
Chronicles

April 1992 – September 1992

Series of thefts reported of valuable clocks from London clubs, including a carriage clock from the Carlton Club and an 8ft grandfather clock by Joshua Savage from the Arts Club in Dover Street: *The Times*, 2 April 1992. 2 April 1992

One of Britain's largest medieval bridges rediscovered by archaeologists at Norwich. The bridge was originally believed to have been largely demolished and replaced by a 19th century bridge: *The Independent*, 4 April 1992. 4 April 1992

Plan formulated to save Heveningham Hall, Suffolk, as the Suffolk Building Preservation Society appeals to the National Heritage Memorial Fund. The Georgian country house is currently held by receivers acting on behalf of the National Bank of Kuwait: *The Times*, 14 April 1992.

Thieves steal life-size bust of John Keats from Hampstead Parish Church, North London: *The Times*, 4 April 1992.

Tokyo public safety commission orders the Mitsubishi company to suspend its antique business for one week as a penalty for purchasing two Renoir paintings in 1989 without an art dealer's license: *The Times*, 4 April 1992.

Scientists believed to have found the skeleton of Josef Mengele. Sources claim that DNA testing performed on slivers of bone taken from a skeleton buried in a Brazilian cemetery and compared with a bloodsample from Mengele's only living son, reveal that the SS officer died in Brazil in 1979: *The Independent On Sunday*, 5 April 1992. 5 April 1992

Canadian scuba diver Mike Fletcher challenges US court decision to grant ownership of treasures found on a 140 year-old steamship and one of the world's oldest submarines to an American diver. The steamer sank in the Canadian waters of Lake Erie in 1852 and the submarine sank a year later whilst attempting to salvage the ship: *The Observer*, 5 April 1992.

British Library reported to be bidding for 100 love letters written by George Bernard Shaw to actress Ellen Terry. The bid accentuates a long-running dispute between the British Museum and the British Library, which split from the Museum in the 1970s over Shaw's literary estate. The British Library hopes that the Museum will make a financial contribution to the purchase of the letters and thus

help heal the rift between the two institutions: *The Observer*, 5 April 1992.

- 6 April 1992 Archive of James Joyce's private papers open to public viewing at Dublin's National Library, declared an 'absurd act of censorship' as papers relating to his schizophrenic daughter are withheld: *The Daily Telegraph*, 6 April 1992.
Rare 1944 Bugatti motor boat, found in a pool of mud in France, to be flown to America next month following a 10 year restoration project: *The Daily Express*, 6 April 1992.
Archaeological dig in Hartsfield Junior School, Baldock, Stevenage reveals the remains of plague victims who died in the late 4th or 5th Century: *The Independent*, 6 April 1992.
- 11 April 1992 Tiny teapot dating from 1730, other ware and two kiln floors discovered during excavation of a development site in Stoke-on-Trent: *The Times*, 11 April 1992.
- 12 April 1992 Scottish & Newcastle Breweries believed to have found the recipe for an Egyptian beer consumed during the time of King Tutankhamun following a three year research project with Egyptologist, Barry Kemp. Clues as to the content of the beer were found in various places, among them the Sun Temple of Queen Nefertiti, where excavations revealed a brewery, and King Tutankhamun's tomb where three grains of wheat were discovered. The brewery, which hopes to put the beer on sale by next year, intends to fund further archaeological projects in Egypt from the proceeds: *The Independent on Sunday*, 12 April 1992.
- 13 April 1992 Graham Greene, chairman of the Museums and Galleries Commission, draws attention to the neglect of collections held by universities with no full-time curators or technicians and calls for a government inquiry into the funding and organisation of university collections: *The Times*, 13 April 1992.
- 14 April 1992 Treasure hunters led by Argentinian oceanographer Ruben Collado recover gold coins and ingot worth over £565,000 from a Spanish galleon, El Preciado, which sank in the River Plate in 1792: *The Times*, 14 April 1992.
Senior figures in the art world appeal to the newly-appointed Minister for National Heritage to save a Canaletto painting for the nation and prevent its export overseas. The masterpiece, 'The Old Horse Guards, London, from St James's Park' is to be auctioned 15 April: *The Times*, 14 April 1992.
Thieves break into an art collector's home in Nice and steal 6 paintings, among them 'Fisherman by a Riverbank' by Pissaro, a Renoir copy and a portrait of Tolstoy: *The Times*, 14 April 1992.
Municipal authorities in Florence trying to ascertain whether a rerouted bus service is responsible for the damage to the Ponte Vecchio. Damage is visible at the north end of the bridge where

masonry and plaster have fallen from the facade: *The Times*, 14 April 1992.

Andrew Lloyd Webber purchases Canaletto's 'The Old Horse Guards, London, from St James's Park' for £10.12 million: *The Independent*, 17 April 1992. 15 April 1992

The 12 bells of Shoreditch reported to be under threat of export. The bells, celebrated in the nursery rhyme 'Oranges and Lemons', are to be recast while the originals could go to Canada or Australia: *The Times*, 17 April 1992. 17 April 1992

Professor Paul Zimansky of Boston University U.S.A. warns of the threat to archaeological sites in Iraq by subsistence agriculture. Economic difficulties have led to the cultivation and development of marginal land, including archaeological sites. He further remarks on the looting of sites in the countryside and the inability of the Antiquities Department to assess the damage: *The Times*, 17 April 1992.

Church leaders finally agree on the colour of paint to be used on the dome of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem, following deterioration of the structure of the building through continuing wrangles over who has the right to repair the Church: *The Times*, 17 April 1992.

Removal of a 1930s sculpture from a hotel in Morecambe, Lancashire by the hotel proprietor angers conservationists and may result in legal action. The sculpture — Odysseus Welcomed from the Sea by Nausicaa by Eric Gill — was removed from the Grade II listed hotel by the proprietor who hoped to sell it to Lancaster City Council. A spokesperson confirmed that the council will be applying for a High Court ruling that the hotel owner return the sculpture to its original position: *The Independent*, 18 April 1992. 18 April 1992

500 year old fish unearthed by archaeologists at Mount Grace Priory in Northallerton, North Yorkshire: *The Times*, 20 April 1992. 20 April 1992

Afghan guerillas reported to be stealing Buddhist relics from archaeological sites and museums to fund their war effort: *The Independent*, 21 April 1992. 21 April 1992

Treasure trove inquest to be held after 800 silver coins, dating from the reigns of Henry VI and Edward IV, found in a field in Selby, North Yorkshire: *The Independent*, 21 April 1992.

Victorian pet cemetery found at Drymmau Hall, Skewen, West Glamorgan, Wales: *The Times*, 21 April 1992.

Bronze age metalwork found in the sand at Freshwater East, Dyfed, Wales, by woman using metal detector: *The Times*, 23 April 1992. 23 April 1992

Three Rodin statues stolen from art gallery in Walthamstow, East London: *The Times*, 24 April 1992. 24 April 1992

Legal dispute over the restoration of Barnett Newman's 'Who's Afraid of Red, Yellow and Blue III' which was vandalised in 1986.

The New York restorer, Daniel Goldreyer, issues writs against members of staff at the Stedelijk Museum in Amsterdam who allegedly accused the restorer of repainting the canvas with a roller. Lawyers acting on behalf of the Amsterdam authorities are considering legal action to claim compensation from Mr Goldreyer: *The Times*, 24 April 1992.

- 25 April 1992 143 Chinese snuff boxes worth around £250,000 stolen from Burghley House in Lincolnshire: *The Times*, 25 April 1992.
- 26 April 1992 Police recover a Gainsborough painting stolen 6 years ago in Ireland's largest art theft. The portrait of Madame Baccelli, valued at more than £2 million, was found by police following a raid on a van in the Euston area of London: *The Independent on Sunday*, 26 April 1992.
- 28 April 1992 Andrew Lloyd Webber presents Canaletto's 'Old Horse Guard's Parade' to the Tate Gallery: *The Times*, 28 April 1992.
- 1 May 1992 Archaeologists working near Chichester unearth the best preserved collection of ancient pottery in Britain. The pots had been buried as part of funerary rituals between 60 BC and 20 BC: *The Independent*, 1 May 1992.
Germany pays \$912,500 to recover the Quedlinburg cathedral treasures, believed to have been stolen by an American soldier at the end of the second world war: *The Times*, 1 May 1992.
- 3 May 1992 British artist Francis Bacon revealed to have twice destroyed archival material about himself after receiving letters requesting source material from an archivist at the Tate Gallery: *The Independent on Sunday*, 3 May 1992.
- 5 May 1992 Archaeological discoveries made during the construction of new town Milton Keynes (England) may never go on public display as plans to build a museum for the town are put on hold. Discoveries from the 47 excavations include prehistoric and Anglo-Saxon gold-work, Roman glasswork and Stone Age weapons: *The Independent*, 5 May 1992.
The neo-classical Minto House to be transported to Japan after Japanese consortium purchases the house for undisclosed sum. The house was de-listed by the authorities after it fell into disrepair: *The Times*, 5 May 1992.
- 8 May 1992 Treasure trove inquest to be held after 2,000 gold coins dating from the reigns of Elizabeth I and Charles II discovered by treasure hunters using metal detectors in Congleton, Cheshire: *The Times*, 8 May 1992.
Police seize a painting stolen in 1979. Magritte's 'Decalomania' is recovered by police with the help of staff at Sotheby's headquarters in London: *The Independent*, 9 May 1992.

- Russian archaeologists convinced that they have found the remains of the Romanov imperial family. The excavation of a burial pit in a forest 850 miles east on Moscow commenced last year and resulted in the discovery of 11 skeletons. Conclusive proof of the identities of the skeletons will be provided by DNA testing: *The Sunday Times*, 10 May 1992.
- Spanish government's decision to re-house Picasso's 'Guernica' in a new arts centre in Madrid angers critics who believe that the government's plans contravene the express wishes of the artist: *The Independent on Sunday*, 10 May, 1992.
- Diary kept by the poet Shelley found at Cranbourne Chase, Dorset among papers belonging to the descendants of Shelley's former cousin and close friend Harriet Grove: *The Times*, 11 May 1992.
- British coin dealer Paul Davies of Ilkley, Yorkshire plans to sue the Japanese government for its confiscation of 3,000 gold commemorative coins. The coins, which celebrate 60 years of Emperor Hirohito's reign, were believed to be counterfeit by the Japanese government: *The Times*, 11 May 1992.
- Archaeologists discover 1,000 year-old tomb laden with gold, silver and turquoise in northern Peru. The discovery confirms that many Peruvian artefacts held by the world's museums commonly described as from the Inca period may actually be pre-Inca: *The Independent*, 11 May 1992.
- Painting believed to be Raphael's Madonna and Child, missing for almost 350 years, displayed at the Dorchester Hotel in London but fails to convince experts of its authenticity: *The Times*, 13 May 1992.
- Baron and Baroness Thyssen explain that Thyssen-Bornemisza art collection was housed in Madrid and not in Britain because the British offer, worth twice that of Spain, came too late: *The Times*, 14 May 1992.
- Arts ministers fail to break a deadlock over EC proposals which allow countries to define their national treasures in such a way that thousands of works of art could be taken off the international art market. Proposals authorising States to return works of illegally imported works of art to the countries from which they are smuggled are, however, rejected: *The Times*, 19 May 1992, *The Independent*, 19 May 1992.
- A substance believed to be the congealed blood of the 4th century saint Januarius liquifies unexpectedly during a visit to the Neapolitan church where it is kept by Fra' Andrew Bertie, Scottish head of the Order of the Knights of Malta: *The Independent*, 19 May 1992.
- Two 26 million-year-old jawbones belonging to mankind's oldest ape relatives discovered in Kenya, East Africa: *The Independent*, 19 May 1992.

2,700 year-old tomb complex laden with treasures discovered in Shangyang, central China. In total, 2,400 bronzes, 2,000 iron and gold pieces and 150 jades are found in the tomb: *The Times*, 19 May 1992.

Steel rings clamped around the base of the Leaning Tower of Pisa to prevent the structure from collapsing: *The Times*, 19 May 1992.

20 May 1992 Safe-deposit box held for a century by the Vermont National Bank reveals poem by Rudyard Kipling and letter which may dispel rumours of a homosexual love affair between Kipling and his brother-in-law, Wolcott Balestier: *The Times*, 20 May 1992.

Archaeologists at the National Maritime Museum express dismay at treasure hunters who disturb ancient shipwrecks in the search for valuable treasure. Objects of archaeological importance are often destroyed or damaged by salvage firms whose sole concern is the retrieval of objects of commercial value: *The Independent*, 20 May 1992.

21 May 1992 Tomb of Queen Nefertari opens in Luxor, Egypt following a period of restoration which commenced in 1904: *The Independent*, 21 May 1992.

23 May 1992 Oldest surviving piece of Egyptian literature discovered in cupboard at the British Museum London. The 3,900 year-old manuscript in the form of a poem had remained undetected in the museum's store-cupboard since the mid-19th century: *The Independent*, 23 May 1992.

25 May 1992 Prince Ernst of Hanover prevented by a German court from removing furnishings from the Silver Room in the Marienburg Castle, Hanover, to London. The court rules that the export of the silver furniture 'would be a considerable loss to German culture': *The Daily Express*, 25 May 1992.

Former cleaner at the National Museum of Wales in Cardiff charged with stealing seven paintings from the museum and defrauding an auctioneer: *The Times*, 25 May 1992.

26 May 1992 Egypt announces plans to rescue the treasures of Tutankhamun from further deterioration in the Antiquities Museum in Cairo, following agreement that the J. Paul Getty Institute of California will conduct a study into the best means of protecting the collection: *The Times*, 26 May 1992.

Original Victorian painting, the copy of which hangs in the Tate Gallery, discovered on a farm in the Cotswolds. The Bath of Psyche by Frederic Leighton had been missing for almost 80 years and is now to be sold at auction: *The Times*, 26 May 1992.

Conference held at Athens museum to debate the authenticity of marble statue put on display by the Getty Museum in California: *The Independent*, 26 May 1992.

- Victoria and Albert Museum uses revolutionary radio monitors to detect changes in temperature and humidity which may damage exhibits: *The Times*, 28 May 1992. 28 May 1992
- Sotheby's no longer to handle sale of the Marquess of Northampton's hoard of Roman silver ('the Sevso hoard'). The firm has filed a motion with the New York Supreme Court to be discharged from current litigation over the ownership of the silver. Lebanon, Yugoslavia and Hungary intend to continue the legal battle over ownership: *The Independent*, 29 May 1992. 29 May 1992
- Royal Holloway and Bedford New College in London receives permission from Charity Commissioners to sell 3 paintings by Turner, Gainsborough and Constable. The proceeds are to be used to pay for the upkeep of the college buildings: *The Independent*, 29 May 1992.
- Ilka Reinhard suing the Crown for compensation, arising from confiscation by the British authorities of £6 billion worth of treasure. The treasure allegedly belonged to Ms Reinhard's great-great-grandfather but was confiscated on his death, despite his wishes that it be left to his family: *The Times*, 30 May 1992. 30 May 1992
- Circular timber monument, similar to Stonehenge, unearthed at Sarn-y-bryncaled, Wales: *The Times*, 3 June 1992. 3 June 1992
- Discovery of an unfinished Matisse painting, thought to be the first version of the Danse mural. The Matisse family have recently signed over 47 art works to the French state in lieu of death duties. It remains to be decided whether the work remains in the family or is surrendered to the state: *The Times*, 3 June 1992.
- Picture restorers using X-ray techniques discover portrait of a woman by Whistler beneath a portrait painted by the artist's boatman: *The Independent*, 3 June 1992.
- Erotic painting by the Romantic artist Gericault entitled 'Couple Embracing in front of a Woman Stretched-out', to be auctioned after being 'lost' for more than a century: *The Independent*, 5 June 1992. 5 June 1992
- National Heritage Minister, David Mellor, announces that the listing of historic buildings will not be extended to cover moveable works of art: *The Times*, 6 June 1992, *The Independent*, 6 June 1992. 6 June 1992
- 3 Rodin statues, stolen in April from the William Morris Museum in London, recovered by police from a North London flat: *News of the World*, 7 June 1992. 7 June 1992
- FBI offers a reward for information leading to the recovery of 11 paintings, including Vermeer's 'The Concert' and Rembrandt's 'The Storm on the Sea of Galilee', stolen from the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, Massachusetts in March 1990: *The Times*, 8 June 1992. 8 June 1992

- Statue destroyed in an explosion at Stockholm, Sweden, believed to be the fifth such attack on statues in Stockholm in the last 5 months: *The Independent*, 9 June 1992.
- 9 June 1992 Old Master dealer Colnaghi discovers a previously unknown chalk study by sixteenth-century master Jacopo Pontormo: *The Independent*, 9 June 1992.
- 10 June 1992 3,000 year-old Bronze Age sword discovered by archaeologists near Ripon, Yorkshire: *The Times*, 10 June 1992.
In a letter to the Times, the chairman of the National Art Collection Fund calls for increased funding for museums and welcomes the idea of a national lottery to finance museum acquisitions: *The Times*, 10 June 1992.
Oldest set of teeth in the world discovered. The teeth belonged to a condonont, a small marine animal, and remained embedded in limestone for about 500 million years: *The Independent*, 10 June 1992.
- 11 June 1992 Painting of insects by the 17th century Flemish artist Jan van Kessel stolen from the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge: *The Independent*, 11 June 1992.
The Art Theft Conference in London is warned of loopholes in the export system which can aid smuggling of works of art and antiquities. Contents of containers are sometimes not checked against the description given on license application forms: *The Times*, 12 June 1992.
British Telecom to be prosecuted for the unauthorised demolition of a Grade II listed telephone kiosk in Bilsdale, North Yorkshire: *The Times*, 11 June 1992.
- 14 June 1992 After 11 years of work, the Greenland Expedition Society discovers one of the World War II fighter aircraft buried under 250 feet of ice: *The Observer*, 14 June 1992.
- 15 June 1992 Excavations reveal the remains of a Norman fortress in the City of London, to the west of St Paul's Cathedral: *The Times*, 15 June 1992
EC Directive to harmonise taxation on second-hand goods will introduce VAT on all works of art which are imported into the European Community from other countries, reports the Daily Telegraph. Concern is expressed that the measure will drastically reduce the success of British salerooms in the art market owners of works of art by deterring from sending their property to Britain for sale: *The Daily Telegraph*, 15 June 1992.
- 17 June 1992 Rare 15th century sundial, discovered by amateur archaeologists near Saxmundham, Suffolk, acquired by the National Maritime Museum in London: *The Independent*, 17 June 1992.
- 18 June 1992 Archaeologists discover pre-historic Celtic town near Bingham, Nottinghamshire: *The Independent*, 18 June 1992.

Treasure-hunter Roland Morris dies, taking the secret of the location of the 'Dollar Mine' shipwreck with him. Morris called off the search for the ship in the 1970s following a dispute with the National Trust which claimed entitlement to half of any treasure recovered from the ship: *The Independent*, 18 June 1992.

Controversy in Egypt over newspaper report that site of the city of the Pharaoh Rameses II, from which Moses led the exodus of the Israelites, has been identified. Dr Mohammad Ibrahim Bakr is believed to have confirmed the identification, although other experts remain unconvinced: *The Times*, 20 June 1992.

151 snuff boxes worth £60,000 stolen from Torre Abbey museum, Torquay, the fifth theft of snuff boxes to have taken place in the last six months: *The Times*, 3 July 1992.

It is alleged that works of art and antiquities given to the nation in lieu of inheritance tax payments are kept behind closed doors and are not available for public viewing. A register listing the works of art is kept in the Victoria and Albert Museum library in London and includes paintings by Leonardo da Vinci, Rembrandt and Rubens: *The Observer*, 21 June 1992.

Colosseum in Rome to be saved from further decay by Banco di Roma's undertaking to pay \$40 million to maintain the structure: *The Observer*, 21 June 1992.

Churches in Coventry to mark precious artefacts with church post-codes in bid to discourage theft: *The Times*, 22 June 1992.

French Minister of Finance about to sign decree permitting auctioneers to charge a 10% buyer's premium instead of a sliding scale down to 4.965% on items over £30,000: *The Daily Telegraph*, 22 June 1992.

Doubts expressed as to the authenticity of the world's most expensive bottle of wine. Laboratory tests in Germany indicate that the bottle of Chateau Lafite 1787, said to have been ordered by President Thomas Jefferson during a trip to France, contains a mixture of old and new wine, some dating from the 1960s: *The Times*, 24 July 1992.

United States magazine *K.M.T.* reports that the mummified body of Tutankhamun was totally dismembered in order to remove jewellery and to extract the body from the inner coffin: *The Times*, 25 June 1992.

Mortar shells in Sarajevo destroy many medieval mosques and ancient tombs: *The Independent*, 7 July 1992.

Landowner angers archaeologists by refusing to replace a Bronze Age standing stone uprooted by him on his land, for fear that it will attract pagan worshippers: *The Independent on Sunday*, 28 June 1992.

- 29 June 1992 Restorers working on the Chapel of St Mary de Castro at Chester Castle discover a series of medieval wall paintings, probably commissioned by Henry III when he took over the castle from the Earls of Chester: *The Times*, 29 June 1992.
Dinosaur egg, thought to be 70 million years old, discovered at Aix-en-Provence in France: *Daily Express*, 29 June 1992.
Director of the Henry Moore Foundation announces that the Foundation may be compelled to forego over half its collection if it loses a High Court battle against the late sculptor's daughter. Ms Moore is claiming 359 of the 660 sculptures on the grounds that her father had wanted the works to be passed on to his family: *The Independent*, 30 June 1992, *The Times*, 30 June 1992.
- 1 July 1992 Christie's withdraws sculpture of a trotting horse from auction amid fears that the work is a later figure which has been 'tarted up'. The statue was described in the sale catalogue as a piece of Renaissance craftsmanship by the Mannerist sculptor Leone Leoni (1509–90), but subsequent investigations have revealed it to be identical to an unglazed 19th century horse which sold at auction in Paris for £47,000: *The Times*, 1 July 1992.
- 2 July 1992 Ivory poachers steal tusks from stuffed elephants at Maputo's Natural History Museum, Mozambique: *The Independent*, 2 July 1992.
Asham House, home to Virginia Woolf and inspiration for her short story *The Haunted House*, threatened with demolition. The Grade II listed building is adjacent to a landfill site that is to be extended by East Sussex County Council who describe the house as a 'shadow of its former self'. Woolf's nephew and biographer, Quentin Bell, calls the decision as a 'tragedy'. *The Times*, 2 July 1992.
- 3 July 1992 Disagreement among Egyptologists over age of the Sphinx of Giza. The generally accepted view, that the sphinx was built by an Old Kingdom Pharaoh around 2500 BC, is challenged by a new theory which claims that the statue was carved between 7000 and 5000 BC: *The Times*, 3 July 1992.
140 million year old iguana dinosaur bone discovered at Redland Brickworks, Sidley, East Sussex: *The Times*, 3 July 1992.
- 5 July 1992 U.K. government appeals for an institution to keep and display the records of Hambledon Cricket Club, accepted by the Inland Revenue in lieu of inheritance tax: *The Observer*, 5 July 1992.
Business people and enthusiasts in Southampton reported to be considering the prospects of bringing back the Queen Mary ocean liner from California to England: *The Independent on Sunday*, 5 July 1992.
- 6 July 1992 'Devil-worshippers' steal the skull of an 18th century rector from a tomb in a derelict Saxon church in Norfolk: *The Times*, 6 July 1992.
- 7 July 1992 American collector, who spent £435,000 on fake 18th century Staffordshire pottery, receives £600,000 in court proceedings in London.

- The collector purchased the pottery from an antique dealer who refused to refund the money when it was revealed that the pottery was fake. The dealer is appealing against the judgment: *The Times*, 21 July 1992.
- The King's apartments at Hampton Court Palace, badly damaged by fire in 1987, are reopened by the Queen after a 5 year period of restoration: *The Independent*, 8 July 1992.
- Secretary of State for National Heritage announces that the Crown jewels are to be moved to a purpose-built exhibition centre on a ground floor of the Tower of London: *The Times*, 9 July 1992.
- Moscow newspaper reports that £7 million of art was illegally exported by smugglers in 1991: *The Times*, 10 July 1992.
- Dealer in central London discovers Baroque altarpiece, stolen from the Victoria and Albert Museum in November 1991: *The Independent*, 11 July 1992.
- Minoan paintings, discovered in the Nile Delta, demonstrate links between Bronze Age Greece and Pharaonic Egypt: *The Times*, 13 July 1992.
- Eight paintings, stolen in a smash and grab raid at Trinity Gallery, London, in 1990, recovered in Sweden. The gallery has ceased trading since the theft and ownership of the paintings lies with Star Assurance insurance company: *The Independent*, 16 July 1992.
- Yorkshire Cricket Club returns linen handkerchief, formerly the property of W G Grace and valued at c. £3,000, to current owners who loaned it to the Club some fourteen years previously: *Daily Mail*, 16 July 1992.
- Former chairman of the stamp dealer Stanley Gibbons cleared of leading a plot to dupe stamp collectors into buying fake rarities. The former chairman protested that the stamps were valid reprints and denied that errors had been deliberately printed on the stamps to increase their value: *The Times*, 17 July 1992.
- Harry Greenway M.P. asks the U.K. government to save the last airworthy Vulcan bomber aircraft for the nation: *The Times*, 17 July 1992.
- Computer reconstructs the faces of victims whose remains were discovered near Yekaterinburg, Russia, reinforcing the conviction that the remains are indeed those of the Romanov Imperial family: *The Times*, 17 July 1992.
- Historian believes she has located the hanging gardens of Babylon. Her research suggests that the gardens were constructed in early 7th century B.C. in Nineveh and were built not by Nebuchadnezzar but by the Assyrian monarch Sennacherib who was responsible for the destruction of Babylon: *The Independent*, 18 July 1992.
- Director of the Shakespeare Authorship Information Centre claims that Shakespeare manuscript found in a book binding is written in the same hand as Francis Bacon: *The Independent*, 18 July 1992.

- 20 July 1992 At a secret news conference, the Egyptian fundamentalist group al-Gamaa al-Islamiya threatens to destroy the country's historic monuments on the grounds that they are pagan remains: *The Times*, 20 July 1992.
Project launched to locate and raise the wreck of Charles I's treasure ship, which sank in the Firth of Forth near Edinburgh in 1633: *The Times*, 20 July 1992.
- 21 July 1992 Rumours that Hitler's remains are buried in Russian soil dismissed by Russian journalist, Lev Besymenski, affirms that the bones were destroyed to prevent neo-Nazi groups claiming them as relics: *The Independent*, 21 July 1992.
- 22 July 1992 Wellington bomber aircraft, which crashed in the Lake District in 1943, discovered by ramblers: *The Times*, 22 July 1992.
Doubts reported as to whether the sale of treasures, including antique jewellery and silverware, belonging to Princess Gloria von Thurn und Taxis will now proceed following objections by relatives of the princess's late husband: *The Times*, 22 July 1992.
Secret wartime file belonging to Winston Churchill withdrawn from auction by Sotheby's following announcement by the Ministry of Defence of its intention to take legal action to reclaim the papers: *The Times*, 22 July 1992.
- 23 July 1992 Artefacts and manuscripts stolen from the Hans Christian Andersen birthplace museum in Odense, Denmark. Among the items stolen are original manuscripts of 'The Little Mermaid', and 'The Emperor's New Clothes': *The Times*, 23 July 1992.
Duke of Edinburgh becomes patron of project to restore the 19th century frigate Trincomalee. The restoration will be carried out in Hartlepool, Cleveland, where restorers will make use of drawings from the National Maritime Museum archives: *The Times*, 23 July 1992.
One of the oldest archaeological sites in Britain discovered near Leamington Spa, Warwickshire. Stone tools and animal bones unearthed at the site are believed to be half a million years old: *The Times*, 23 July 1992.
- 28 July 1992 Builders in Gloucester discover the remains of a leper hospital which was probably demolished in the late 14th century: *The Times*, 28 July 1992.
- 29 July 1992 Consultant's report on the Queen Mary ship increases speculation that the liner will be sunk or scrapped owing to enormous costs of repair and maintenance: *The Independent*, 29 July 1992.
- 31 July 1992 China announces its first art and antiquities sale of objects predating 1795. Among the items to be auctioned are jewellery, textiles and carpets dating from 1600 BC: *The Independent*, 31 July 1992.
Two men sentenced to death in China for stealing cultural relics from museums and smuggling them out of the country: *The Times*, 31 July 1992.

- 44 silver coins, dating from the reigns of Elizabeth I, James I and Charles I, declared treasure trove by jury at Northampton. The coins were discovered by a metal detector enthusiast near Naseby: *The Times*, 1 August 1992. 1 August 1992
- Building work at the Louvre in Paris reveals that the site was occupied by settlers 7,000 years ago: *The Times*, 1 August 1992.
- House of Lords select committee criticises European Commission proposals to grant the police power to search premises for cultural objects which have been brought into the country illegally, contending that such powers should be authorised by court order: *The Independent*, 3 August 1992, *The Times*, 3 August 1992. 3 August 1992
- Archaeologists excavating medieval palace in Guildford, Surrey, unearth remains of 13th century glass urinal flasks purchased to treat Lord Henry, the son of Edward I: *The Independent*, 3 August 1992.
- Police diver discovers bronze statue in sea bed off Apulian coast, Italy. The diver originally believed the statue to be a corpse but investigations reveal that the bronze is one of at least three statues and dates to the 4th century BC: *The Times*, 4 August 1992. 4 August 1992
- Police arrest two shepherds in Greece, apprehended while trying to sell artefacts dating from the Prehistoric to the Classical period: *The Times*, 6 August 1992.
- Police announce that thieves have stolen priceless artefacts from museum in south-western Greece: *The Times*, 6 August 1992. 5 August 1992
- Archaeologists in Northumberland discover magnificent timber palace, believed to have been occupied by Hadrian around 120 AD: *The Independent*, 8 August 1992. 8 August 1992
- Seven Bronze Age graves discovered near West Linton in the Borders: *The Times*, 8 August 1992.
- Art dealers and police call on U.K. government to abolish medieval law of market overt: *The Independent on Sunday*, 9 August 1992. 9 August 1992
- Customs and Excise officials anger charity fund-raisers after impounding painting by David Hockney, donated by the artist to the AIDS Crisis Trust. Customs officials are demanding an import levy of £2,600 or the return of the painting to the United States: *The Mail on Sunday*, 9 August 1992.
- Scientific tests confirm that the 'Roman' silver plate whose discovery was reported in November last year dates from the 18th century and is a recast version of the original: *The Independent*, 10 August 1992. 10 August 1992
- Hoard of 82 silver sixteenth and seventeenth century silver coins, found at Wortwell in Norfolk in 1989 and believed to have been buried by local farmer at the height of the English Civil War in 1643, afford new evidence of the impact of the war upon the County. 12 August 1992

- Plans are announced to exhibit them at the Castle Museum at Norwich: *The Times*, 12 August 1992.
- 15 August 1992 Treasure-hunter discovers medieval silver brooch in Durham: *The Independent*, 15 August 1992.
- 20 August 1992 Museums Association warns of the threat to university museums and calls for governmental intervention to preserve their collections. At present the Special Factor Funding Scheme, administered by the Higher Education Funding Councils, allocates funds for the maintenance of 22 university collections, although it is feared that this scheme will soon be abolished: *The Independent*, 20 August 1992.
- Rescue plan to save contents of Pitchford Hall in Shropshire awaits approval from the Secretary of State for National Heritage, David Mellor. Under the scheme the Elizabethan Hall will be given to the nation if £1.8 million can be raised to buy the contents and keep them in the house: *The Times*, 20 August 1992.
- 24 August 1992 Archaeological excavations which may lead to the burial site of King Arthur to commence on a hill straddling the proposed Kidderminster, Blakedown and Hagley by-pass. The results of the excavation will be announced at a public inquiry to be held later this year: *The Times*, 24 August 1992.
- Archaeologists unearth evidence of monumental Roman tomb in St Albans, Herts: *The Independent*, 24 August 1992.
- 25 August 1992 New research suggests that a different plan may have existed for the Globe theatre than that accepted by archaeologists and historians. Fears are voiced that, if this is the case, English Heritage's recommendation to schedule the site as an Ancient Monument will prove deficient and fail to avert further damage to the theatre: *The Times*, 25 August 1992.
- Remains of six medieval priests discovered in the transept of Lincoln Cathedral: *The Independent*, 25 August 1992.
- Earliest known manuscript describing the Battle of Hastings discovered in Bodleian Library at Oxford. The manuscript reveals that the Duchy of Normandy and the Kingdom of England were united under a single ruler from 1066 to 1067 whereupon King William yielded up the Duchy to his eldest son for c. ten years: *The Independent*, 25 August 1992.
- 26 August 1992 17th century Florentine casket, valued at £200,000, stolen from Victoria and Albert museum in London. The Museum fears that a gang which carried out a similar theft last year may be operating in the area: *The Times*, 26 August 1992.
- 27 August 1992 17th century casket, stolen from the Victoria and Albert Museum on 23rd August, recovered through offices of a London dealer, who bought the casket and later discovered its true identity: *The Times*, 27 August 1992, *The Independent*, 27 August 1992.

Discovery of foundations of Christian church built around the 8th century on the isle of Iona, Scotland, suggests that there may have been a larger monastic community on the island than originally believed: *The Times*, 27 August 1992.

Local conservation groups and the organisation Historic Scotland to meet to discuss plans to save Penkill Castle in Ayrshire and its Pre-Raphaelite collection: *The Times*, 27 August 1992.

Group of insurance companies, including Lloyd's of London, held entitled to a share of a \$1 billion hoard of gold which was salvaged from a sunken ship. The ship had been underwritten by the insurance companies and had sunk off the coast of Carolina after being struck by a hurricane 135 years ago: *The Times*, 29 August 1992.

Contract to sell Minto House to a Japanese consortium falls through; demolition of the property could begin within a week: *The Independent*, 29 August 1992.

Thieves steal gold and silver chalices worth more than £30,000 from St Mary's Roman Catholic Cathedral, Newcastle-upon-Tyne: *The Times*, 1 September 1992, *The Independent*, 12 September 1992.

Fragment of the Dead Sea Scrolls challenges the fundamental Christian belief that Jesus was the only Son of God. The text, written around 100BC, describes a 'Son of God' whom scholars have identified as a pagan despot who was the last ruler of the final world empire: *The Independent*, 1 September 1992.

Dealer who flooded art market with counterfeit works of art, among them fake silver spoons by Faberge and commemorative cigarette cases by Tiffany's, jailed for twelve months: *The Times*, 3 September 1992, *The Independent*, 3 September 1992.

Public inquiry into construction of reception centre and conservation building in grounds of Henry Moore's home in Hertfordshire commences. Although planning permission for the construction was originally refused to the Henry Moore Foundation, an appeal is to be lodged against the decision: *The Independent*, 2 September 1992.

Thieves break into a car in Wandsworth, South London, and steal two necklaces which may have been excavated from the tomb of Tutankhamun 70 years ago. British Museum experts state, however, that the necklaces do not appear to date from the time of the tomb: *The Times*, 3 September 1992, *The Independent*, 3 September 1992.

Secretary of State for National Heritage rejects proposals by English Heritage to save Pitchford Hall and its contents, on grounds that the project will impose too great a strain on National Heritage's resources. The contents of the hall will be auctioned later in September: *The Times*, 3 September 1992.

The world's oldest religious structure discovered by archaeologists in Poland. The structure, a 12,000 year-old wooden ritual platform from which wooden figurines were thrown into surrounding water,

29 August 1992

1 September 1992

2 September 1992

3 September 1992

5 September 1992

has been unearthed during excavations of a silted-up lake 130 miles from Warsaw: *The Independent*, 5 September 1992.

- 8 September 1992 Intruder destroys unique exhibits at the Royal Pavilion in Brighton, including a mantel clock dating from the (French) Second Empire: *The Times*, 9 September 1992, *The Independent*, 9 September 1992.
- 9 September 1992 Early Christian settlement, unearthed by archaeologists in Giza, Egypt, sheds light on the persecuted lives of early Christians living in Egypt: *The Times*, 9 September 1992.
Alava provincial government in Madrid commences legal proceedings to recover £67,000 which it gave to an archaeology student to study cave paintings he claimed to have discovered. Subsequent investigations by the government revealed that the student had faked the drawings: *The Times*, 9 September 1992.
- 10 September 1992 Unusual evidence of Bronze Age feasting unearthed at Flag Fen near Peterborough, England, where archaeologists discover a bronze flesh hook and four stone querns for milling flour: *The Times*, 10 September 1992.
Museums and Galleries Commission, in a report to the Secretary of State for National Heritage, stresses the need for museums to review and monitor intellectual standards, and calls for increased purchase funds and a review of funding arrangements for university collections: *The Independent*, 11 September 1992, *The Times*, 11 September 1992.
- 11 September 1992 Prehistoric enclosure, dating from c. 2500 B.C., discovered in Avebury, Wiltshire: *The Times*, 11 September 1992.
- 14 September 1992 Two watches, described as 'priceless', stolen from the annual National Exhibition of Time at Upton Hall, Nottinghamshire: *The Independent*, 14 September 1992.
The 'world's oldest book', a Coptic Book of Psalms, goes on display at Cairo's Coptic Museum. The 1,600 year-old book was discovered eight years ago, tucked under the head of a young girl who was buried in a Christian cemetery at el-Dakhleh oasis: *The Times*, 14 September 1992.
- 15 September 1992 Italian and Ethiopian scholars call on the Italian government to return an ancient obelisk to Ethiopia. The obelisk was removed from Ethiopia in 1937 on the orders of Mussolini, who wanted to commemorate his conquest of the country by taking an ancient monument back to Rome: *The Times*, 15 September 1992.
- 18 September 1992 British forensic scientists commence DNA tests to identify the remains of what may be the Romanov Imperial family. Russian tests have already given strong indications that the remains are those of the Russian royal family, although DNA testing is required to confirm the identities of the skeletons: *The Times*, 18 September 1992.

- Valuable art treasures looted from Nazi Germany by Russia's Red Army believed to be held by the KGB in secret stores. Among them is a drawing of 'Starry Night' by Van Gogh and drawings by Raphael, Rubens and Goya: *The Observer*, 20 August 1992. 20 September 1882
- The U.K. government's historical conservation agency, English Heritage, refuses to include historic landscapes in its schedule of ancient monuments. Endangered landscapes and battlefields will be afforded no legal protection against land developers: *The Independent*, 21 September 1992. 21 September 1992
- Archaeologists discover series of mosaics in the ancient city of Sepphoris in Northern Israel. The mosaics are believed to be between 1,500 and 1,700 years old: *The Times*, 25 September 1992. 25 September 1992
- Italian government to restore the Colosseum at a cost of £18 million: *The Times*, 26 September 1992. 26 September 1992
- Professor of History at the Royal Holloway and Bedford New College appeals to the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration (the Ombudsman) against the College's decision to sell paintings by Turner, Constable and Gainsborough: *The Independent*, 25 September 1992. 26 September 1992
- U.S. court ruling expected within the next few days to decide the ownership of six Old Master paintings. The Philippines government is claiming that the paintings were stolen before Ferdinand Marcos was deposed and fled the country: *The Independent*, 25 September 1992. 26 September 1992
- Statue originally commissioned for the privy garden at Hampton Court around 1701 reappears in an auction of architectural salvage items by Crowther's of Fulham: *The Times*, 28 September 1992. 28 September 1992
- Archaeologists in Dover discover 30,000 year-old ship beneath remains of Roman wharf and the medieval town wall. The Bronze Age vessel is perfectly preserved and is one of the finest pre-historic craft ever found in Europe: *The Independent*, 30 September 1992. 30 September 1992

