excavation and preservation of archeological sites. He is the recipient of the James R. Wiserman Book Award and the Arthur Kingsley Porter Prize and served as a member of the UNESCO cultural mission to Iraq in May 2003 and Deputy Senior Advisor and Senior Advisor to the Ministry of Culture for the Coalition Provisional Authority in Iraq until June 2004. Dr. Russell will share his personal experience in Iraq at the SAFE benefit.



Dr. John Malcolm Russell



Micah Garen

Independent journalists and documentary filmmakers Micah Garen and Marie-Helene Carleton, who are working on a documentary about the looting of archaeological sites in Iraq, will also present photographs and a video made in Iraq at the SAFE benefit.

A long list of respected professionals attending SAFE's October 14th benefit event includes Michael Arad (winner of the World Trade Center Memorial Design Competition), Roger Atwood, (author of the upcoming book, *Stealing History: Tomb Raiders, Smugglers and the Looting of the Ancient World*), Lawrence Kaye, who represented the Republic of Turkey in the infamous Lydian Hoard case, and Patty Gerstenblith, Professor of Law and Director of the Program in Cultural Heritage Law at the DePaul University College of Law.

Wine and hors d'oeuvres prepared by master chef and cookbook author Myra Kornfeld will be served.

### More Information

SAFE's annual reception will take place on Thursday, October 14th in New York, beginning at 6:30 pm. The event will be held at a private residence at 380 West 12 Street (west of Washington Street), overlooking the Hudson River in the West Village. Members of the museum, education and collecting community with an interest in archaeology, preservation, antiquities and ancient studies as well as advertising and media are encouraged to attend.

Tickets for attendance are \$60.00. The proceeds from the party will go towards SAFE's projects in education, public service announcements, advertising and advocacy. RSVP by October 11th by contacting Rebecca Rushfield at 718-575-2702 or [rrushfield@savingantiquities.org](mailto:rrushfield@savingantiquities.org).

### About SAFE

Saving Antiquities for Everyone ([www.savingantiquities.org](http://www.savingantiquities.org)), the volunteer group dedicated to raising public awareness of the importance of preserving cultural heritages worldwide. SAFE is a nonprofit group of professionals in communications, media, and advertising working together with experts in the academic and museum community. By educating the public to these concerns, SAFE hopes to encourage everyone to protect our shared history. SAFE is sponsored by the New York Foundation for the Arts (NYFA), a 501(c) (3) corporation. Any contributions made to the Foundation on behalf of SAFE are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law.

For further information, please contact Cindy Ho at [cho@savingantiquities.org](mailto:cho@savingantiquities.org), or 917-916-5748. SAFE has no political affiliations.