

Judgement: Crimean treasures to go to the Ukrainian State.

The Amsterdam District Court delivered its judgement today, 14 December 2016, in a case that was initiated by four museums in Crimea and the Ukrainian State against the Allard Pierson Museum.

In its judgement, the District Court ruled that the 'artefacts have to be handed over to the Ukrainian State, partly because these artefacts are part of the cultural heritage of the country.' All parties now have three months to appeal the District Court's judgement. The District Court ruled that 'the Crimean Treasures are to remain in storage by the Allard Pierson Museum as long as an appeal in the case is possible'.

Moreover, the District Court also ruled that 'the joining of the Crimea to the Russian Federation is a change in circumstances that justified the termination of the artefact loan agreements and that the Allard Pierson Museum has rightfully not handed over the artefacts to the Crimean Museums.' The District Court also ruled that the Ukrainian State has to refund the costs for the temporary storage of the artefacts, which comes to an amount of approximately 111,000 Euros, and that the Crimean Museums must pay for the legal costs.

The Allard Pierson Museum (APM) has always stressed that it wishes to hand over the artefacts. However, because of the conflicting claims made by the Crimean Museums and the Ukrainian State, a ruling can only be made by the court. A clear judgement has been delivered and the case brought one step closer to finalisation. An appeal is of course possible, and we will wait and see whether this process is initiated. We will continue to safely store the artefacts.