
Chronicles

October 1992 – March 1993

Recession reported to be devastating England's stately homes. High maintenance costs have caused country houses to be sold for derisory sums, among them Pitchford Hall, sold for £750,000; Mitford Hall, on offer for £2.5m; Brympton d'Evercy, sold in August for £850,000 and Heveningham Hall, once 'saved for the nation' but now back on the market: *The Independent on Sunday*, 1 October 1992. 1 October 1992

Archaeologists believe that the lost city of Ubar – Lawrence of Arabia's fabled 'Atlantis of the Sands' – has been found in Oman. Radio-carbon dating has confirmed that the site is older than AD200 and flint artefacts found there go back as far as 5,000 BC. The site would predate many of the famous cities of antiquity, such as Troy: *The Independent on Sunday*, 4 October 1992. 4 October 1992

Love tokens given by Hitler to Eva Braun are to be auctioned. A tiny gold swastika charm bearing the initials EB and a Hitler painting of a Munich street scene were given to a Chester dealer in the sixties. A letter from the dealer explains that a housekeeper to Braun's sister swapped them for soap and cigarettes with a REME officer: *The Times*, 5 October 1992. 5 October 1992

Brass cherub, stolen 20 years ago from the Treasurer's House in York, a National Trust property, is returned with an anonymous note signed 'a reformed thief': *The Independent*, 8 October 1992. 8 October 1992

London art dealer to give Eric Hebborn, the century's most successful faker of Old Master drawings, his own exhibition entitled the 'the real Hebborn', at Julian Hartnoll's Gallery, London, starting on 8 October 1992: *The Times*, 5 October 1992, *The Independent*, 19 October 1992.

Sotheby's hold first sales in Delhi, India, 8–9 October 1992. Art treasures are reported to be distributed among decaying maharajahs' palaces, uncared-for government offices, and ancient temples in the poverty-stricken villages of rural India. Sotheby's is hoping to tempt Indian millionaires to take up art investment to help preserve the nation's heritage. The content of the sales is dictated by an intricate interplay of heritage laws, taxation policy and red tape. Two Chola bronzes of the 11th-12th centuries estimated around £100,000 remain unsold because of the tax investigation which would result from bidding such a price in open auction. *The Independent*, 10 October 1992, *The Independent on Sunday*, 18 October 1992.

- 17 October 1992 Wooden ship, discovered in Dover beneath the remains of a Roman quay in September, may date from the Stone Age. Calculations of sea level changes since prehistoric times suggest that the 40 to 45ft long vessel may have been built as long ago as 2000 BC, towards the end of the Neolithic Period: *The Independent*, 17 October 1992. Remains of a German air crew and their Luftwaffe bomber, shot down on 13 August 1942, found 20ft under a sugar beet field in Burnham-on-Crouch, Essex: *The Independent*, 17 October 1992.
- 18 October 1992 Edward Cullinan wins the architectural competition launched by English Heritage and the National Trust to attempt to relocate and improve visitors' facilities at Stonehenge. English Heritage has called the current state of the monument a 'national disgrace'. The site is approached through a concrete tunnel; parking and other impedimenta of mass tourism largely destroy the serenity of the setting and the traffic of the busy roads provides a major intrusion. English Heritage launched the competition to restore the old rural setting for the 4,000 year-old monument: *The Sunday Telegraph*, 18 October 1992.
- 22 October 1992 Pair of 18th century Brussels tapestries believed to have been a gift from the Prince of Wales to Lady Isabella Hertford in 1806 are returned to their original home. The tapestries have been acquired at auction by Temple Newsam House, once the home of Lady Hertford, now owned by Leeds City Art Galleries: *The Independent*, 22 October 1992.
- 23 October 1992 Art collector campaigns to persuade the British Government to fund a museum to house his collection of the world's biggest Islamic art collection: *The Times*, 23 October 1992, *The Independent*, 1992.
- 26 October 1992 Most of England's major, accessible archaeological sites are to be removed from government control, according to a plan drawn up by English Heritage. It is believed that English Heritage proposes to hand these sites over to private charities, trusts, local council and private commercial companies: *The Independent*, 26 October 1992, *The Times*, 26 October 1992.
Crisis talks to be held to discuss the decline and decay of Arnos Vale, Brislington, Bristol, one of Britain's finest cemeteries, which covers 45 acres and contains 20 Grade II listed buildings and monuments: *The Independent*, 26 October 1992.
In a letter to the Times, the Director of the Victoria and Albert Museum states that no advice was sought from the Tate Gallery nor the Victoria and Albert Museum regarding the proposed sale of the three paintings by Gainsborough, Turner and Constable from the Royal Holloway and Bedford College: *The Independent*, 26 October 1992.
- 27 October 1992 Seventy yards of Roman city wall and the remains of a Roman city gate built between AD160 and 180 are identified in Exeter: *The Independent*, 27 October 1992.

The chairman of English Heritage is condemned in the House of Commons because of the government agency's plan to shed 200 sites and 480 jobs. The Chairman, Mr Jocelyn Stevens, wants to transfer about 200 sites to charities, trusts and local authorities. The sites earmarked for disposal have not been named but it is known to include the White Horse at Uffington, Oxfordshire; Europe's largest Stone Age earthwork, Silbury Hill, Wiltshire; and important forts along Hadrian's Wall: *The Independent*, 27 October 1992.

Plans for the reconstruction of Shakespeare's Globe theatre have been finalised by a team of international experts. New designs for the stage itself have been based on scholarly conjecture and archaeological evidence and show a majestic carved back wall built within the 'wooden O'. The opening of the theatre is scheduled for 1994: *The Times*, 27 October 1992.

Greece warns that regional peace and stability could be undermined if the former Yugoslav republic of Macedonia adopts the Star of Vergina, emblem of Alexander the Great, as its national symbol. 'This is...an act of historical theft', a government spokesman said. Macedonian Parliament reported to be debating adoption of a new flag including the 16-rayed star: *The Independent*, 30 October 1992

The Medieval church spire of All Saints Church in Hereford is to be rebuilt. The spire, 240ft (73m) high, has a five-degree list to the south-east: *The Independent*, 31 October 1992

19th century carved wooden fire-surround is stolen from Glasgow University: *The Independent*, 2 November 1992

Growing number of artworks are being stolen from universities and colleges. Colleges are being targeted because they are usually unguarded and many are unaware of the value of some of their possessions. The Council for the Prevention of Art Theft will hold a conference in 1993 to try to discover the scale of the problem and how to stop it: *The Independent*, 2 November 1992.

Archaeologists discover one of the world's largest prehistoric sites, 30 miles south-west of Dublin, Ireland. Aerial photography reveals a 2,700-year old town surrounded by three miles of defensive walls: *The Independent*, 3 November 1992

British Museum, London, opens new Oriental gallery, named after its benefactor, Joseph Hotung: *The Times*, 3 November 1992

Collection of Old Master drawings looted from the Netherlands at the end of the Second World War reported to have been 'found' in Moscow: *The Independent* 5 November 1992.

Edinburgh university is to sell a Jacob van Ruisdael oil painting and a late 16th/early 17th century bronze sculpture by de Vries to help clear debts and repair buildings: *The Times*, 7 November 1992. Two diagrams by Michelangelo instructing the quarrymen of Carrara how to hone blocks of marble to his requirements have been

acquired for the English nation. Along with a painting and drawing by the Sieneese artist Beccafumi, they were part of a deal relieving the anonymous owner of £119,00 in tax. A Henry Moore sculpture had also been accepted in lieu of £87,500 tax from another owner: *The Times* 7 November 1992.

10 November 1992 The Renoir painting *A Vase of Flowers*, stolen from the window of a London gallery five years ago, is returned to Britain after an adventure that took it to Israel, Switzerland and Japan: *The Times* 10 November 1992

The British Museum is reported to be trying to recover a national treasure unearthed by a man using a metal detector. The 2,000 year-old bronze plaque of the Roman emperor Claudius fetched £26,000 at auction last July: *The Times*, 10 November 1992.

The Antique Juggling Girl, by Frederic, Lord Leighton, stolen a year ago in Oxfordshire, has been recovered and will be sold at auction: *The Times*, 10 November 1992.

11 November 1992 The Acropolis, Athens is to be restored: *The Times*, 11 November 1992.

The Russian Minister for Culture, Mr Jevgeni Sidirov, reveals a large number of drawings belonging to the Königs collection, to the Dutch ambassador in Moscow, Mr Joris Vos. The collection of 500 drawings was sold in 1940 to the Nazis for only 1.4 million Guilders by the Rotterdam harbour entrepreneur, D.J. van Beuningen. The collection came into the hands of the Red Army via Dresden and Leipzig. The precise whereabouts of the collection is still unknown, because Sidirov displayed the collection in a secret place, but it is thought that the collection is stored in the cellars of the Pushkin Museum: *NRC Handelsblad*, 11 November 1992.

12 November 1992 Turner's watercolour, *The Bridge on the Rhone at St Maurice*, stolen from the foyer of Nottingham University library: *The Times*, 12 November 1992.

Collection of five condoms, believed to have been made in England during the 19th century, sold at Christie's, London at prices ranging from £400 to £3,000: *The Times*, 13 November 1992.

14 November 1992 A trove of gold coins, ingots and bars, believed to have come from a Spanish galleon sunk by English pirates in 1792, has surfaced at Sotheby's and will be auctioned in New York next Spring. The discovery was made off Montevideo, Uruguay: *The Independent*, 14 November 1992.

15 November 1992 Young British artist Anthony Auerbach accused of deliberately imitating the work of his famous namesake Frank Auerbach. An article in *The Art Newspaper* said that the style of his charcoal drawing was so similar, and his proclaimed method of working so close, that it could only be assumed that he wanted to be confused

with Frank. 'This must be one of the most blatant cases of "appropriation" in contemporary art': *The Independent on Sunday*, 15 November 1992.

New interpretation of the Dead Sea Scrolls, including 50 texts that have never before been published, provokes a fierce religious controversy by claiming that early Christians were violent, xenophobic and obsessed with apocalyptic visions: *The Sunday Times*, 15 November 1992.

Letters from the Earl of Essex to Elizabeth I, part of a collection known as the Hulton Papers, expected to sell for up to £450,000 at Sotheby's in London on 14 December 1992: *The Times*, 16 November 1992.

16 November 1992

Crown worn by Queen Adelaide for the coronation of her husband William IV in 1831 to be sold by the royal jewellers Garrard, London: *The Times*, 17 November 1992.

17 November 1992

Tutankhamun Exhibition in Dorchester has re-created the boy king's mummy from 'substitute organic flesh' and animal skin: *The Times*, 17 November 1992.

Museums and Galleries Commission to ask the Attorney General, Sir Nicholas Lyell, to intervene in the sale of three masterpieces by London University's Royal Holloway and Bedford College. There has been outrage at the decision and the directors of the Tate Gallery, Victoria & Albert Museum, Ashmolean Museum in Oxford and the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge have voiced their opposition: *The Independent*, 17 November 1992.

Victoria and Albert Museum fail to acquire a costume of great historical interest when the vendor raises reserve at the last minute. The costume was worn by James, Duke of York, later James II of England and VII of Scotland: *The Times*, 18 November 1992.

Antique jewellery, including a wedding tiara worn by the bride of Napoleon II, belonging to Princess Gloria von Thurn und Taxis, to be auctioned in Geneva: *The Independent*, 18 November 1992.

18 November 1992

Uffizi Gallery, Florence, Italy wants to put paintings by Adolf Hitler on permanent exhibition: *The Independent*, 18 November 1992.

Constable landscape, *Harnham Bridge looking towards Salisbury Cathedral*, fails to find a buyer at auction: *The Independent* 19 November 1992, *The Times*, 19 November 1992.

Dispute between English Heritage and its advisers over the government agency's plans to change the way it manages 200 of its 400 historic sites descends into confusion after the first meeting between the two sides: *The Independent*, 19 November 1992.

Treasure trove inquest to be held after Roman gold and silver coins, spoons, jewellery and ornaments discovered by man using metal detector on a farm in Suffolk. The hoard will be put on show by the department of prehistoric and Romano-British antiquities at the

19 November 1992

British Museum: *The Times*, 19, 20 November 1992, *The Independent*, 20 November 1992.

- 20 November 1992 Mayor of Florence states that Uffizi gallery will not exhibit paintings by Hitler, as earlier suggested. Berlin had protested that the plan was 'an intolerable provocation to good taste': *The Times*, 20 November 1992.
Roman Treasure unearthed in Suffolk is the first that can be attributed to a known family. Evidence unearthed suggests that it belonged to a wealthy family by the name of Faustinus that had lived nearby for at least two centuries. Investigation shows they appear to have been connected with the imperial family in Rome: *The Independent*, 20 November 1992.
Fire breaks out at Windsor Castle causing devastating and possibly irreparable damage to one of the nation's great properties. The fire, thought to have started in the private chapel, has severely damaged the structure and interiors of the state apartments: *The Independent*, 21 November 1992; *The Times*, 21 November 1992.
- 21 November 1992 Twenty watercolours by Adolf Hitler to be auctioned as a single lot in Trieste after the city of Florence abandoned a proposal they be displayed in the Uffizi Gallery: *The Times*, 21 November 1992.
- 23 November 1992 Nine English Heritage archaeologists begin work sifting through the tons of debris caused by the fire at Windsor Castle. Buckingham Palace announce that the seven worst-damaged rooms at the castle were empty of furniture and valuables when the fire broke out because of a rewiring programme. Palace advisers are optimistic that many of the damaged artefacts, such as chandeliers and carpets, can be fully restored. Works of art thought to have been lost include a huge portrait of George III by Sir William Beechey. Some valuable porcelain is also known to have been destroyed: *The Independent*, 23 November 1992.
- 24 November 1992 Paragraph from a speech written by Abraham Lincoln in 1865 breaks the record for an American manuscript at \$1.32 million (£868,421). The manuscript has spent the past 40 years in a cabinet in a New York city apartment and was noticed by Christie's during the valuation of an estate: *The Times*, 24 November 1992.
- 26 November 1992 Skeletons of seven Asian slaves who helped build the infamous 'Death Railway' for the Japanese during the second world war are discovered during the excavation of a car park in Kanchanaburi, 75 miles northwest of Bangkok (*Reuter*): *The Times*, 26 November 1992.
- 27 November 1992 Fire breaks out at the Hofburg Palace, Vienna, destroying the Palace ballrooms. No major works of art appear to have been lost: *The Times*, 28 November 1992.

- The fire at Windsor Castle has uncovered history thought to be lost. The aftermath could reveal the castle as a much more interesting building than has been apparent for nearly two centuries: *The Times*, 28 November 1992
- 28 November 1992
- Van Gogh's *Jardin à Auvers* auctioned in Paris for 17 million Guilders to a French business. The low price is ascribed to the fact that the painting, being listed as an historic monument, cannot be removed from France: *NRC Handelsblad*, 7 December 1992.
- 7 December 1992
- One of the rarest televisions in the world, a 1929 John Logie Baird Televisor, stolen from Darlington Museum, Co Durham, England: *The Times*, 8 December 1992.
- 8 December 1992
- At the International Congress on Museums it is reported that Dutch museums now attract one-and-a-half times as many visitors as the cinema. (1980: 14,5 million tickets sold; 1990: 22 million). Concern is expressed about damage caused to art works by being transported on loan, and about increased commercialisation of the museum world: *NRC Handelsblad*, 9 December 1992.
- 9 December 1992
- Dispute in respect of the 8 paintings by the German-Jewish painter, Felix Nussbaum, which were auctioned at Christie's on 10 December 1992, reported to be settled. The canvasses had been put up for auction by L. Kok, but two nieces of the painter, Mozes and Jaari Nussbaum, who were living in Israel and were the only survivors of the family, claimed that the paintings were theirs. The paintings had been "acquired" by Kok's parents from Nussbaum's parents during the war, and Kok had received them from his parents. The Jewish Inheritance Trust (*Stichting Joods Erfgoed*) was dissatisfied with the settlement under which Kok and the Nussbaum nieces would divide the proceeds of auction. In the Trust's view the paintings were the sole property of the nieces: *NRC Handelsblad*, 10 December 1992.
- 10 December 1992
- The Greek Prime Minister, Constantine Mitsotakis, donates artefacts to an exhibition in his home town, Chania, on Crete. Many Greeks are reported to consider it scandalous that he had not donated the items to the nation before. Owing to lax laws and lack of enforcement many important treasures are in private hands and are sold to buyers outside Greece: *The Guardian*, 10 December 1992.
- On 20th November 1992 the Dutch Council of State (*Raad van State*) ruled that a 17th Century painting *Flowers in a wooden tub* attributed to Jan Breugel the Older, must stay in the Netherlands. The owner of the painting argued that the painting should be removed from the export blockade list; first, because a German art historian, Dr. K. Ertz, considered that it was painted by Jan Breugel the Younger, and second, because there was an identical and artistically superior version in the Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam. Neither argument was accepted: *NRC Handelsblad*, 10 December 1992.

The Getty Museum in California buys the painting *Bullfight, Suerte de Varas* by Goya: *The Times*, 10 December 1992; *The Independent*, 10 December 1992.

- 11 December 1992 Rare medieval north German aquamanile cast in bronze of a knight on horseback bought at auction for £660,000 by an anonymous European collector: *The Independent*, 11 December 1992.
Blood sample from the Duke of Edinburgh provides evidence that five skeletons disinterred from a pit in eastern Russia last year are almost certainly those of the Russian imperial family, murdered by Bolsheviks in 1918. DNA from Prince Philip matches that from a skeleton believed to be Tsarina Alexandra, whose sister Princess Victoria of Hesse was his maternal grandmother: *The Times*, 11 December 1992.
- 12 December 1992 One of the world's largest collections of Pre-Raphaelite art and artifacts at Penkill Castle, Ayrshire is to be sold at auction unless a last-minute deal can be arranged to purchase the castle and its contents intact: *The Times*, 12 December 1992.
The Amsterdam art dealer, J. Polak, speaking for the National Society of Art Dealers, alleges that the EC regulations which require export licences for the export of art treasures will be difficult to operate. For export within the EC there is a lack of reciprocity; for export from France to the Netherlands a licence is required, but not in the other direction. In respect of archaeological objects – even worthless fragments of pottery – an export licence is required: *NRC Handelsblad*, 12 December 1992.
Orchestras and art galleries successfully lobby the British Government over plans to switch their funding from the National Arts Council to new regional arts boards: *The Independent*, 12 December 1992.
- 13 December 1992 Concern expressed over Florence's palaces and churches, which are being eroded by time, pollution, lack of funds and regular maintenance. Professor Domenico Valentino, superintendent for cultural property in Florence, reports that the Ministry of Cultural Property has 300bn lire for all the treasures of Italy: *The Independent*, 13 December 1992
- 14 December 1992 Referring to the decision of the *Raad van State* of 20 November 1992, (see item 10 November above) an anonymous owner of one of the largest private collections in the Netherlands observes that the Dutch law, which allows 'unique and irreplaceable' objects to be placed on the export blockade list, not only blights the value of the listed paintings, thus expropriating the owners, but also increases the reluctance of private collectors to lend their works to exhibitions. The 'certain satisfaction' of having one's objects placed on the list is not considered enough to offset the severe financial detriment: *NRC Handelsblad*, 14 December 1992.

- Burial place of the Grenadier Guards' first VC is discovered in an overgrown graveyard at Heywood, Greater Manchester: *The Daily Telegraph*, 15 December 1992. 15 December 1992
- Roman lead tablet, found on the Thames foreshore, put on show in the Tower Hill Pageant museum by the Tower of London. The tablet shows that Latin was the language of many Roman Londoners: *The Times*, 16 December 1992. 16 December 1992
- Tate Gallery in London to establish a museum of modern art to display twentieth century masterpieces. Refurbishment to the northwest quadrant of the gallery will begin in 1994 and will take two years: *The Times*, 16 December 1992.
- Remains of Celtic noble's grave discovered in Colchester, Essex. The grave has been dated to the period just before the Roman conquest of AD43 and is thought that the man may have been related to the ruler Cunobelin, Shakespeare's Cymbeline: *The Times*, 17 December 1992. 17 December 1992
- Two Dutch art experts claim that seven drawings attributed by French experts to Van Gogh are fakes. Johannes van der Wolk, curator of the Rijksmuseum Kröller-Müller, confirms the opinion of Han van Crimpen of the Van Gogh Museum, Amsterdam, when he declared in *Le Monde* that a reference to the drawings in a letter from Vincent to his brother Theo was insufficient reason to establish that the drawings were Van Gogh's work. The French owners, who are hoping to exhibit the works in Japan, have sought export licences from the French government, thus requiring the government to make an authoritative statement on the authenticity of the works: *NRC Handelsblad*, 17 December 1992.
- As from 1 January 1993, the resources and powers of the Dutch *Rijksdienst Beeldende Kunst* (Visual Arts Department), which manages the largest collection of art works in the country, will be drastically reduced. The Department will no longer have the task of acquiring important Dutch works of art and its funds for that purpose will be stopped. The Department's collection of some 400,000 art works will be distributed among museums and galleries. Four state museums will acquire greater powers and independence: *NRC Handelsblad*, 18 December 1992. 18 December 1992
- Proposal by the French government to sell relics salvaged from the wreck of the Titanic to the few remaining survivors and to descendants of the victims provokes outrage in Britain. It is understood that the intention is to help pay for the salvage operation: *The Times*, 18 December 1992.
- Army officer arrested in Moscow after trying to sell 66 original decrees signed by Tsar Alexander I: *The Times*, 19 December 1992. 1850 bronze sculpture of Joan of Arc, valued at £100,000, stolen from the gardens of Cliveden House, Buckinghamshire: *The Independent*, 19 December 1992. 19 December 1992

Attempts by Sotheby's to extricate itself from an American legal dispute over a hoard of Roman silver worth £40 million have failed. The origins of the Sevso silver are being questioned by archaeologists: *The Times*, 19 December 1992.

Statue of J M W Turner restored to mark the 141st anniversary of his death. The statute in St Paul's Cathedral was vandalised in the 1880s: *The Times*, 19 December 1992.

New archaeological research suggest that the Amazon rain forest may be much younger than previously thought: *The Times*, 19 December 1992.

- 20 December 1992 Bone from a prehistoric sea reptile stolen after being left in a school foyer in Bristol: *News of the World*, 20 December 1992.
- 21 December 1992 Secrets of a 3,000 year-old Egyptian mummy of the priestess Tjnetmutengebtiu, known as Jeni, revealed in detail for the first time in Britain by a team from the medical physics department at St Thomas's Hospital, London. The team used the latest X-ray scanning techniques to get precise pictures that previously could be obtained only by unwrapping and thereby destroying it: *The Times*, 21 December 1992.
- 22 December 1992 After being deemed a fire hazard and forced to close in 1988 the Semper Gallery in Dresden is reopening. The gallery concentrates on European paintings of the 18th and 19th centuries: *The Times*, 22 December 1992.
The longest Celtic inscription on a bronze plaque, dating to the second century BC, discovered in Contrebia Belaisca, Spain: *The Times*, 22 December 1992.
- 23 December 1993 Ruins of an 18th-century temple discovered near the site of Gopsall Hall, a Palladian mansion in a Leicestershire wood: *The Independent*, 23 December 1992.
- 24 December 1992 Prof. dr. Wolfgang Eichwede, director of the 'Research unit, Bremen', and member of the German state committee for the recovery of war booty, states that Germany does not intend to pay for the recovery of treasures stolen from Germany by the Red Army during WW II. Since 1985 Eichwede, and the historian, Günter Wermusch have been doing research into the theft of art during WW II; in 1991 they founded the organisation 'Missing Art in Europe'. The statement was made to counter allegations that Germany's success in recovering stolen treasures could be explained by a willingness to lay large sums on the table: *NRC Handelsblad*, 24 December 1992.
- 27 December 1992 New art gallery planned in Walsall, West Midlands to house a personal collection of drawings, paintings and sculptures known as the Garman-Ryan collection. The collection was given to Walsall in 1973 by Kathleen Garman, widow of the sculptor Sir Jacob Epstein: *The Independent on Sunday*, 27 December 1992.

- Archaeologists' exploration of an old mining complex in Co Kerry, Ireland, reveals that prehistoric tribesmen were mining for copper, and possibly lead, in 2200BC: *The Independent*, 29 December 1992. 29 December 1992
- Archaeologists excavating a Roman fort in Southern Scotland discover a traffic control system: a 60ft long, 12ft wide traffic island inside the entrance to the 1,900 year-old fort: *The Independent*, 30 December 1992. 30 December 1992
- Windsor Castle reopens to the public on 16 January 1993 at a reduced price so the fire damage can be viewed. Work to restore the rooms will continue as visitors look on: *The Times*, 31 December 1992. 31 December 1992
- Scottish heritage organisations, hoping to buy Penkill Castle, Ayrshire and keep its art under one roof, are unsuccessful. The castle was sold to a private buyer and many of its contents are auctioned: *The Independent*, 31 December 1992.
- 1850 bronze sculpture of Joan of Arc recovered after being stolen. The sculpture will need repairs before being returned to its marble plinth at the National Trust property Cliveden House, Buckinghamshire: *The Independent*, 4 January 1993; *The Times*, 4 January 1993. 4 January 1993
- Two rare Victorian carriages stolen from a collection at 16th century Burton Constable Hall, North Humberside: *The Times*, 5 January 1993. 5 January 1993
- Dispute reported to be raging around one of Rome's great treasures; the 1800 year-old bronze sculpture of Emperor Marcus Aurelius mounted on a horse. The original was removed from its pedestal for restoration 11 years ago, and after restoration is too vulnerable to stand outside. The Director-General of the Ministry of Culture, Francesco Sisinni, has said that a copy will be made to occupy the empty pedestal. A Dutch sculptor, Arthur Spronken and the bronze worker Pie Sijen have offered the Romans a copy, the horse's head and neck of which is already complete. But the Alderman for culture, Lucio Barbero, reacting to photographs of the product, pronounced the Dutch copy ugly. It is 'too Japanese. It looks as if the bronze has been cut mechanically.' Offers from Berlin and Boston to make a copy are also being considered: *NRC Handelsblad*, 5 January 1993.
- H. W. van Os, Director-General of the *Rijksmuseum Amsterdam*, defends the museum's decision to acquire Rembrandt's portrait of Johannes Uytenbogaert, giving the seller a profit of 4.5 million guilders on a 5-month investment. The seller, the art dealer Otto Naumann and Alfred Bader, decided only to sell after they had bought the picture; there was no prior contact between them and the museum. The museum did not bid at the auction because it had insufficient funds. Only after Bader offered to sell did more funds become available, in particular, 9 million Guilders from the Dutch government: *NRC Handelsblad*, 5 January 1993.

- 6 January 1993 British diver's team uncovers £200 million find of 2,000 tons of silver bars and three million silver coins in the wreck of an American war ship in the Arabian Sea: *Daily Express*, 6 January 1993, *The Times*, 6 January 1993.
441 largely unknown drawings by Amedeo Modigliani may go on show at the Royal Academy, London. The drawings belong to Noel Alexandre whose father was the artist's doctor and friend, and cover a hitherto largely blank period in his early career from 1907 to 1914: *The Times*, 6 January 1993.
A unique 14th Century building, the *Duitse Huis* (German House) between the Catherijnesingel and the Springweg in Utrecht, has just been returned to its original owners. The *Ridderlijke Duitse Orde* (German Order of Knights) was founded in 1191 to care for sick and wounded crusaders. In 1348 the Order built the monastery-complex in Utrecht, where the sick were nursed for centuries. In 1807 the Order was compelled by Lodewijk Napoleon to sell the property, but the Order had a right of pre-emption should the public authorities at some future time cease to have a use for the building. That moment arrived in 1989 when the building ceased to be used as a military hospital. The building is the most authentic monastery-complex of the German Order in West Europe, having survived the Reformation, the French Revolution and the inner city renewal of the 1960s. It is in urgent need of repair: *NRC Handelsblad*, 6 January 1993.
- 8 January 1993 Britain's oldest public art museum, the Dulwich Picture Gallery, appeals to the Government to help prevent its closure through financial difficulty: *The Independent*, 8 January 1993.
9th century AD church, largest built in the early Middle Ages, discovered by British archaeologists in the foothills of the Abruzzo, Italy: *The Times*, 8 January 1993.
- 12 January 1993 The statue Eros which has stood in London's Piccadilly Circus for 100 years, may have to be retired to a museum. Fractures to the leg have proved almost impossible to repair and a replica may be used: *The Independent*, 12 January 1993.
- 14 January 1993 Five days after Dulwich Picture Gallery, London appealed to the Government to help prevent its closure, a donor comes forward with £200,000 enable the gallery to remain open in 1993 without selling any of its Old Masters: *The Independent*, 14 January 1993.
- 16 January 1993 The National Museum of the American Indian in New York must, under U.S. law, repatriate native artifacts confiscated from the Kwak'wala people of British Columbia. Critics point out that Canada has no legislation on this issue. A task force set up by the Canadian Museums Association and the Assembly of First Nations will propose guidelines: *Globe and Mail* (Toronto), 16 January 1993.

- Rodin's famous statue *The Thinker* to visit Peking on its first foreign trip. The statue will be exhibited in Peking and Shanghai: *The Guardian*, 19 January 1993, *The Times*, 19 January 1993.
25,000 needed to restore 17-ton bell in St Paul's Cathedral: *The Times*, 19 January 1993.
- British Library buys 45 boxes and volumes of papers by Sir William Petty, a 17th century economist. Scholars hope to resurrect the reputation that Petty enjoyed under Cromwell: *The Times*, 23 January 1993.
- The Times* Newspapers pays for the restoration of the tombs of the Delane family. John Thadeus Delane was editor of *The Times* from 1841 to 1877: *The Times*, 25 January 1993.
Work completed on a stained-glass window at Durham Cathedral to commemorate its 900th anniversary. The two 10ft tall panels have been paid for by a \$10,000 gift from the American Friends of Durham Cathedral, a group formed by the Rev Perry Troutman from Amville, Pennsylvania: *The Times*, 25 January 1993.
- A Suffolk farmer, John Browning, has spent 12 years searching for a dozen Roman bronzes taken from a protected villa and temple site on his land. The bronzes, evaluated at £1.5 million, now form part of the collection of the New York financier, Leon Levy. It is reported that after Mr Levy's death the pieces will be returned to the British Museum: *Guardian*, 28 January 1993.
- Police in Italy recover a 17th century painting stolen four years ago from a German private collection. The painting had been cut into two parts, which thieves were intending to pass off as separate paintings: *The Independent on Sunday*, 31 January 1993.
Team of experts from Oxford University's maritime research unit to examine 16th century Elizabethan warship complete with its contents off Alderney in the Channel Islands: *The Times*, 1 February 1993.
- Egyptian government launches international appeal for help in excavating more than 40 archaeological site in northern Sinai. The sites are threatened by the Peace Canal, a big irrigation project, and by associated agricultural and urban developments: *The Times*, 3 February 1993.
- An ounce of 200 year old year Tibetan cheese sold at auction for £1,058: *The Independent*, 4 February 1993.
British Telecom is fined £3,000 for demolishing listed telephone kiosk: *The Times*, 5 February 1993.
- National Heritage Department reported to be fighting the Treasury over plans to privatise the Government's art collection which includes works of art that hang in Ministers' offices and decorate British embassies around the world. The collection are mostly by

- British artists or are of British subjects and scenes: *The Observer*, 7 February 1993; *The Times*, 8 February 1993.
- Victoria and Albert Museum admit to an expensive financial blunder after the exclusive rights to make 10 copies of the statue of Eros in Piccadilly Circus, worth £1.6m, were sold for £20,000 by the head of the sculpture department in 1986: *The Times*, 7 February 1993.
- London art dealers fear that new EC regulations to counter art smuggling combined with attempts to strip Britain of its zero rate VAT for art imports could chase the international art trade out of the Community altogether: *The Independent*, 7 February 1993.
- 10 February 1993 Forthcoming sale of a portrait miniature claimed to depict William Shakespeare revives the debate among art historians as to what the Bard really looked like: *The Times*, 10 February 1993.
- Talks begin in Dresden, Germany on the return of antiquities both countries stolen from each other between 1941 and 1945. Russia admits that parts of the treasures of Troy which vanished from Berlin in 1945 are hidden near Moscow: *The Independent*, 11 February 1993; *The Guardian*, 11 February 1993.
- 11 February 1993 An 'animal VC' — the Dickin Medal — awarded to a ship's cat for protecting food stores by catching a rat a day despite shell wounds is to be auctioned in May: *The Independent*, 11 February 1993.
- 12 February 1993 Controversy in Madrid over the Prado's planned extension to its eighteenth century building. The \$22 million expansion underground is intended to increase the number of paintings on display from its permanent collections: *International Herald Tribune*, 12 February 1993.
- 13 February 1993 Archaeologists excavating a 17th century Dutch ship off the coast of South Africa discover among the cargo Chinese, Japanese and Persian porcelain, hardwoods, clothes and oriental amber. The excavations will shed light on 17th century international trade, especially the activities of the Dutch East India Company: *The Independent*, 13 February 1993.
- 15 February 1993 Mexican government to finance a permanent exhibition of ancient Mexican and central American art at the British Museum, London. Most of the rare antiquities, though owned by the museum, have never gone on permanent public display before: *The Independent*, 15 February 1993.
- 17 February 1993 Kelt Energy is following Department of Environment guidelines, issued in 1990 to highlight the importance of heritage concerns, in the laying of a gas pipeline in the Caythorpe region of Humberside. The area is rich in Roman and Anglo-Saxon remains; Kelt Energy sponsored an 8-week excavation, costing them 2% of total production, prior to building the pipeline: *Financial Times*, 17 February 1993.

- Copper engraving plate of historically important map of North America discovered in the basement of the Joslyn Art Museum, Nebraska, America. The map completes a set of 81 plates that form a unique record of the American Indian culture: *The Times*, 19 February 1993.
- Viking Penguin (publishers) to postpone publication of *Finn's Hotel*, a previously unpublished collection of short stories by James Joyce, following opposition to the publication by the Joyce estate: *The Guardian* 19 February 1993.
- Court action taken to stop Edinburgh University selling off works of art worth millions of pounds from its collection in the Talbot Rice gallery: *The Independent*, 20 February 1993.
- A form of ancient chewing-gum, used 1,500 years ago to mend a Roman cooking pot, discovered at an archaeological site in Northampton, Britain: *The Independent*, 20 February 1993.
- Ukraine offers free expert help to rebuild Windsor Castle and is being considered seriously by the National Heritage Department: *The Times*, 22 February 1993.
- Environment Secretary overturns Northumberland County Council's decision to allow Arco to test for oil and Coal Contractors to opencast mine close to Hadrian's Wall, which is designated a World Heritage Site by Unesco: *The Guardian*, 23 February 1993.
- Anger and concern expressed at sale by Royal Holloway and Bedford New College of the Turner masterpiece *Van Tromp going about to please his Masters, Ships at Sea, getting a good wetting*, to the Getty Museum, California. It is feared that the sale will pave the way for other cash-starved universities to raise funds by selling art: *The Independent*, 24 February 1993.
- Principal of Royal Holloway College, University of London, is confident that the College will be granted a license to export a Turner in the College's collection. The sale, to the Getty Museum, California, is controversial as the painting was bequeathed to the College by its founder. Further items in the College's collection may also be sold to maintain the College's buildings: *The Guardian*, 24 February 1993.
- Campaigners interested in preserving Gilbert Scott's Art Deco Battersea Power Station are uncertain about the landmark's future; it is being bought for an undisclosed sum by the Hwang family of Hong Kong, known for their property investments: *Financial Times*, 25 February 1993.
- Treasure trove inquest to be held after solid gold torc, dating from Bronze Age, discovered on farmland in Lincolnshire: *The Independent*, 26 February 1993.
- 3,409 silver coins, dating from the 16th and 17th century, declared treasure trove by a coroner's court in Congleton. The coins were

discovered by a metal detector enthusiast in Cheshire: *The Independent*, 27 February 1993; *The Times*, 27 February 1993.

- 27–28 February 1993 Irina Shchukin seeks ownership in the French courts of 20 paintings by Henri Matisse once in her father's collection and which are now on loan to the Pompidou Centre in Paris. The Shchukin family fled from Moscow to Paris in 1918 during the Russian Revolution; the family property was seized and declared public property. Ms. Shchukin is seeking to recover the paintings from the Pushkin Museum in Moscow and the Hermitage in St. Petersburg. In 1954 she attempted to recover 34 Picassos on loan in Paris but the French courts held that the matter was for the Soviet state to decide: *International Herald Tribune*, 27–28 February 1993.
- 28 February 1993 The first century A.D. Roman aqueduct in Segovia, which forms part of a massive six-road intersection, is being badly damaged by traffic pollution. Experts from the Council of Europe are now studying the damage and will suggest remedy; their report is due in several months: *The Observer*, 28 February 1993.
- 1 March 1993 Important 12th-century castle was uncovered in Exeter when reservoir demolished: *The Guardian* 1 March 1993.
- 2 March 1993 Trustees of Chevening House in Kent, official residence of the Foreign Secretary, planning a sale of furniture and household goods. The money raised will be given to an investment fund that will secure the estate's future. The Government does not contribute to the upkeep, which is paid for by an independent fund: *The Guardian*, 2 March 1993; *The Independent*, 2 March 1993.
Broughton Hall, an Elizabethan timber-framed manor house in Staffordshire, is being sold by the Franciscan missionaries of Joseph for £750,00. The house, mentioned in the Domesday Book, is Grade 1 listed and has been home to the Nuns' order for 41 years: *The Independent*, 2 March 1993
- 3 March 1993 The RAF at Waddington can no longer bear the cost of retaining the last Vulcan bomber. The 'Save the Vulcan campaign' is demanding that Parliament give the threatened Vulcan to the nation otherwise they fear that it will be scrapped: *The Independent*, 3 March 1993.
- 4 March 1993 An axe found at a disused quarry in Devon proves to be a Bronze Age artefact. It has been donated to the Exeter Museum and is now on display: *The Guardian*, 4 March 1993; *The Independent*, 4 March 1993.
- 5 March 1993 In a letter to *The Times* the President of the Society for Medieval Archaeology expresses his members' concern over English Heritage's decision to dispose of control over 204 monuments. 'There is deepening concern among my members about these "hit-list" monuments, on which I understand expenditure on repairs has ceased. Over 100

Years' experience and skill in treating dangerous ruins will be lost when the entire direct-labour staff is discharged over the next three years': *The Times*, 5 March 1993.

Russian government asks for return of the ashes of the ballerina Anna Pavlova, which are kept in a London crematorium: *The Times*, 5 March 1993

Two Gainsborough portraits and another portrait by Reynolds, stolen from Lincoln's Inn in September, 1990, reappeared wrapped in a binliner after an amateur collector bought them in Bermondsey market, London and are now with Sotheby's: *The Guardian*, 6 March 1993, *The Independent* 6 March 1993; *The Times*, 6 March 1993.

6 March 1993

Irina Shchukin loses her action to recover paintings by Matisse in her father's collection which the former Soviet state acquired during the Revolution in 1918. The French courts hold that the matter is for the Russian state to decide: *International Herald Tribune*, 6–7 March 1993.

Plans underway to excavate the *Amsterdam*, a merchant ship which ran aground 600 yards off of Hastings, Sussex in 1749 with two-thirds of her East Indian cargo on board. Proposers of the £40 million project hope to resurrect the ship in Amsterdam and have begun talks with politicians and financiers: *The Observer*, 7 March 1993.

7 March 1993

After years of political and religious dispute, the Egyptian Antiquities Organisation decide that eleven royal Egyptian mummies dating back 3500 years will be on permanent display in the Cairo Museum in especially designed cases that mirror the environment of the tombs: *The Observer*, 7 March 1993.

Entire cost of restoring Windsor Castle, estimated at £40 million over five years, will be met exclusively by the Government. Rumours that the Queen would meet some of the cost are unfounded; she is responsible only for the works of art: *The Observer*, 7 March 1993.

Document of the 1840 Treaty of Waitangi, by which Maori chiefs ceded sovereignty of New Zealand to Britain, to be sold at Sotheby's on July 19: *The Times*, 8 March 1993.

8 March 1993

Consumers' Association judges the facilities offered to visitors at Stonehenge, St. Paul's Cathedral and the Tower of London, three of Britain's most popular sites, inadequate and overpriced: *The Guardian*, 9 March 1993; *The Times*, 9 March 1993

9 March 1993

Argentinian 'art-lower' Margarita Bollaert begins High Court action against Christie's, claiming she had been forced into debt because the auctioneers incorrectly over-valued two paintings by Sotomayor that she had intended to buy and resell for a profit: *The Daily Telegraph*, 9 March 1993.

Former Red Army officer hands over cache of masterpieces by Durer, Delacroix and Goya stolen from a German castle during the

Second World War. A total of 101 Old Master drawings and prints, worth up to \$20m (£14m) have been returned to the cultural attache at the German Embassy in Moscow: *The Independent*, 9 March 1993.

- 12 March 1993 Albert Memorial added to English Heritage's at risk register. The Victorian monument needs restoration work priced at £7–£10 million; it joins 831 other neglected and derelict Grade 1 and 2 listed buildings and structures also on the list: *The Guardian*, 12 March 1993.
Painting bought by an American tourist for £2 at a car boot sale near Bristol, England sold for £67,226. *Ruby Throat with Apple Blossoms*, identified as a rare work by Martin Johnson Heade: *The Independent*, 12 March 1993; *The Times*, 12 March 1993.
- 13 March 1993 The copy of Leonardo's *The Last Supper*, made by assistants at the same time as the original fresco, removed from storage at the Royal Academy, London, to be displayed at Magdalene College chapel, Oxford: *The Times*, 13 March 1993.
Sketch of an idea for a museum to be built around the Mary Rose warship by the Prince of Wales precipitates a copyright dispute involving the Prince, one of his favourite architects and Oxford University Press: *The Mail on Sunday*, 14 March 1993
- 14 March 1993 This year marks the 900th anniversary of Durham Cathedral, one of Britain's 14 World Heritage sites. Engineers have been consulted by a team of academics curious about its construction and longevity; they will examine the roof timbers for clues about its structural stability: *The Observer*, 14 March 1993.
Following litigation a collection of 80 paintings from the Barnes gallery is to go on a world tour. The collection was owned by Dr Albert C Barnes, which includes paintings by Renoir, Cezanne, Matisse, Picasso and Van Gogh, who willed that after his death they should never leave the chateau he had built to house it: *The Independent*, 14 March 1993.
Conservationists in Essex object to plans to develop the Tudor Hill Hall at Theydon Mount and its grounds into a hotel complex with a golf course. The building was damaged by fire in 1969 and since then has been maintained by English Heritage, who claim that the developer must meet high restoration standards: *The Observer*, 14 March 1993.
- 15 March 1993 Vicar and parishioners at St Paul's Church, Bristol, to go Consistory Court to seek permission to sell church silverware more than 370 years old and valued at about £300,00. They want the money to help develop an inner city church and provide a community centre. The Council for the Care of Churches is opposing the sale: *The Independent*, 15 March 1993.
- 16 March 1993 Manchester city council closes the art nouveau Victoria baths despite a two-day sit-in by 200 demonstrators. The Grade 2 listed complex,

built in 1905–6, requires £250,000 each year to run in addition to £1 million needed for essential repairs, money the council does not have owing to reductions in government grants to the city: *The Guardian*, 16 March 1993.

A 14 year old violin prodigy is being loaned a vintage violin worth £30,000 by the Benslow Music Trust to help her develop her talent: *The Independent*, 16 March 1993.

Pocket-sized Old Master painting stolen from the European Fine Art Fair in Maastricht, Netherlands. The painting's value was only a few thousand pounds, but it emphasised the importance of the computerised stolen art lists compiled by the Art Loss Register and Trace: *The Independent*, 16 March 1993.

A priceless book of 80 Goya engravings found to have disappeared from the Red Library at Longleat stately home: *The Independent*, 16 March 1993.

Family which runs the British Aviation Heritage Collection in Leicestershire, England, takes possession of the RAF's last Vulcan Bomber: *The Independent*, 19 March 1993

Proposals announced to rescue Stonehenge from the motor car and restore an air of isolation and wonder to the prehistoric monument: *The Times*, 19 March 1993; *The Independent*, 19 March 1993

Byzantine icon, stolen from a Turkish occupied church, returned to its legal owners, the island's Greek Orthodox church: *The Cyprus Weekly*, 19 March 1993.

A rediscovered work, *Walk at Dusk*, by the German Romantic painter Caspar David Friedrich, expected to fetch more than £2 million at Christie's in May: *The Times*, 19 March 1993.

History of Anglo-Saxon architecture to be rewritten in the light of archaeological findings at Canterbury Cathedral, England. Excavations carried out while the nave is being repaved show that there was a huge cathedral on the site in the 10th century, contradicting the prevailing view that the Anglo-Saxons built only small churches: *The Times*, 20 March 1993

Technology that allows a computer to store 20,000 images of works of art on a disc the size of a music compact disc has been launched at the European Fine Art Fair in Maastricht, Netherlands: *The Independent*, 20 March 1993.

US Supreme Court rules that the greatest haul of sunken treasure in American history (lost in 1857) belongs not to the high-tech adventurers who recovered it, but to British and American insurance companies who paid out on claims for the lost cargo 136 years ago: *The Times*, 24 March 1993

A six inch long Dinky toy, made by Dinky in 1956, so rare that collectors doubted its existence, sells for £4,620 at auction: *The Daily Telegraph*, 26 March 1993

18th century gold believed to have come from either a Spanish galleon or a Portuguese vessel, found off the coast of Uruguay last year, auctioned by Sotheby's in New York: *The Independent*, 26 March 1993

27 March 1993 Draft Bill prepared by the National Education and Culture Ministry will impose large fines and prison sentences for people who illegally possess antiquities or attempt to smuggle them out of Cyprus: *Cyprus Today*, 27 March 1993.

28 March 1993 Two English churches claim to be the final resting place for the embalmed skull of Sir Walter Raleigh's severed head: *The Sunday Times*, 28 March 1993.