

## **ANNUAL BENEFIT A BIG SUCCESS TO SAVE ANTIQUITIES**

**NEW YORK OCTOBER 16, 2004**—On Wednesday, October 14th the non-profit organization Saving Antiquities For Everyone (SAFE) held it's annual gathering to honor those who work to save the world's endangered cultural treasures. The main focus for this year's event was the work being done to preserve Iraq,s ancient antiquities. A presentation by Dr. John Malcom Russell, a member of the UNESCO cultural mission to Iraq and the Senior Advisor to the Ministry of Culture for the Coalition Provisional Authority in Iraq, highlighted his firsthand experiences during his time in the Middle East.



Among those present were Patty Gerstenblith, Professor of Law and Director of the Program in Cultural Heritage Law at the DePaul University College of Law; Lawrence Kaye, who represented the Republic of Turkey in the infamous Lydian Hoard case; Elizabeth Stone, Professor of Anthropology at Stony Brook University and co-project director of a federal grant to help rebuild Iraq's higher education infrastructure; and Roger Atwood, author of the upcoming book, *Stealing History: Tomb Raiders, Smugglers and the Looting of the Ancient World*. Micah Garen and Marie-Helene Carleton, who are working on a documentary about the looting of archaeological sites in Iraq, presented photographs and a video to introduce Dr. Russell's presentation: a personal account of his experiences in Iraq.

The gathering wasn't all work and no play with raffled items including the book "Nineveh and its Remains", Volume II, 1849 original first edition, a roundtrip airline ticket on America Airlines, Six weeks of Italian lessons for four people, handcrafted wall art from [www.Sumon.com](http://www.Sumon.com) and handmade fine silver jewelry, courtesy of jeweler Judi Powers.

All of the proceeds from the ticket sales, donated and raffled items went towards SAFE's efforts to bring awareness to endangered antiquities. SAFE plans to organize and host several other events in the near future, including a Call for Entries in a contest organized towards students for recruitment in SAFE's coveted internship program.

### **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.

