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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Antiquities in Peril: Heritage at Risk

*The National Hellenic Museum hosts panel on the destruction
of our shared heritage*

CHICAGO, IL - Looting and illegal trade of antiquities is destroying our shared heritage, causing irreparable damage and producing significant revenue for terrorists.

“The last few decades have seen a burgeoning global demand for antiquities, even as governments in many archaeologically-rich countries have dramatically weakened, withered away, or even failed,” according to the University of Chicago’s Neubauer Collegium for Culture and Society.

The U.N. Security Council has condemned the ongoing destruction of cultural heritage in Iraq and Syria, including targeted destruction of religious sites and objects, and the FBI is warning U.S. art and antiquities dealers to spread the word that “preventing illegally obtained artifacts from reaching the market helps stem the transfer of funds to terrorists.”

Please join us on Feb. 18 at 6:30 p.m. at the National Hellenic Museum, 333 S. Halsted St., for an important conversation about protecting our shared heritage.

Matthew Bogdanos, a Marine Reserves colonel, New York City homicide prosecutor and classics scholar who became known as the “Raider of the Lost Art” for leading the search for antiquities stolen from Iraq’s National Museum in 2003, will be joined by Patty Gerstenblith, DePaul University law professor and director of the Center for Art, Museum & Cultural Heritage, as well as Lawrence Rothfield, University of Chicago professor and lead investigator for “The Past for Sale” research project at the University of Chicago, for a discussion on the causes and consequences of iconoclasm and archaeological looting, and consider what can be done to stop the destruction of our cultural heritage.

The panel will be moderated by Fiona-Rose-Greenland, a research fellow with the Neubauer Collegium for Culture and Society at the University of Chicago.

Tickets are available at the National Hellenic Museum, by phone at 312-655-1234 or at nationalhellenicmuseum.org.

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Located in Chicago’s Greektown, the sleek 40,000-square-foot National Hellenic Museum at 333. S. Halsted St. is both contemporary and timeless, connecting all generations—past, present and future—to the rich heritage of Greek history, culture, art and the Greek American experience. The National Hellenic Museum, previously known as the Hellenic Museum and Cultural Center, has been fulfilling this mission since 1983.

For more information, visit <http://www.nationalhellenicmuseum.org> or call 312-655-1234.
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