

## **Proposed Vermont H 297 Ivory Ban Bill**

**We are asking the Vermont legislators to amend this H 297 bill to have a grandfather clause for people to enjoy, invest, own, buy and sell ivory items from before 1950 or say no to the bill or let the bill H 297 die on the floor, relating to the total ban of Ivory in Vermont.**

**We do believe that Ivory and Rhino horn should not be sold that post dates 1950, but strongly oppose the banning of Ivory artifacts before this period.**

**As a historian, auctioneer and antique dealer for over 45 years, I feel it is a bad idea to ban the sale of some of the most important artifacts of our past history which includes hundreds of different categories such as important sculptured artworks from the Deco period, 1920 – 1950 by such noted artists as D. H. Chiparus, F. Preiss, B. Zach, A. Vibert and so many more.**

**This bill would stop these above mentioned works from being seen or bought by all future generations. People should not be deprived from learning about our past culture. Ivory was the only quality medium for carving during the past several thousand years which has a soft texture with great durability.**

**This bill would also render past art investments worthless, investments in which people have legally invested hundreds of thousands of dollars. An original Chiparus ivory and bronze sculpture would easily fetch \$300,00.00 on its own. Now what can that investor do... trash it, burn it, destroy all ivory artifacts because they will have no monetary value. Even museums will feel the affect badly. They will not be able to purchase collections that contain any ivory and, many times, having the need to sell collections, they will not be able to with this bill.**

**Renowned artist Gilbert Stuart used ivory for painting miniatures, as did many other famous American artists. Should we deprive people from seeing and owning these historical pieces.**

**Antique dealers, auctions, shops and museums are the most important groups of people for educating people on our past history and their values.**

**If the general public is going to be deprived of seeing and owning their part of our past history, which includes hundreds of important antique items, then we feel you are doing more harm than good with this bill.**

**Just a few items either solid ivory or embellished with ivory are: Roman artifacts, Russian, German and Greek Crucifixes, pianos, many musical instruments, Sculptures, Period chests of drawers, Tea box caddies, Nantucket baskets, ivory basket holders, silver and plated tea sets having ivory heat wafers, paintings on ivory, ivory eyes in Santos, Ivory handled swords, ivory gun grips, Surgeons and dentist kits, knife handles, drafting instruments, Ivory rulers, jewelers music box embellishments, ivory teeth, whale bone hoops for skirts, old buttons, hair jewelry, jewelry, scrimshaw tusks and whale bone artifacts from the shipping industry, etc., etc., etc.**

**There will be millions of items rendered useless and worthless with this bill. Lets take more time in making this bill for the protection of living animals without destroying much of our past history for generations to come.**

**We were quite disturbed by the comments by Ashley McAvey, with the Vermont Chapter of**

**Elephants D-C, on WCAX news at 5:30 April 8, 2015. She stated that she had contacted antique and gun dealers in Vermont and was told that this bill would not affect their business. We have contacted each and every member of the Vermont Antique Dealers Association and found that most are horrified by this bill and not one of them had been contacted by Ms. McAvey. In her rush to get this bill through, it is our opinion that she has not adequately educated herself to say that this bill will not affect businesses in Vermont and that she is way off base. It will affect our business drastically, all antique and gun dealers, auctioneers, musicians and museums, etc. in a really negative way.**

**The other thing that disturbed us was the comment by Laurel Neme, a wildlife trafficking expert, stating that there is a ring of three antique dealers who are in collusion with each other in the trafficking of illegal ivory. We have been in the business of selling antiques in Vermont since 1967 and we have never heard of any Vermont antique dealers involved in this trafficking, nor have any of the other Vermont Antique Dealers in the Association all of which we have contacted. Surely their names should have leaked out at some point and if true, the government would have cracked down on this illegal activity and put them out of business.**

**Years ago I can remember Senator Bill Doyle saying how important our past history is for the betterment of the future. (In mentioning Senator Doyle's name, we have not spoken to him about this bill as yet and do not know his position on it.)**

**With the dwindling of the elephant population and the cruelty of their killing, we agree that something needs to be done, however, as Senator Doyle said, we have to learn from our past to better the future.**

**It is common knowledge that after 1952, the whole world of living matter was radiated by the isotopes carbon 14 from the nuclear tests by the United States and Russia. So, it could be easily monitored by the government to prove that someone is holding a piece of Ivory after 1952, as the Carbon 14 would test high.**

**In closing we are asking that there be a grandfather clause for people to enjoy, invest, own, buy and sell Ivory items before 1950, as many great works of art were made legally before this time. It was legal to make them then, so lets not make it illegal to own these artifacts now.**

**Thank you for your consideration,**

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