

Valuable archaeological objects seized from two clandestine diggers from the village Marvinci



In the homes of two brothers from the village Marvinci was discovered a big quantity of coins from the Hellenistic and the Roman period, beads, bracelets, objects and fragments of amber, bronze, lead, terracotta and ceramics. The discovered items will be handed to the Cultural Heritage Protection Office and the authorized museums and criminal charges for arrogation of property under temporary protection,

cultural heritage or natural rarities will be submitted against the perpetrators. The perpetrators were already known to the police. Since 2001 until today against them were submitted four criminal charges for these types of acts and one of them was already convicted with imprisonment. Before the seizure, the suspects were already searching for potential buyers. At the illegal market, the value of one coin is between 1000 and 6000 denars, but after the cleaning and the processing, the same objects can reach the price of 5000 euros at the international auctions

“The financial aspect of this problem is of secondary significance compared to the irreplaceable loss made with the alienation of a part of our historical heritage” – said the Minister of Internal Affairs, Gordana Jankuloska.

She informed that the Ministry of Internal Affairs had submitted ten criminal charges against such acts, this and the previous year, and she accentuated that it is difficult to compensate the damage made by this kind of crime. In the past 20-30 years only at the site



Marvinci it is presumed that the clandestine diggers had plundered about one thousand tombs and had resold a vast number of artifacts in Macedonia, but also in Greece, reaching the international auctions as items of Greek origin. Because of this, she appealed to the citizens to



report the abuse of cultural heritage having in mind the higher interest of the state.

Jankuloska said that it is difficult to precisely answer the question about the quantity of the archaeological treasures that had been taken from Macedonia so far, because it can not be registered what had been excavated without institutional supervision. In this sphere, the Ministry of Internal Affairs cooperates with the departments for illicit trade in the ministries from the neighboring countries and with Interpol. The Cultural Heritage

Protection Office undertakes measures for physical protection of the sites with guardian services protecting the area.