

Appeal in case on Crimean objects

On Monday, 11 March 2019, the Amsterdam Court of Appeal will handle the appeal in the case on disputed objects from the exhibition at the Allard Pierson Museum entitled 'The Crimea - Gold and secrets of the Black Sea'.

A key question in the case is whether the disputed objects must be returned to four Crimean museums or to the Ukrainian state. After Crimea was annexed from Ukraine in March 2014, both parties claim entitlement to the disputed objects.

The District Court of Amsterdam [ruled](#) in December 2016 that the Allard Pierson Museum should hand over the disputed objects to the Ukrainian state. This judgment was appealed by the Crimean museums.

Safe storage

The court ruled that the Crimean treasures are allowed to remain in the Netherlands for as long as the judgment can be appealed. As a result, the Allard Pierson Museum has ensured responsible and safe storage for the disputed objects since December 2016 in anticipation of the court's definitive ruling.

Position of the Allard Pierson Museum

Since the annexation of Crimea from the Ukrainian state, the Allard Pierson Museum has faced conflicting claims to the disputed objects.

There has since been no change to the position taken by the Allard Pierson Museum on 20 August 2014 that it does not consider itself at liberty to make a choice on this issue. As the case is complicated and the Allard Pierson Museum should not be the party deciding to whom the disputed objects are returned, the museum has been justified in biding its time and storing the disputed objects safely until the court has passed final judgment on their return destination.

Because the court's decision is still pending, the Allard Pierson Museum is refraining from further comment.