

Cultural property



Cultural property includes almost all kinds of material objects associated with cultural tradition. It is usually categorised in two main groups: **a) movable works of art, b) immovable works of art.** The first group includes manuscripts, books, scientific collections and objects of historic, archaeological or artistic origin. Art of history, architectural monuments, buildings of historic interest and archaeological sites belong to the second group.

Later generations must preserve their cultural property. But what should this property be? A work of art which is considered to be of great value to a particular period of time, may be considered later as worthless.

In this case the question is: "What should be preserved?". The answer would be: "At least one example of each type of object". In many countries outstanding monuments and buildings are protected by law. In others, individuals or groups take action for the preservation, protection and maintenance of a monument.

Many countries have enacted legislation for the protection of important sites and monuments. In some cases, small communities, characterized by a unique architectural style, or historic quarters within a city are given the same protection. Legislation is also enacted against theft or destruction of cultural property because this property belongs to the present as well as to the future generations.