

# NEWS & VIEWS

THE ASSOCIATION OF ART & ANTIQUES DEALERS • VOL 29 NO.2 SUMMER 2009



LAPADA

THE ASSOCIATION OF  
ART & ANTIQUES DEALERS





## CITES LICENCE CHARGES

Despite our best efforts and a delay in their implementation, CITES permit fees were increased in April 2009 to £59.00. Re-export permits, which are issued when items have already been imported from another country, such as ivory and tortoiseshell, will cost £47.00 from April. This has been a difficult battle and although this is half the originally proposed figure in 2004, it is still a large increase. There has, however, been little room for manoeuvre since the Treasury is determined that the department should be self financed.

Our Chairman Lord Howe had written to the relevant Minister; Huw Irranca-Davies MP, regarding our concerns about these increases and asking to hold a meeting. This was agreed and the meeting took place on 6th May with the Minister; John Hounslow and Dominic Whitmee from Defra, Lord Howe, Anthony Browne from BAMF and Mark Dodgson from the BADA attending. Our chairman explained

the background for the trade's concerns about the high increase in licence charges and the problems this causes for those selling relatively low-priced items.

It is particularly annoying for antiques dealers that the processing of licences for antiques requires considerably less work than those for living species but apparently the Defra computer system is not programmed to recognise the difference.

The Minister said that he understands these concerns and suggested various means of cutting costs, which could in turn lead to lower charges. For example applying for permits directly into the Animal Health CITES computer system which would save their staff time. It was also suggested that there could be alternative ways of paying for licences as at present only a cheque of postal order can be used.

Various other ideas for cutting costs were

discussed but the online-line applications suggestion seemed the best way forward to everyone. The two representatives from Defra agreed to keep us informed about progress on this suggestion.

Do remember that it does save costs if you group several items on one certificate. This is permissible as long as they:

- (a) are of the same species (in the case of animals other than corals) or genus (in the case of plants and corals), and
- (b) have the same source code and purpose code, and
- (c) are to be transported between the same importer and exporter:

**For a full list of CITES charges and other information on the subject, visit their website: [www.defra.gov.uk/animalhealth/Charges/citesfees.htm](http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalhealth/Charges/citesfees.htm)**