



An official website of the United States government
[Here's how you know](#)



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE



FOIA.gov

MENU

Thank you for visiting FOIA.gov, the government's central website for FOIA. We'll continue to make improvements to the site and look forward to your input. Please submit feedback to National.FOIAPortal@usdoj.gov.

Submission ID: 1123411

Success!

Your FOIA request has been created and is being sent to the Department of State.

You'll hear back from the agency confirming receipt in the coming weeks using the contact information you provided. If you have questions about your request, feel free to reach out to the agency FOIA personnel using the information provided below.

Contact the agency



~~FOIA Requester Service Center~~

202-261-8484



Kellie N. Robinson, Chief, Requester Liaison Division, FOIA Program Manager/FOIA Public Liaison

202-261-8484

foiastatus@state.gov



Office of Information Programs and Services
2201 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20520

foiarequest@state.gov

Request summary

Request submitted on **March 20, 2024**.

The confirmation ID for your request is **1123411**.

The confirmation ID is only for identifying your request on FOIA.gov and acts as a receipt to show that you submitted a request using FOIA.gov. This number does not replace the information you'll receive from the agency to track your request. In case there is an issue submitting your request to the agency you selected, you can use this number to help.

Contact information

Name

Randolph Myers

Mailing address

8709 Stockton Parkway
Alexandria, VA 22308
United States

Phone number

7037994485

Fax number

none

Company/organization

Ancient Coin Collectors Guild

Email

randolphjmyers@gmail.com

Your request

On behalf of the nonprofit Ancient Coin Collectors Guild, pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act 5 U.S.C. § 552, this requests any records regarding the Antiquities Coalition's convened roundtable on August 30, 2023, where U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs and Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs participated in a roundtable with the Embassy of Yemen along with representatives from the private sector and law enforcement. Our request for records includes any presentations, PowerPoints, transcripts, and summaries of the roundtable discussion as well as the identity of each participant, their position title and the name of their organization. The roundtable at issue was publicized by the Antiquities Coalition (AC) – who was one of the participants -- on September 1, 2023, where they reported on their website: "In partnership with the Cultural Heritage Center in the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, the Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs, and the Embassy of Yemen, the AC convened a closed-door roundtable event on international and multilateral tools for safeguarding cultural heritage at risk at the National Museum of American Diplomacy on August 30, 2023. Following a presentation on an example of bilateral cooperation between the United States and the Republic of Yemen, the AC led a moderated discussion among representatives from governments, law enforcement, and the private sector." The AC report of this roundtable is found at <https://theantiquitiescoalition.org/ac-leads-discussion-on-international-cooperation-for-safeguarding-cultural-heritage-under-threat/>. The Antiquities Coalition also publicly reposted, from the Yemen Embassy, a photograph of the roundtable participants. Please note that FOIA requires that "any reasonably segregable portion of a record" must be released in the event there is any "deletion of the portions which are exempt" required under FOIA's nine Exemptions. The FOIA's 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(8)(A)(2)(I)(II), (b) specifically addressed this segregability requirement, by directing agencies to "consider whether partial disclosure of information is possible whenever the agency determines that a full disclosure of a requested record is not possible" and to "take reasonable steps necessary to segregate and release nonexempt information." As detailed in our Bylaws at accguild.org, we seek "to promote and nurture the free and independent collecting of coins from antiquity through education, political action and consumer protection. The goal of our Guild is to foster an environment in which the general public can confidently and legally acquire and hold, for personal or professional use, any numismatic item of historical interest regardless of date or place of origin. The Guild does not in any way support, condone or defend the looting of designated archaeological sites, nor the violation of any nation's laws concerning the import or export of antiquities." Production of the requested records is fundamentally consistent with the FOIA whose

"basic purpose ... is to ensure an informed citizenry, vital to the functioning of a democratic society, needed to check against corruption and to hold the governors accountable to the governed." NLRB v. Robbins Tire & Rubber Co., 437 U.S. 214, 242 (1978).

Fees

What type of requester are you?

media

Fee waiver

yes

Fee waiver justification

We request a FOIA fee waiver. Please note that the State Department earlier granted the ACCG's fee waiver request in its email response to me dated February 6, 2023 in F-2023-04627. Besides the fact that the State Department earlier granted our FOIA fee waiver request, we believe that a fee waiver on this FOIA request is fully justified on either of the following two grounds: First, we believe that our fee waiver request is justified under FOIA's 5 U.S.C. §552(a)(4)(A)(ii)(II)(III), insofar as the ACCG is a nonprofit organization with a "mission of promoting and nurturing the free and independent collecting of coins from antiquity through education, political action and consumer protection," and because we are also a news organization "that gathers information of potential interest to a segment of the public, uses its editorial skills to turn that raw material into a distinct work, and distributes that work to an audience." To that end, we plan to analyze and report on your FOIA response about this roundtable, which we will make available to both Guild members and the public at the "News" subsection on our website at accguild.org. Our ACCG website also offers the "Cultural Property Observer," which is authored by an ACCG Board member, whose weblog analyzes agency's actions on the import restrictions on ancient coins and defends "the longstanding interests of collectors in the preservation, study, display and enjoyment of cultural artifacts against an 'archaeology over all' perspective." In that regard, and as part of the ACCG's news gathering functions, we examine agency actions on cultural property that may restrict the importation of ancient coins, by gathering information which is of interest to the public and the coin collecting community, and then use our editorial skills to turn the information into a distinct work, which we then distribute to the public through the ACCG's "News" section and the "Cultural Property Observer" at our website at accguild.org. This comports with being a "representative of the news media" since it includes "any person or entity that gathers information of potential interest to a segment of the public, uses its editorial skills to turn the raw materials into a distinct work, and distributes that work to an audience." Even "posting content to a public website can qualify as a means of distributing it – notwithstanding that readers have to affirmatively access the content, rather than have it delivered to their doorsteps or beamed into their homes unbidden." Cause of Action v. FTC, 799 F.3d 1108,1123 (D.C. Cir. 2015). Indeed, once you respond to our FOIA request, please be advised that the

ACCG firmly intends to analyze and report on the roundtable and its discussions on cultural property and ancient coins. Second, we believe that our fee waiver is justified under 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(iii), since disclosure of the information we seek is clearly in the "public interest," and "is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of the operations or activities of the government and is not primarily in the commercial interest of the requester." Our fee waiver is also consistent with the State Department's earlier FOIA fee waiver as well as your FOIA regulation at 22 C.F.R. § 171.16 since our FOIA request is in the "public interest." Besides the fact that the ACCG has no commercial interest, our FOIA request on the roundtable is clearly about how a Federal agency deals with cultural property and how it may be subject to an import restriction, especially since such import restrictions has been determined to be in the "public interest" for FOIA purposes in *Seized Property Recovery v. U.S. Customs*, 502 F.Supp.2d at 60 (D.D.C. 2007). Please contact me if you have any questions.

The amount of money you're willing to pay in fees, if any

0

Request expedited processing

Expedited processing

no



FOIA.gov

CONTACT


Office of Information Policy (OIP)

U.S. Department of Justice

441 G St, NW, 6th Floor

Washington, DC 20530

E-mail: National.FOIAPortal@usdoj.gov

[Hero image credit](#)  CC3.0

| [FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS](#)

| [DEVELOPER RESOURCES](#)

| [AGENCY API SPEC](#)

| [FOIA CONTACT DOWNLOAD](#)

| [FOIA DATASET DOWNLOAD
ACCESSIBILITY](#)

| [PRIVACY POLICY](#)

| [POLICIES & DISCLAIMERS](#)

| [JUSTICE.GOV](#)

| [USA.GOV](#) 