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Ministerio de Cultura
Att: Angeles Alastrué Campo
Plaza del Rey, no 1
28004 MADRID
Spanien

Restitution request from Swedish National Heritage Board, return of the reliquary casket from Ullångers church, unlawfully removed from Sweden

Cultural object classified as national treasure and as inventory of ecclesiastical item, the reliquary casket from Ullångers church, Sweden, has been stolen and are unlawfully removed from Sweden. The Swedish police and the Spanish police have found the relic casket in Madrid.

The Swedish National Heritage Board would like to express its thanks to Ministerio de Cultura and all the personnel who have contributed to the return of the objects stolen from the Church of Sweden. During a period between 1994-2005, more than 200 objects of cultural value were stolen from churches in northern Sweden. Almost half of these items have been returned to our churches, partly due to your involvement. We are obviously very grateful for this. It is assumed that all of these objects were stolen by the same person, the man who was convicted in Sweden for the church robberies.

The Swedish National Heritage Board, the Swedish police, the court and the Church of Sweden all have positive experience from their encounters with the local museum at Tenerife, the local antique dealer at Tenerife and the police, prosecutor and custom officials on Tenerife, all of whom have been very helpful.

The reliquary from Ullånger is an enamel work from the 13th century and is one of the so called Limoges works. First mention of the reliquary appears in an inventory register in Ullånger 1688. The reliquary was stolen in August 1999 from its plated cabinet in which it was kept. At the same time two pewter candlesticks from the 16th century were stolen as well as a silver baptismal font. Those items are now in the church. The reliquary is one of only a few enamel reliquary caskets in Sweden from early Middle Ages and it is classified as a national treasure.

The Council directive 93/7/EEC of the March 1993 on the return of cultural objects unlawfully removed from the territory of a Member state and for the purpose of the directive that cultural object. Object which is classified among the "national treasures artistic, historic or archaeological value" under the national legislation

Swedish National Heritage Board
Storgatan 41
Box 5405
SE-114 84 Stockholm
Phone +46 8-5191 8000
E-mail riksant@raa.se
Website www.raa.se
Org.nr 202100-1090
Plusgiro 59994-4
Bankgiro 5052-3620

and are inventories of ecclesiastical institutions are covered by the return procedure introduced by the Directive. Whereas Regulation (EC) No 116/2009 introduces, together with Directive 93/7 a Community system to protect Member States cultural goods. In article 2 in 93/7, cultural objects which have been unlawfully removed from the territory of a Member State shall be returned.

We would therefore be grateful if you could make a restitution decision regarding the reliquary casket from Ullångers church, found in Spain and return it to Sweden as soon as possible

Yours sincerely



Inger Liliequist

Director of Swedish National Heritage Board

Contact person at Swedish National Heritage Board

Anna-Gretha Eriksson

Riksantikvarieämbetet

Swedish National Heritage Board

Box 5405

114 84 Stockholm

Sweden

Phone: +46 8 5191 8243

Mail: anna-gretha.eriksson@raa.se

Information about the reliquary casket

Photos