



1
00:00:20,440 --> 00:00:17,910

[Music]

2
00:00:23,080 --> 00:00:20,450

hi everyone this is Martin Willis the

3
00:00:26,320 --> 00:00:23,090

antique auction form a fascinating guest

4
00:00:29,589 --> 00:00:26,330

Robert K Wittman he is a retired FBI

5
00:00:32,290 --> 00:00:29,599

undercover special agent who founded the

6
00:00:35,920 --> 00:00:32,300

Art Crime Team he's been responsible for

7
00:00:38,890 --> 00:00:35,930

recovering 225 million dollars worth of

8
00:00:41,110 --> 00:00:38,900

stolen art where he's posed undercover

9
00:00:43,300 --> 00:00:41,120

around the world so I have Bob on the

10
00:00:45,250 --> 00:00:43,310

line now how you doing Bob I'm great

11
00:00:47,410 --> 00:00:45,260

it's great to be here there's a lot of

12
00:00:49,630 --> 00:00:47,420

intrigue when it comes to art theft and

13
00:00:51,880 --> 00:00:49,640

I've watched a couple clips we can talk

14

00:00:54,010 --> 00:00:51,890

about that later you were on The Colbert

15

00:00:56,740 --> 00:00:54,020

Report which was that was pretty

16

00:00:59,770 --> 00:00:56,750

interesting he's a great guy very very

17

00:01:02,440 --> 00:00:59,780

smart man yes we hard on that show and

18

00:01:03,929 --> 00:01:02,450

it's a great job and you know I gotta

19

00:01:07,030 --> 00:01:03,939

say he was kind of easy on you

20

00:01:09,130 --> 00:01:07,040

I've seen a few other people I think

21

00:01:11,380 --> 00:01:09,140

he's actually interested in the subject

22

00:01:12,999 --> 00:01:11,390

because after it was over usually he's

23

00:01:14,590 --> 00:01:13,009

they told me he's very quick to get up

24

00:01:17,169 --> 00:01:14,600

and go I mean he does getting around it

25

00:01:18,760 --> 00:01:17,179

at all and in this situation you know he

26
00:01:20,739 --> 00:01:18,770
actually when we were finished with the

27
00:01:22,060 --> 00:01:20,749
with the taping he actually I had some

28
00:01:23,859 --> 00:01:22,070
more questions and when to talk to me

29
00:01:25,510 --> 00:01:23,869
about it wow that's that's pretty cool

30
00:01:28,330 --> 00:01:25,520
well I think he was actually interested

31
00:01:30,639 --> 00:01:28,340
in the subject himself but it's funny

32
00:01:32,139 --> 00:01:30,649
when you first go on and you're sitting

33
00:01:34,330 --> 00:01:32,149
in the greenroom he comes in to visit

34
00:01:36,669 --> 00:01:34,340
with him and it sure gets taped between

35
00:01:38,289 --> 00:01:36,679
somewhere around 6:30 and 8:30 in the

36
00:01:39,969 --> 00:01:38,299
evening that's about a two hour taping

37
00:01:42,849 --> 00:01:39,979
in an 8 they bust it all down to 30

38
00:01:44,620 --> 00:01:42,859

minutes he comes in he says this is just

39

00:01:46,959 --> 00:01:44,630

first of all pieces I just want you to

40

00:01:49,059 --> 00:01:46,969

know that does is all you know it's all

41

00:01:51,940 --> 00:01:49,069

good fun and please don't take offense

42

00:01:53,349 --> 00:01:51,950

of anything and then the producers paid

43

00:01:56,789 --> 00:01:53,359

and then when you leave they tell you

44

00:02:01,359 --> 00:01:59,499

no one nothing yeah no one out there

45

00:02:04,120 --> 00:02:01,369

right you don't want to get on TV and

46

00:02:06,489 --> 00:02:04,130

try to you know meet match minds which

47

00:02:08,350 --> 00:02:06,499

Stephen Colbert yeah that's right yeah

48

00:02:11,230 --> 00:02:08,360

so right off the bat I want to say most

49

00:02:13,150 --> 00:02:11,240

people's opinions are that art thieves

50

00:02:15,100 --> 00:02:13,160

are people like Pierce Brosnan Cary

51

00:02:17,199 --> 00:02:15,110

Grant and there's sort of like a

52

00:02:19,030 --> 00:02:17,209

romantic intrigue when it goes to our

53

00:02:21,190 --> 00:02:19,040

thesis what are what our thieves really

54

00:02:22,990 --> 00:02:21,200

like well you know I call those the

55

00:02:25,540 --> 00:02:23,000

oscar-winning art thieves you know they

56

00:02:26,890 --> 00:02:25,550

they have that opinion

57

00:02:29,620 --> 00:02:26,900

they're that they're handsome and

58

00:02:31,240 --> 00:02:29,630

debonair and you know rich and and that

59

00:02:33,610 --> 00:02:31,250

they just did a Scalia dabble in the

60

00:02:35,560 --> 00:02:33,620

arts but the truth is generally speaking

61

00:02:39,070 --> 00:02:35,570

is there's three types of people who are

62

00:02:40,540 --> 00:02:39,080

involved in art theft and it's different

63

00:02:42,220 --> 00:02:40,550

from the people who are involved and say

64

00:02:44,380 --> 00:02:42,230

fraud's forgeries and fakes it's a whole

65

00:02:46,060 --> 00:02:44,390

different type of concept but the people

66

00:02:47,830 --> 00:02:46,070

are involved in theft are either general

67

00:02:49,030 --> 00:02:47,840

criminals you know they have involved in

68

00:02:50,800 --> 00:02:49,040

many different types of criminal

69

00:02:52,960 --> 00:02:50,810

enterprises including armed robberies

70

00:02:54,970 --> 00:02:52,970

cars you know car theft and everything

71

00:02:56,860 --> 00:02:54,980

like that as well and they just have to

72

00:02:59,440 --> 00:02:56,870

do an art heist okay

73

00:03:02,080 --> 00:02:59,450

then you have what I call the experts

74

00:03:04,750 --> 00:03:02,090

who are people who have access to the to

75

00:03:06,550 --> 00:03:04,760

the collections and go in study

76

00:03:08,980 --> 00:03:06,560

collections and then after all either

77

00:03:10,600 --> 00:03:08,990

become you know emotionally evolved

78

00:03:11,890 --> 00:03:10,610

involved with this stuff and decide

79

00:03:14,020 --> 00:03:11,900

they're going to take it or they have

80

00:03:15,820 --> 00:03:14,030

you know hours to sell it and then you

81

00:03:17,140 --> 00:03:15,830

have they're also they include dealers

82

00:03:18,640 --> 00:03:17,150

and then you also have the people who

83

00:03:22,390 --> 00:03:18,650

actually work in the museum's who are

84

00:03:24,700 --> 00:03:22,400

you know insiders and Charlie speaking

85

00:03:27,580 --> 00:03:24,710

for museums that we find that about 88

86

00:03:29,680 --> 00:03:27,590

to 90 percent I say we the FBI statistic

87

00:03:32,590 --> 00:03:29,690

is between 88 and 90 percent of museum

88

00:03:36,070 --> 00:03:32,600

heist I have some insider component hmm

89

00:03:38,290 --> 00:03:36,080

Wow and are a lot of it when you say

90

00:03:40,810 --> 00:03:38,300

inside this is the way you get these

91

00:03:45,250 --> 00:03:40,820

statistics of course is by cracking the

92

00:03:48,130 --> 00:03:45,260

case and cases right and what is the

93

00:03:51,430 --> 00:03:48,140

percentage of the cases that are solved

94

00:03:54,780 --> 00:03:51,440

and the art returned well I mean it

95

00:03:57,880 --> 00:03:54,790

depends well you know the general

96

00:04:00,030 --> 00:03:57,890

percentage of return stolen property is

97

00:04:02,680 --> 00:04:00,040

somewhere between five and 20 percent

98

00:04:03,610 --> 00:04:02,690

okay that's for all stolen property

99

00:04:07,420 --> 00:04:03,620

we're talking about cars

100

00:04:09,010 --> 00:04:07,430

you know TVs anything five to 20 percent

101
00:04:12,190 --> 00:04:09,020
but when we talk about art Heights and

102
00:04:15,580 --> 00:04:12,200
these high value paintings it's probably

103
00:04:17,800 --> 00:04:15,590
90 to 95 percent Wow and the reason for

104
00:04:19,720 --> 00:04:17,810
that is because you know as we know and

105
00:04:22,390 --> 00:04:19,730
as you're those rooms probably on would

106
00:04:24,670 --> 00:04:22,400
understand art can't be chopped up like

107
00:04:26,170 --> 00:04:24,680
a car it's not like drugs that can be

108
00:04:28,360 --> 00:04:26,180
cut up it's not like a car that can be

109
00:04:30,430 --> 00:04:28,370
chopped and sold for parts you know the

110
00:04:32,350 --> 00:04:30,440
art is unique within itself if anything

111
00:04:35,500 --> 00:04:32,360
happens to that art the value goes down

112
00:04:36,760 --> 00:04:35,510
so therefore you know anyone who takes a

113
00:04:38,710 --> 00:04:36,770

piece has to keep it in good condition

114

00:04:40,060 --> 00:04:38,720

and has to sell it and then it becomes

115

00:04:43,440 --> 00:04:40,070

when it comes back to markets when we

116

00:04:47,230 --> 00:04:43,450

get it back now does has anyone in your

117

00:04:52,150 --> 00:04:47,240

opinion has anyone ever stolen art just

118

00:04:54,490 --> 00:04:52,160

to admire it well I don't individuals

119

00:04:56,050 --> 00:04:54,500

who have stolen property and it's not

120

00:04:58,710 --> 00:04:56,060

always art and let me explain one thing

121

00:05:00,880 --> 00:04:58,720

about that when we talk about art theft

122

00:05:03,310 --> 00:05:00,890

we're not just talking about paintings

123

00:05:06,550 --> 00:05:03,320

and sculptures under the FBI

124

00:05:08,590 --> 00:05:06,560

you know definitions of the art theft

125

00:05:10,540 --> 00:05:08,600

and Art Crime Team it's cultural

126

00:05:12,100 --> 00:05:10,550

property theft it all comes together so

127

00:05:14,140 --> 00:05:12,110

we're talking on pre-columbian looted

128

00:05:16,960 --> 00:05:14,150

artifacts mm-hmm material coming from

129

00:05:19,240 --> 00:05:16,970

you know the Middle East Asian artifacts

130

00:05:21,910 --> 00:05:19,250

all those types of historical pieces

131

00:05:24,460 --> 00:05:21,920

even like I said us artifacts you know

132

00:05:26,680 --> 00:05:24,470

from from the US history so you know a

133

00:05:27,910 --> 00:05:26,690

bill of rights or a sword from the Civil

134

00:05:31,120 --> 00:05:27,920

War all these things are considered

135

00:05:32,800 --> 00:05:31,130

parts of the art theft program okay so

136

00:05:34,930 --> 00:05:32,810

yeah do people steal

137

00:05:37,240 --> 00:05:34,940

I have seen people steal who you know

138

00:05:39,190 --> 00:05:37,250

one of the collect items and and they

139

00:05:41,560 --> 00:05:39,200

enjoy the items and they take them for

140

00:05:44,380 --> 00:05:41,570

that reason but ultimately they also

141

00:05:45,790 --> 00:05:44,390

want to sell them hmm now I you just

142

00:05:47,140 --> 00:05:45,800

mentioned the Bill of Rights I heard

143

00:05:50,470 --> 00:05:47,150

about that there was returned a few

144

00:05:52,960 --> 00:05:50,480

years ago is that right yeah the Bill of

145

00:05:55,360 --> 00:05:52,970

Rights was recovered in 2003 uh-huh and

146

00:05:57,700 --> 00:05:55,370

can you tell explain exactly what

147

00:06:01,090 --> 00:05:57,710

happened in that given situation well

148

00:06:03,400 --> 00:06:01,100

what happened there was there was well

149

00:06:06,010 --> 00:06:03,410

in 1789 or 1787

150

00:06:09,760 --> 00:06:06,020

I sometimes get it confused George

151

00:06:12,250 --> 00:06:09,770

Washington sent 13 copies had 13 copies

152

00:06:14,140 --> 00:06:12,260

actually scribed and sent to the 13

153

00:06:17,409 --> 00:06:14,150

states for ratification of the new Bill

154

00:06:19,510 --> 00:06:17,419

of Rights and most of the states kept

155

00:06:21,219 --> 00:06:19,520

them one or two return them back to

156

00:06:22,719 --> 00:06:21,229

Washington but most of the state says

157

00:06:24,640 --> 00:06:22,729

you know ratified they're in camp them

158

00:06:26,980 --> 00:06:24,650

one of the states had kept theirs was

159

00:06:28,930 --> 00:06:26,990

North Carolina well it was in Raleigh in

160

00:06:30,940 --> 00:06:28,940

the Statehouse all the way through up to

161

00:06:33,100 --> 00:06:30,950

1865 during the Civil War

162

00:06:35,380 --> 00:06:33,110

that's right the in trooper actually

163

00:06:37,840 --> 00:06:35,390

went to the Statehouse he was coming

164

00:06:39,430 --> 00:06:37,850

back north on a march with our Sherman's

165

00:06:42,010 --> 00:06:39,440

troops after going through Atlanta and

166

00:06:43,840 --> 00:06:42,020

as they went through North Carolina and

167

00:06:45,340 --> 00:06:43,850

to Raleigh they captured up near the

168

00:06:46,839 --> 00:06:45,350

Capitol and then went in and this

169

00:06:48,310 --> 00:06:46,849

trooper took the Bill of Rights actually

170

00:06:50,230 --> 00:06:48,320

took it as a souvenir hmm

171

00:06:52,830 --> 00:06:50,240

and he went back to Indiana with it and

172

00:06:56,530 --> 00:06:52,840

sold it for \$5.00 yeah

173

00:07:00,280 --> 00:06:56,540

yeah and it was kept in a family all the

174

00:07:02,410 --> 00:07:00,290

way up until 2003 when a couple of

175

00:07:04,840 --> 00:07:02,420

appraisers antiques appraisers actually

176

00:07:06,400 --> 00:07:04,850

found it bought it from the family and

177

00:07:07,840 --> 00:07:06,410

attempted to sell it for four million

178

00:07:10,750 --> 00:07:07,850

dollars to the National Constitution

179

00:07:13,270 --> 00:07:10,760

Center in Philadelphia Wow a better they

180

00:07:15,730 --> 00:07:13,280

were a little disappointed well you know

181

00:07:17,500 --> 00:07:15,740

we identified they hadn't identified as

182

00:07:20,080 --> 00:07:17,510

well they had taken it and had it looked

183

00:07:23,080 --> 00:07:20,090

at by experts at the George Washington

184

00:07:25,000 --> 00:07:23,090

University down in Washington DC and

185

00:07:28,300 --> 00:07:25,010

they hadn't looked at that it was the

186

00:07:33,070 --> 00:07:28,310

Congressional their-their think-tank or

187

00:07:35,050 --> 00:07:33,080

their their historical you know group

188

00:07:35,950 --> 00:07:35,060

that does for those types of an

189

00:07:38,050 --> 00:07:35,960

authentication

190

00:07:39,370 --> 00:07:38,060

anyway they had it looked at and they

191

00:07:41,560 --> 00:07:39,380

they were told at the time that was

192

00:07:43,210 --> 00:07:41,570

probably North Carolina's so they

193

00:07:45,130 --> 00:07:43,220

ignored that and just kept going with it

194

00:07:46,720 --> 00:07:45,140

of course it's stolen property and long

195

00:07:49,480 --> 00:07:46,730

to the government the state of North

196

00:07:51,340 --> 00:07:49,490

Carolina so we we have a restaurant well

197

00:07:53,590 --> 00:07:51,350

actually had a seizure warrants from

198

00:07:55,840 --> 00:07:53,600

North Carolina and undercover operation

199

00:07:57,940 --> 00:07:55,850

in Philadelphia where I posed as a

200

00:08:00,370 --> 00:07:57,950

philanthropist to buy the piece of life

201
00:08:02,650 --> 00:08:00,380
that's a patient center and when they

202
00:08:05,290 --> 00:08:02,660
delivered it you know we stopped

203
00:08:07,870 --> 00:08:05,300
everybody seized a piece and we're able

204
00:08:10,030 --> 00:08:07,880
to return to to stay off now where does

205
00:08:12,970 --> 00:08:10,040
the statute of limitations play in all

206
00:08:15,550 --> 00:08:12,980
this normal statute of limitations were

207
00:08:18,400 --> 00:08:15,560
stolen property is five years mm-hmm

208
00:08:21,010 --> 00:08:18,410
so you know if someone steals an object

209
00:08:22,750 --> 00:08:21,020
and takes it after five years basically

210
00:08:26,830 --> 00:08:22,760
you can't charge that person with the

211
00:08:28,930 --> 00:08:26,840
theft you know in in a standard property

212
00:08:31,150 --> 00:08:28,940
crime mmm like that doesn't you know

213
00:08:32,530 --> 00:08:31,160

that doesn't preclude like federally and

214

00:08:35,130 --> 00:08:32,540

if someone steals a piece of property

215

00:08:37,420 --> 00:08:35,140

and they take it from say you know

216

00:08:39,820 --> 00:08:37,430

Philadelphia they go to Atlantic City to

217

00:08:42,700 --> 00:08:39,830

cross the state line at that point that

218

00:08:44,020 --> 00:08:42,710

we the statute of limitations so it's

219

00:08:45,580 --> 00:08:44,030

for another five years I guess what

220

00:08:47,350 --> 00:08:45,590

you've done is you've actually committed

221

00:08:50,260 --> 00:08:47,360

interstate transportation of stolen

222

00:08:53,710 --> 00:08:50,270

property so so how does this play and

223

00:08:55,870 --> 00:08:53,720

where the state owns well do you recover

224

00:08:58,480 --> 00:08:55,880

this piece for the state after you know

225

00:09:00,760 --> 00:08:58,490

a hundred and fifty years well that's a

226

00:09:02,620 --> 00:09:00,770

you know because there's a statute of

227

00:09:04,840 --> 00:09:02,630

limitations on the prosecution of

228

00:09:06,400 --> 00:09:04,850

someone who has stolen property that

229

00:09:09,220 --> 00:09:06,410

doesn't mean that you can still pay

230

00:09:10,900 --> 00:09:09,230

good title on the property I see I mean

231

00:09:12,519 --> 00:09:10,910

it's like anything else with an artwork

232

00:09:15,040 --> 00:09:12,529

I mean there's three things that

233

00:09:17,439 --> 00:09:15,050

determine you know the value and the

234

00:09:19,600 --> 00:09:17,449

ability to sell an artwork if that's the

235

00:09:21,309 --> 00:09:19,610

the provenance or the history of it of

236

00:09:24,040 --> 00:09:21,319

course gotta be right the authenticity

237

00:09:27,040 --> 00:09:24,050

again that's you know important and then

238

00:09:28,780 --> 00:09:27,050

having good title so that's why I would

239

00:09:31,809 --> 00:09:28,790

really impress this that's the touchy

240

00:09:33,340 --> 00:09:31,819

apart I think nowadays because there's

241

00:09:34,900 --> 00:09:33,350

so much litigation going on so I would

242

00:09:37,389 --> 00:09:34,910

really impress on your listeners that

243

00:09:39,160 --> 00:09:37,399

they're gonna buy artwork make sure that

244

00:09:41,199 --> 00:09:39,170

they do a due diligence research on the

245

00:09:43,449 --> 00:09:41,209

title so that day's know that they can

246

00:09:47,040 --> 00:09:43,459

own it and then continue to own it right

247

00:09:50,619 --> 00:09:47,050

now where where does all the Nazi stolen

248

00:09:52,929 --> 00:09:50,629

art works does that does that ever come

249

00:09:57,189 --> 00:09:52,939

to play in any of your investigations

250

00:09:59,590 --> 00:09:57,199

you don't retire to the FBI in 2008 I

251

00:10:02,350 --> 00:09:59,600

can't get involved with those cases at

252

00:10:03,610 --> 00:10:02,360

the time with the bureau apparently we

253

00:10:06,639 --> 00:10:03,620

didn't get involved in cases because

254

00:10:07,990 --> 00:10:06,649

those are not criminal cases when you're

255

00:10:09,610 --> 00:10:08,000

in law enforcement when you're talking

256

00:10:11,800 --> 00:10:09,620

about the local police state police or

257

00:10:13,840 --> 00:10:11,810

the feds well you know these cases have

258

00:10:16,569 --> 00:10:13,850

got to be criminal cases that they can

259

00:10:18,220 --> 00:10:16,579

look into and yeah I mean the round pegs

260

00:10:20,170 --> 00:10:18,230

got right into the round hole you have

261

00:10:23,590 --> 00:10:20,180

to build own a reasonable doubt the

262

00:10:25,300 --> 00:10:23,600

elements of a specific crime and and in

263

00:10:27,160 --> 00:10:25,310

those situations those are in criminal

264

00:10:28,809 --> 00:10:27,170

cases anymore those are civil you know

265

00:10:31,329 --> 00:10:28,819

civil fights

266

00:10:32,920 --> 00:10:31,339

well cessful generally speaking the

267

00:10:35,650 --> 00:10:32,930

government does not get involved in

268

00:10:38,019 --> 00:10:35,660

those it's it's between you know private

269

00:10:39,670 --> 00:10:38,029

parties I said a with Robert Wittman

270

00:10:41,470 --> 00:10:39,680

incorporated you know my company that I

271

00:10:42,759 --> 00:10:41,480

have I can get in all those cases and

272

00:10:45,670 --> 00:10:42,769

and do the research and due diligence

273

00:10:47,829 --> 00:10:45,680

well okay yeah I'd like to talk a little

274

00:10:51,370 --> 00:10:47,839

bit about your company a little later on

275

00:10:53,079 --> 00:10:51,380

what is the number once I don't know how

276

00:10:54,780 --> 00:10:53,089

to word this any different but what's

277

00:11:01,600 --> 00:10:54,790

the number one stupidest thing you ever

278

00:11:04,869 --> 00:11:01,610

saw a crook do well you know stupid is

279

00:11:08,889 --> 00:11:04,879

one thing I'll think number one worst

280

00:11:10,259 --> 00:11:08,899

things ever saw people do was about 20

281

00:11:13,210 --> 00:11:10,269

years ago there was a case in

282

00:11:14,620 --> 00:11:13,220

Philadelphia three individuals went to

283

00:11:17,570 --> 00:11:14,630

defend the gray matter which is a

284

00:11:19,280 --> 00:11:17,580

historical site it was the this

285

00:11:21,350 --> 00:11:19,290

home of William Penn the founder of the

286

00:11:24,830 --> 00:11:21,360

Pennsylvania Colony he did there from

287

00:11:26,480 --> 00:11:24,840

1683 to 1700 wonderful home it's been

288

00:11:28,580 --> 00:11:26,490

you know preserved a lot of his

289

00:11:29,930 --> 00:11:28,590

materials still there well these three

290

00:11:32,660 --> 00:11:29,940

went in desire they were going to steal

291

00:11:35,510 --> 00:11:32,670

you know antiques from the house in

292

00:11:37,190 --> 00:11:35,520

order to sell them at an auction no well

293

00:11:38,810 --> 00:11:37,200

it's that stupid beginning because you

294

00:11:40,250 --> 00:11:38,820

can you know it's identified maturity

295

00:11:42,590 --> 00:11:40,260

you and I both then you can't smell it

296

00:11:44,450 --> 00:11:42,600

but what they did was they got scared

297

00:11:46,580 --> 00:11:44,460

after there was so much press about the

298

00:11:48,320 --> 00:11:46,590

burglary it was on the front pages of

299

00:11:50,540 --> 00:11:48,330

the newspapers all in the area that they

300

00:11:52,790 --> 00:11:50,550

took the material and they threw it into

301
00:11:54,770 --> 00:11:52,800
the Delaware River oh okay we're going

302
00:11:55,280 --> 00:11:54,780
to hide it and get rid of it and we're

303
00:11:57,560 --> 00:11:55,290
talking about

304
00:12:01,310 --> 00:11:57,570
yeah material 300 years old owned by the

305
00:12:04,010 --> 00:12:01,320
family and I've got 37 or 38 pieces that

306
00:12:06,050 --> 00:12:04,020
were taken of those pieces we recovered

307
00:12:08,930 --> 00:12:06,060
32 at the bottom of the river well now

308
00:12:10,910 --> 00:12:08,940
we lost all the wooden pieces and can

309
00:12:12,830 --> 00:12:10,920
you imagine Martin these pieces from had

310
00:12:14,450 --> 00:12:12,840
survived three centuries and handed up

311
00:12:16,610 --> 00:12:14,460
you know going into the river and going

312
00:12:19,340 --> 00:12:16,620
away because just because unless you say

313
00:12:22,040 --> 00:12:19,350

the stupidity yes that's an atrocity now

314

00:12:25,610 --> 00:12:22,050

I I was doing a lot of work in a major

315

00:12:30,320 --> 00:12:25,620

art artists estate wall [h__h]

316

00:12:34,820 --> 00:12:30,330

his family in cognatic Maine years ago a

317

00:12:36,200 --> 00:12:34,830

bunch of bikers stole about 30 of the

318

00:12:40,100 --> 00:12:36,210

clown paintings which sell up to a

319

00:12:42,290 --> 00:12:40,110

million dollars and when they were being

320

00:12:43,070 --> 00:12:42,300

sought after they stacked them in a pile

321

00:12:45,980 --> 00:12:43,080

and lit him on fire

322

00:12:47,510 --> 00:12:45,990

no you know and it is an atrocity

323

00:12:49,010 --> 00:12:47,520

because these things are you know when

324

00:12:52,730 --> 00:12:49,020

they're gone they're gone forever you

325

00:12:55,250 --> 00:12:52,740

know yeah yeah it's if the artist is

326

00:12:56,870 --> 00:12:55,260

pastor or whatever and they can't be

327

00:12:58,550 --> 00:12:56,880

replaced you know and they can't ever be

328

00:13:00,230 --> 00:12:58,560

done again you're right and this

329

00:13:01,610 --> 00:13:00,240

material is close cultural property and

330

00:13:03,890 --> 00:13:01,620

this was our the history of our country

331

00:13:06,440 --> 00:13:03,900

yeah I like that phrase cultural

332

00:13:09,110 --> 00:13:06,450

property it just that one phrase kind of

333

00:13:11,300 --> 00:13:09,120

in capsules what exactly it is yeah

334

00:13:14,240 --> 00:13:11,310

because it's like like history is gone

335

00:13:16,940 --> 00:13:14,250

you know right and these pieces belong

336

00:13:19,280 --> 00:13:16,950

to all of us not just one museum or one

337

00:13:22,430 --> 00:13:19,290

historic home under everyone that's

338

00:13:23,900 --> 00:13:22,440

right we all lose something I I really

339

00:13:25,550 --> 00:13:23,910

felt bad about that the time and I

340

00:13:27,620 --> 00:13:25,560

always feel bad when I see that happen

341

00:13:29,240 --> 00:13:27,630

because I can't look it this way you

342

00:13:31,070 --> 00:13:29,250

probably went to all the same ways that

343

00:13:33,880 --> 00:13:31,080

you know we're all here too

344

00:13:35,750 --> 00:13:33,890

I say we all everyone's alive today okay

345

00:13:40,580 --> 00:13:35,760

one of us are going to get out of this

346

00:13:42,590 --> 00:13:40,590

alive at the end so it's our time and

347

00:13:44,240 --> 00:13:42,600

it's our responsibility to protect this

348

00:13:46,640 --> 00:13:44,250

material for our children and their

349

00:13:49,310 --> 00:13:46,650

grandchildren you know mm-hmm and if we

350

00:13:51,020 --> 00:13:49,320

don't you know our forefathers or

351
00:13:52,970 --> 00:13:51,030
whatnot have kept it for us they've been

352
00:13:54,920 --> 00:13:52,980
successful and when something like this

353
00:13:57,500 --> 00:13:54,930
happens you know we lose a piece like

354
00:13:59,000 --> 00:13:57,510
that that's a failure for all of us yeah

355
00:14:01,220 --> 00:13:59,010
we all carry the blame for that because

356
00:14:04,310 --> 00:14:01,230
you know the future generations will not

357
00:14:06,920 --> 00:14:04,320
be able to you know enjoy learn from and

358
00:14:09,170 --> 00:14:06,930
you know inherit this material that we

359
00:14:12,620 --> 00:14:09,180
lose that's right and this is gonna roll

360
00:14:15,320 --> 00:14:12,630
me right into the next part is I did a

361
00:14:17,750 --> 00:14:15,330
podcast podcast number 31 with Ulrich

362
00:14:20,360 --> 00:14:17,760
the boss or about the Gardner heist in

363
00:14:24,380 --> 00:14:20,370

the Isabella Stewart Gardner house case

364

00:14:26,420 --> 00:14:24,390

and that kind of exemplifies what we're

365

00:14:27,890 --> 00:14:26,430

talking about here those empty frames

366

00:14:30,530 --> 00:14:27,900

that are hanging in there where the

367

00:14:32,840 --> 00:14:30,540

Rembrandt was and all those wonderful

368

00:14:35,810 --> 00:14:32,850

paintings that are gone first of all do

369

00:14:37,850 --> 00:14:35,820

you know Urich by chance oh we're sure

370

00:14:39,590 --> 00:14:37,860

yeah he's a reporter from mater

371

00:14:41,120 --> 00:14:39,600

Washington DC in fact I think I had a

372

00:14:43,580 --> 00:14:41,130

there was a whole chapter in his book

373

00:14:45,230 --> 00:14:43,590

about me oh I'm sorry I read the book

374

00:14:48,680 --> 00:14:45,240

too but it was quite a while ago it's a

375

00:14:50,600 --> 00:14:48,690

great book and it has there been any

376

00:14:53,240 --> 00:14:50,610

breakthrough at all that you're aware of

377

00:14:56,030 --> 00:14:53,250

on that on that case at this point I

378

00:14:58,790 --> 00:14:56,040

have not heard of anything new since I

379

00:15:03,320 --> 00:14:58,800

conducted an investigation from 2006 to

380

00:15:06,410 --> 00:15:03,330

2008 I was undercover in Madrid Paris

381

00:15:09,080 --> 00:15:06,420

Marseille and Miami chasing the

382

00:15:11,750 --> 00:15:09,090

Rembrandt storm over the Sea of Galilee

383

00:15:14,420 --> 00:15:11,760

and the premiere concert from that

384

00:15:15,980 --> 00:15:14,430

collection Wow well when you say when

385

00:15:19,190 --> 00:15:15,990

you say undercover can you explain

386

00:15:21,470 --> 00:15:19,200

exactly what do you pose as a prominent

387

00:15:25,340 --> 00:15:21,480

art buyer or something how does that

388

00:15:27,290 --> 00:15:25,350

work well for 20 years from 1988 to 2008

389

00:15:29,990 --> 00:15:27,300

I was undercover somewhere in the world

390

00:15:32,420 --> 00:15:30,000

of orchid si and sometimes the prominent

391

00:15:34,610 --> 00:15:32,430

art buyers have done authenticator for

392

00:15:36,710 --> 00:15:34,620

the mob or other times of the professor

393

00:15:38,840 --> 00:15:36,720

you know looking at our course sometimes

394

00:15:40,850 --> 00:15:38,850

it's just a buyer who had absolutely no

395

00:15:42,920 --> 00:15:40,860

knowledge but was an easy time mark so

396

00:15:43,929 --> 00:15:42,930

depending on what the situation was but

397

00:15:47,229 --> 00:15:43,939

at that time I was

398

00:15:48,909 --> 00:15:47,239

cover as a heart buyer who was you know

399

00:15:50,469 --> 00:15:48,919

who had clients around the world who

400

00:15:53,349 --> 00:15:50,479

were interested in buying a specific

401
00:15:55,239 --> 00:15:53,359
kind of paintings mhm yeah we we got

402
00:15:57,099 --> 00:15:55,249
with then I think a few weeks of almost

403
00:15:59,199 --> 00:15:57,109
recovering those two paintings huh

404
00:16:02,379 --> 00:15:59,209
unfortunately didn't work out yeah i

405
00:16:04,869 --> 00:16:02,389
document that in my book priceless

406
00:16:07,779 --> 00:16:04,879
oh yes and by the way I'm going to have

407
00:16:09,909 --> 00:16:07,789
a link to that book up right underneath

408
00:16:12,189 --> 00:16:09,919
this podcast so anyone who's listening

409
00:16:14,199 --> 00:16:12,199
to this can go to my website and you'll

410
00:16:16,239 --> 00:16:14,209
see under this podcast a link to bring

411
00:16:19,329 --> 00:16:16,249
you directly to that book that came out

412
00:16:21,609 --> 00:16:19,339
in what 2010 yes it was actually a

413
00:16:26,229 --> 00:16:21,619

published by Random House on June 1st

414

00:16:28,989 --> 00:16:26,239

2010 it was it's a national bestseller

415

00:16:31,239 --> 00:16:28,999

and I talked about maybe around 15

416

00:16:33,489 --> 00:16:31,249

different cases I was involved with and

417

00:16:35,739 --> 00:16:33,499

with around the world and talk about

418

00:16:37,960 --> 00:16:35,749

recoveries and the undercover operations

419

00:16:40,419 --> 00:16:37,970

and what into them mm-hmm now do you

420

00:16:41,529 --> 00:16:40,429

actually ever have I know this is kind

421

00:16:46,179 --> 00:16:41,539

of sound kind of corny but do you ever

422

00:16:47,889 --> 00:16:46,189

have like a briefcase full of cash okay

423

00:16:51,759 --> 00:16:47,899

yeah sure

424

00:16:54,219 --> 00:16:51,769

Wow I mean that's like the undercover

425

00:16:55,689 --> 00:16:54,229

right there's you have one case I talked

426
00:16:57,219 --> 00:16:55,699
about in the book where we recovered a

427
00:16:59,349 --> 00:16:57,229
thirty five million dollar Rembrandt

428
00:17:01,689 --> 00:16:59,359
that was stolen at gunpoint from the

429
00:17:05,980 --> 00:17:01,699
Swedish National Museum in Stockholm and

430
00:17:09,249 --> 00:17:05,990
I - we can two week weeks worth of

431
00:17:16,210 --> 00:17:09,259
meetings we negotiated a deal to buy the

432
00:17:17,829 --> 00:17:16,220
painting back for 250,000 Wow has your

433
00:17:20,499 --> 00:17:17,839
life been threatened while while you've

434
00:17:22,360 --> 00:17:20,509
been cracking any of these cases well

435
00:17:23,710 --> 00:17:22,370
you know anytime you work in law

436
00:17:25,869 --> 00:17:23,720
enforcement and you know you were

437
00:17:27,699 --> 00:17:25,879
dealing with people who are you know in

438
00:17:29,499 --> 00:17:27,709

these cases armed robbers and that

439

00:17:31,570 --> 00:17:29,509

Swedish cases individuals went into the

440

00:17:34,149 --> 00:17:31,580

museum with machine guns and basically

441

00:17:35,830 --> 00:17:34,159

stole three paintings at gunpoint and

442

00:17:36,759 --> 00:17:35,840

that happened many times you know

443

00:17:38,289 --> 00:17:36,769

whenever you're dealing with those

444

00:17:40,990 --> 00:17:38,299

people you always have to you know keep

445

00:17:42,519 --> 00:17:41,000

your wits about you and and you know be

446

00:17:44,769 --> 00:17:42,529

ready for whatever if it comes along

447

00:17:46,570 --> 00:17:44,779

I remember one one occasion we had just

448

00:17:49,240 --> 00:17:46,580

recovered two Picasso's I had been

449

00:17:52,779 --> 00:17:49,250

stolen from the Picasso family in Paris

450

00:17:54,609 --> 00:17:52,789

and when we did the operation these

451
00:17:56,760 --> 00:17:54,619
individuals were meeting was one of my

452
00:17:59,549 --> 00:17:56,770
quote buyers

453
00:18:01,980 --> 00:17:59,559
to sell the paintings and then they were

454
00:18:03,540 --> 00:18:01,990
arrested by the French police well the

455
00:18:04,890 --> 00:18:03,550
people who were involved in weren't too

456
00:18:07,650 --> 00:18:04,900
happy about and said they want to kill

457
00:18:09,210 --> 00:18:07,660
me so we had a meeting in Miami and that

458
00:18:10,710 --> 00:18:09,220
particular case had a gun in each pocket

459
00:18:12,660 --> 00:18:10,720
oh my god

460
00:18:14,160 --> 00:18:12,670
Wow now when you say from Picasso's

461
00:18:16,950 --> 00:18:14,170
family was that the case where it was

462
00:18:19,799 --> 00:18:16,960
his granddaughter indeed and was that

463
00:18:22,049 --> 00:18:19,809

was that stolen from her by gunpoint

464

00:18:24,690 --> 00:18:22,059

no that was stolen our apartment she was

465

00:18:27,240 --> 00:18:24,700

she was away the individual what he had

466

00:18:29,220 --> 00:18:27,250

done was he had an ex again a year

467

00:18:31,560 --> 00:18:29,230

earlier doing some work in the apartment

468

00:18:33,810 --> 00:18:31,570

and he made a key oh he waited a year

469

00:18:35,880 --> 00:18:33,820

for her to not be there for a good time

470

00:18:38,610 --> 00:18:35,890

to go and he stole the two paintings Wow

471

00:18:41,430 --> 00:18:38,620

so I was recently speaking to a curator

472

00:18:45,630 --> 00:18:41,440

at a museum which will remain unnamed

473

00:18:47,760 --> 00:18:45,640

and he told me that his Museum and a

474

00:18:50,850 --> 00:18:47,770

number of museums are not insured

475

00:18:53,250 --> 00:18:50,860

because they can't afford it his and

476

00:18:55,500 --> 00:18:53,260

they also spend their money instead on

477

00:18:58,020 --> 00:18:55,510

beefing up security fire-prevention

478

00:19:04,740 --> 00:18:58,030

things like that what's what's the scoop

479

00:19:07,919 --> 00:19:04,750

on that you know have you have you heard

480

00:19:09,120 --> 00:19:07,929

this before I think that that's possible

481

00:19:12,690 --> 00:19:09,130

I think it's irresponsible

482

00:19:15,150 --> 00:19:12,700

I think that having insurance is

483

00:19:17,400 --> 00:19:15,160

something that every you know any

484

00:19:20,070 --> 00:19:17,410

collector or any collection of material

485

00:19:22,080 --> 00:19:20,080

should be insured and and you know you

486

00:19:23,669 --> 00:19:22,090

don't have to insure the entire museum

487

00:19:25,590 --> 00:19:23,679

you don't have to insure every piece of

488

00:19:28,410 --> 00:19:25,600

the museum what you do is you have a

489

00:19:29,940 --> 00:19:28,420

basis all right I mean maybe it's a five

490

00:19:30,840 --> 00:19:29,950

billion dollar policy and that's not

491

00:19:32,790 --> 00:19:30,850

that expensive

492

00:19:34,740 --> 00:19:32,800

okay I mean you can get something like

493

00:19:36,780 --> 00:19:34,750

that here a five million dollar policy

494

00:19:39,180 --> 00:19:36,790

or whatever it's 1 million dollar policy

495

00:19:40,410 --> 00:19:39,190

but with the idea that not everything in

496

00:19:42,570 --> 00:19:40,420

your museum is going to be stolen or

497

00:19:45,270 --> 00:19:42,580

destroyed at the same time mm-hm so if

498

00:19:46,980 --> 00:19:45,280

someone comes in and steals you know two

499

00:19:48,750 --> 00:19:46,990

paintings and they're worth whatever

500

00:19:50,430 --> 00:19:48,760

they are at least you have that basis to

501
00:19:52,049 --> 00:19:50,440
work with to make that insurance company

502
00:19:53,910 --> 00:19:52,059
your part during the investigation and

503
00:19:56,700 --> 00:19:53,920
trying to recover it so you don't have

504
00:19:58,169 --> 00:19:56,710
to have you know a billion dollars with

505
00:20:00,000 --> 00:19:58,179
your insurance you you just need enough

506
00:20:02,250 --> 00:20:00,010
to make the insurance company your

507
00:20:05,190 --> 00:20:02,260
partner to recover the material I see

508
00:20:07,169 --> 00:20:05,200
and and they work with your new business

509
00:20:08,610 --> 00:20:07,179
that you have now an insurance company

510
00:20:10,350 --> 00:20:08,620
will work with you on something like

511
00:20:12,560 --> 00:20:10,360
that to recover

512
00:20:14,880 --> 00:20:12,570
investigations for insurance companies

513
00:20:17,990 --> 00:20:14,890

the latest what we did was just a couple

514

00:20:20,490 --> 00:20:18,000

of months ago we were down in Houston a

515

00:20:22,050 --> 00:20:20,500

woman was in her home and there was a

516

00:20:22,920 --> 00:20:22,060

home invasion robbery where a man went

517

00:20:25,410 --> 00:20:22,930

in with a gun

518

00:20:27,330 --> 00:20:25,420

basically stole a Renoir right off the

519

00:20:31,710 --> 00:20:27,340

wall didn't know what it was she told

520

00:20:33,120 --> 00:20:31,720

that lady but home invasion robbery and

521

00:20:34,200 --> 00:20:33,130

we got a call right away from the

522

00:20:35,970 --> 00:20:34,210

insurance company went down and

523

00:20:37,950 --> 00:20:35,980

conducted the investigation at this

524

00:20:39,240 --> 00:20:37,960

point we have not recovered it but we're

525

00:20:42,390 --> 00:20:39,250

working on it

526

00:20:43,920 --> 00:20:42,400

Wow well that's great and let's talk a

527

00:20:45,990 --> 00:20:43,930

little bit about your business it's

528

00:20:47,880 --> 00:20:46,000

you're located in Pennsylvania but you

529

00:20:49,640 --> 00:20:47,890

travel dude should still travel

530

00:20:51,720 --> 00:20:49,650

worldwide oh absolutely

531

00:20:55,770 --> 00:20:51,730

in the last few years we've been to

532

00:20:58,970 --> 00:20:55,780

Paris you know Madrid Barcelona again

533

00:21:01,890 --> 00:20:58,980

Genoa Italy I working in London Romania

534

00:21:03,890 --> 00:21:01,900

chasing chasing these paintings is there

535

00:21:07,770 --> 00:21:03,900

any place in the world where more theft

536

00:21:10,170 --> 00:21:07,780

happens than other areas you know I

537

00:21:11,430 --> 00:21:10,180

think that it depends on the type of

538

00:21:13,530 --> 00:21:11,440

stuff that you're talking about it

539

00:21:15,480 --> 00:21:13,540

depends on the material I mean of course

540

00:21:16,680 --> 00:21:15,490

if you talk about looted artifacts you

541

00:21:21,330 --> 00:21:16,690

know those are coming from the source

542

00:21:23,130 --> 00:21:21,340

countries ma perceived that occurs quite

543

00:21:24,870 --> 00:21:23,140

often then you thought about paintings

544

00:21:27,570 --> 00:21:24,880

that side but it seems to be a lot of

545

00:21:28,950 --> 00:21:27,580

theft in Western Europe today and the

546

00:21:30,600 --> 00:21:28,960

reason for that is because I think that

547

00:21:32,580 --> 00:21:30,610

the quality of security

548

00:21:34,560 --> 00:21:32,590

in a lot of the museum's is a bit

549

00:21:36,180 --> 00:21:34,570

lacking and it's not because they don't

550

00:21:37,740 --> 00:21:36,190

want it it's because of the economic

551
00:21:39,900 --> 00:21:37,750
times and the fact that you know it's

552
00:21:41,760 --> 00:21:39,910
very expensive but and usually that what

553
00:21:43,290 --> 00:21:41,770
happens is you know security is one of

554
00:21:45,660 --> 00:21:43,300
the first things that people start to

555
00:21:47,850 --> 00:21:45,670
cut mm-hmm and the reason for that is

556
00:21:49,290 --> 00:21:47,860
because some quote the wrong side of the

557
00:21:51,750 --> 00:21:49,300
ledger she doesn't bring money in

558
00:21:53,850 --> 00:21:51,760
supposedly it costs money you know so

559
00:21:55,680 --> 00:21:53,860
what obviously might do is you don't say

560
00:21:58,230 --> 00:21:55,690
we have working guards and you know

561
00:22:00,120 --> 00:21:58,240
maybe we can make do with ten well what

562
00:22:02,010 --> 00:22:00,130
that does is it little lowers lowers

563
00:22:04,530 --> 00:22:02,020

your your security profile which makes

564

00:22:06,630 --> 00:22:04,540

you more apt to be a victim and it's up

565

00:22:10,110 --> 00:22:06,640

more you know you can something that's

566

00:22:12,450 --> 00:22:10,120

just so obvious a few weeks ago in

567

00:22:14,610 --> 00:22:12,460

Greece at the Olympia Museum you know

568

00:22:16,650 --> 00:22:14,620

they had cut the security group to

569

00:22:18,660 --> 00:22:16,660

nothing there was just one woman in the

570

00:22:20,190 --> 00:22:18,670

museum so a couple of guys went in they

571

00:22:22,830 --> 00:22:20,200

tied her up and still having more than

572

00:22:24,090 --> 00:22:22,840

40 items wow that just at gunpoint

573

00:22:26,850 --> 00:22:24,100

because they could

574

00:22:29,700 --> 00:22:26,860

yeah yeah do more thefts occur in

575

00:22:31,590 --> 00:22:29,710

museums and in private situations I

576

00:22:33,810 --> 00:22:31,600

think it's probably more you know I

577

00:22:35,730 --> 00:22:33,820

think the biggest manifests are not from

578

00:22:36,870 --> 00:22:35,740

museums because museums do have a

579

00:22:38,370 --> 00:22:36,880

certain amount of security that the

580

00:22:40,650 --> 00:22:38,380

biggest amount of thefts are from

581

00:22:42,900 --> 00:22:40,660

burglaries of private homes mm-hmm a lot

582

00:22:45,720 --> 00:22:42,910

of that is not artwork okay I mean it's

583

00:22:48,360 --> 00:22:45,730

not you know what we think is it's now

584

00:22:51,570 --> 00:22:48,370

artwork but no I think that private

585

00:22:53,610 --> 00:22:51,580

homes probably but the vast majority out

586

00:22:57,120 --> 00:22:53,620

there now in the business that you have

587

00:22:59,700 --> 00:22:57,130

now do you also give people security

588

00:23:02,610 --> 00:22:59,710

ideas as far as protecting their value

589

00:23:05,580 --> 00:23:02,620

yeah we do a collection security site

590

00:23:07,409 --> 00:23:05,590

facility management survey and what

591

00:23:08,820 --> 00:23:07,419

we'll do is we'll go in we'll look at

592

00:23:10,740 --> 00:23:08,830

the security the layers of security

593

00:23:13,110 --> 00:23:10,750

whether I have from perimeter

594

00:23:15,419 --> 00:23:13,120

penetration electronic and then you know

595

00:23:17,430 --> 00:23:15,429

human and and we'll make sure that

596

00:23:18,930 --> 00:23:17,440

things are done as far as best practices

597

00:23:21,539 --> 00:23:18,940

are concerned in all those types of

598

00:23:23,640 --> 00:23:21,549

situations also we do collection

599

00:23:25,470 --> 00:23:23,650

management if individuals don't know

600

00:23:27,779 --> 00:23:25,480

what they have or want to know what they

601
00:23:29,220 --> 00:23:27,789
have or you know people inherit things

602
00:23:30,419 --> 00:23:29,230
they don't realize they get these

603
00:23:32,270 --> 00:23:30,429
collections and they don't know what's

604
00:23:35,159 --> 00:23:32,280
in them you know we'll go and do that

605
00:23:36,810 --> 00:23:35,169
also do object ID for them as far as

606
00:23:39,480 --> 00:23:36,820
identifications concern and create

607
00:23:41,430 --> 00:23:39,490
databases so yeah we do all that plus

608
00:23:44,159 --> 00:23:41,440
due diligence promenades research as far

609
00:23:46,289 --> 00:23:44,169
as background material and - and we'll

610
00:23:47,970 --> 00:23:46,299
also do theft mitigation reports which

611
00:23:49,200 --> 00:23:47,980
you know if you want to sell something

612
00:23:51,360 --> 00:23:49,210
you want to know is make sure it's not

613
00:23:52,980 --> 00:23:51,370

let's just don't anywhere we can do a

614

00:23:54,659 --> 00:23:52,990

report for you on that as well so we're

615

00:23:56,399 --> 00:23:54,669

involved in many different parts the

616

00:23:59,039 --> 00:23:56,409

only thing we don't do its appraisal

617

00:24:00,779 --> 00:23:59,049

uh-huh that sounds like you know I mean

618

00:24:02,250 --> 00:24:00,789

I've I've done a lot of research on

619

00:24:06,270 --> 00:24:02,260

provenance and things and that's that's

620

00:24:08,640 --> 00:24:06,280

intense research sometimes so you know

621

00:24:11,190 --> 00:24:08,650

of course the higher profile PC user it

622

00:24:13,770 --> 00:24:11,200

usually is but when you get something

623

00:24:16,140 --> 00:24:13,780

that's still valuable that's sort of

624

00:24:18,270 --> 00:24:16,150

obscure sometimes you can't get too far

625

00:24:20,370 --> 00:24:18,280

as far as provenance goes right right

626

00:24:22,169 --> 00:24:20,380

well what we try to do is this would be

627

00:24:25,230 --> 00:24:22,179

I'll get I'll get somebody like you to

628

00:24:27,950 --> 00:24:25,240

do the back the ultimate background what

629

00:24:31,049 --> 00:24:27,960

we'll do is we'll check all the sources

630

00:24:32,820 --> 00:24:31,059

that are you know supposedly working

631

00:24:34,740 --> 00:24:32,830

from in other words yeah well I asked

632

00:24:36,990 --> 00:24:34,750

all the tough questions did you really

633

00:24:37,860 --> 00:24:37,000

get this we'll go we'll go you know pin

634

00:24:39,960 --> 00:24:37,870

it down

635

00:24:42,029 --> 00:24:39,970

yeah what I mean is it's not so much the

636

00:24:44,820 --> 00:24:42,039

provenance as far as you know where it

637

00:24:46,470 --> 00:24:44,830

was in 1860 but as much as today if you

638

00:24:48,330 --> 00:24:46,480

bought it from this place then we're

639

00:24:50,850 --> 00:24:48,340

gonna go find that place and we're gonna

640

00:24:53,519 --> 00:24:50,860

take a picture of it look it up in the

641

00:24:54,960 --> 00:24:53,529

you know in the in the files of the city

642

00:24:56,730 --> 00:24:54,970

of the county of the state to see who

643

00:24:58,140 --> 00:24:56,740

was there in renting wide and get a

644

00:25:00,269 --> 00:24:58,150

background report so then we'll go talk

645

00:25:02,539 --> 00:25:00,279

to everybody who was there so it's

646

00:25:05,010 --> 00:25:02,549

actually an investigation you know into

647

00:25:07,649 --> 00:25:05,020

where it came from and how far back we

648

00:25:10,830 --> 00:25:07,659

can go you know I was just at an auction

649

00:25:13,919 --> 00:25:10,840

two weeks ago and there was a painting

650

00:25:16,350 --> 00:25:13,929

that a person bought at a thrift store

651
00:25:21,060 --> 00:25:16,360
in Florida for \$3 I'm not exaggerating

652
00:25:23,250 --> 00:25:21,070
and it just sold for \$230,000 yeah

653
00:25:27,120 --> 00:25:23,260
and when you get a situation like that

654
00:25:30,720 --> 00:25:27,130
and and you kind of hit a brick wall

655
00:25:31,889 --> 00:25:30,730
don't you you know well yeah my first

656
00:25:34,409 --> 00:25:31,899
thought would be where did you get it

657
00:25:35,880 --> 00:25:34,419
was the thrift store get it yeah you

658
00:25:37,860 --> 00:25:35,890
know I mean where do they buy from where

659
00:25:39,779 --> 00:25:37,870
they get it was it donated who donated

660
00:25:41,940 --> 00:25:39,789
do they have any records and if they

661
00:25:44,310 --> 00:25:41,950
don't well I mean you're gonna take this

662
00:25:45,690 --> 00:25:44,320
for baggage again that's right yeah know

663
00:25:48,419 --> 00:25:45,700

what I would do then is I do a

664

00:25:50,930 --> 00:25:48,429

self-report mitigation report to see if

665

00:25:53,220 --> 00:25:50,940

it's listed as stolen anywhere uh-huh

666

00:25:56,220 --> 00:25:53,230

what they're doing in a thrift shop for

667

00:25:57,840 --> 00:25:56,230

three dollars yeah exactly that does

668

00:26:00,210 --> 00:25:57,850

seem to happen where the family loses

669

00:26:03,210 --> 00:26:00,220

touch of what the values are of things

670

00:26:04,289 --> 00:26:03,220

you know that can happen I thought you

671

00:26:06,570 --> 00:26:04,299

know something no Martin that's

672

00:26:08,789 --> 00:26:06,580

something that that bothers me and I'm

673

00:26:11,340 --> 00:26:08,799

gonna say something about this because I

674

00:26:13,019 --> 00:26:11,350

need use or not use it but here's you

675

00:26:14,820 --> 00:26:13,029

know today's world and we watch

676

00:26:17,370 --> 00:26:14,830

television okay and it's all these

677

00:26:20,730 --> 00:26:17,380

proliferation of television shows like

678

00:26:22,799 --> 00:26:20,740

American Pickers and pawn shop or porn

679

00:26:24,299 --> 00:26:22,809

star whatever it's called or you know

680

00:26:26,669 --> 00:26:24,309

all these different shows and the whole

681

00:26:30,360 --> 00:26:26,679

background the whole idea of the show is

682

00:26:31,830 --> 00:26:30,370

to buy low and sell high mm-hmm about

683

00:26:33,360 --> 00:26:31,840

how much money you could have made you

684

00:26:35,190 --> 00:26:33,370

make off of somebody you know

685

00:26:37,680 --> 00:26:35,200

yeah because quote you have more

686

00:26:41,580 --> 00:26:37,690

knowledge and they have well what that

687

00:26:44,430 --> 00:26:41,590

does I think it creates a feeling or you

688

00:26:46,470 --> 00:26:44,440

know an idea that this is okay to rip

689

00:26:47,909 --> 00:26:46,480

people off mm-hmm you see what I'm

690

00:26:49,230 --> 00:26:47,919

saying in other words yeah it's great

691

00:26:50,549 --> 00:26:49,240

you can go to a thrift shop but you have

692

00:26:51,450 --> 00:26:50,559

acknowledged to buy something for three

693

00:26:53,909 --> 00:26:51,460

dollars and so

694

00:26:55,830 --> 00:26:53,919

that's great but when you walk into

695

00:26:57,600 --> 00:26:55,840

someone's home and you say okay I'm

696

00:26:58,799 --> 00:26:57,610

gonna buy this from you for \$10 because

697

00:27:01,230 --> 00:26:58,809

that's all it's worth and you go out and

698

00:27:04,320 --> 00:27:01,240

sell it for 500 well you have an

699

00:27:05,519 --> 00:27:04,330

obligation I think ethically right you

700

00:27:07,710 --> 00:27:05,529

know there's no reason why you can't

701
00:27:10,350 --> 00:27:07,720
make it 20 percent or 25 percent profit

702
00:27:11,340 --> 00:27:10,360
but you know have it be a decent profit

703
00:27:13,440 --> 00:27:11,350
you know there's nothing wrong with

704
00:27:16,200 --> 00:27:13,450
bulls there's nothing wrong with bears

705
00:27:17,580 --> 00:27:16,210
but don't be a pig yeah no I'm

706
00:27:20,760 --> 00:27:17,590
definitely keeping this in because I

707
00:27:22,500 --> 00:27:20,770
agree with you a hundred percent and you

708
00:27:23,850 --> 00:27:22,510
know of course if you if you buy it

709
00:27:26,639 --> 00:27:23,860
innocently you know one of the the

710
00:27:29,580 --> 00:27:26,649
biggest fines I ever had I didn't know

711
00:27:31,139 --> 00:27:29,590
what I was buying and you know I bought

712
00:27:33,750 --> 00:27:31,149
it in a situation where was an open

713
00:27:35,399 --> 00:27:33,760

market it was a an estate sale and open

714

00:27:36,510 --> 00:27:35,409

to everyone and I had no idea what the

715

00:27:39,090 --> 00:27:36,520

thing is I thought it was great

716

00:27:42,149 --> 00:27:39,100

and you know I was I was 18 years old

717

00:27:44,610 --> 00:27:42,159

and made made a lot of money and in that

718

00:27:50,519 --> 00:27:44,620

case I think it you know was innocent

719

00:27:53,250 --> 00:27:50,529

but there are you know these like these

720

00:27:54,930 --> 00:27:53,260

people in these shows yeah they're being

721

00:27:59,340 --> 00:27:54,940

a grand eyes for with the people off

722

00:28:01,590 --> 00:27:59,350

yeah you know and it's not a profit plus

723

00:28:02,130 --> 00:28:01,600

six hundred dollars you know that's what

724

00:28:04,500 --> 00:28:02,140

it's all about

725

00:28:05,639 --> 00:28:04,510

mm-hm and that to me is wrong I mean I

726

00:28:07,529 --> 00:28:05,649

just think that that's you know the

727

00:28:09,870 --> 00:28:07,539

wrong way of doing business I think that

728

00:28:12,899 --> 00:28:09,880

sense that's the wrong message well a

729

00:28:15,810 --> 00:28:12,909

little inside to that is American

730

00:28:17,370 --> 00:28:15,820

Pickers got a flood of letters had to do

731

00:28:19,350 --> 00:28:17,380

with the cash register I believe that

732

00:28:21,930 --> 00:28:19,360

was bought for really a low amount of

733

00:28:24,000 --> 00:28:21,940

money and sold for a pretty good too

734

00:28:26,340 --> 00:28:24,010

much of a profit and they got a flood of

735

00:28:28,470 --> 00:28:26,350

letters so they had to change the format

736

00:28:34,710 --> 00:28:28,480

slightly of the show and show less

737

00:28:35,190 --> 00:28:34,720

profit okay yeah that's what it's all

738

00:28:38,490 --> 00:28:35,200

about

739

00:28:39,899 --> 00:28:38,500

yeah yeah and it's okay I think treasure

740

00:28:41,610 --> 00:28:39,909

hunting is great I think it's need to do

741

00:28:43,919 --> 00:28:41,620

that but there's another show coming out

742

00:28:47,580 --> 00:28:43,929

now called american diggers and once

743

00:28:50,700 --> 00:28:47,590

they show it was old-time wrestler or

744

00:28:52,620 --> 00:28:50,710

something because big stuff up out of

745

00:28:54,000 --> 00:28:52,630

the ground and then sells it for these

746

00:28:56,159 --> 00:28:54,010

huge profits or something

747

00:28:57,930 --> 00:28:56,169

and again i think that sends out the

748

00:29:00,389 --> 00:28:57,940

wrong message because I hope you losers

749

00:29:03,539 --> 00:29:00,399

realize it's illegal to do that you know

750

00:29:04,480 --> 00:29:03,549

on federal property on battlefields you

751
00:29:09,460 --> 00:29:04,490
know in

752
00:29:11,950 --> 00:29:09,470
Indian burial sites that's looting it's

753
00:29:13,210 --> 00:29:11,960
not you know it's not legal it's against

754
00:29:16,780 --> 00:29:13,220
the archaeological resource preservation

755
00:29:19,180 --> 00:29:16,790
these are federal crimes so I think that

756
00:29:20,890 --> 00:29:19,190
show that you know again that it grand

757
00:29:22,990 --> 00:29:20,900
eyes is that and says how great it is

758
00:29:24,940 --> 00:29:23,000
you know they really need to let people

759
00:29:25,360 --> 00:29:24,950
know that's not you know it's not a good

760
00:29:28,330 --> 00:29:25,370
idea

761
00:29:31,299 --> 00:29:28,340
unless you know where you're going now I

762
00:29:33,430 --> 00:29:31,309
heard of a case you just mentioned

763
00:29:35,560 --> 00:29:33,440

Indian burial ground I just heard of

764

00:29:37,299 --> 00:29:35,570

something a while back that came up

765

00:29:41,410 --> 00:29:37,309

about this is is that what you're

766

00:29:43,600 --> 00:29:41,420

alluding to basically I mean I did I did

767

00:29:45,700 --> 00:29:43,610

a case in Santa Fe New Mexico and

768

00:29:47,799 --> 00:29:45,710

involving about \$400,000 worth of

769

00:29:50,440 --> 00:29:47,809

material that was being offered for sale

770

00:29:52,690 --> 00:29:50,450

against the North American graves with a

771

00:29:55,270 --> 00:29:52,700

repatriation act which is basically

772

00:29:57,520 --> 00:29:55,280

protection of you know tribal material

773

00:29:59,230 --> 00:29:57,530

and these individuals were selling this

774

00:30:00,610 --> 00:29:59,240

material for you know there's a sacred

775

00:30:02,049 --> 00:30:00,620

material come and came and came out of

776

00:30:03,760 --> 00:30:02,059

the key was in the pueblos as and

777

00:30:05,080 --> 00:30:03,770

whatnot and we're selling it to

778

00:30:06,820 --> 00:30:05,090

collectors and dealers and it's all

779

00:30:08,290 --> 00:30:06,830

illegal stuff I mean can't smell that

780

00:30:11,530 --> 00:30:08,300

material it's it's owned by the tribes

781

00:30:14,200 --> 00:30:11,540

you know so there's a lot of cases

782

00:30:16,180 --> 00:30:14,210

involving that material well and I know

783

00:30:20,320 --> 00:30:16,190

in Mexico for one thing there's a lot of

784

00:30:22,390 --> 00:30:20,330

the shaft tomb see pre-columbian burial

785

00:30:24,970 --> 00:30:22,400

figures that they're on the open market

786

00:30:31,180 --> 00:30:24,980

all over the place but that's uh that

787

00:30:34,150 --> 00:30:31,190

doesn't seem to be illegal and but

788

00:30:37,030 --> 00:30:34,160

there's so many pieces here that are

789

00:30:38,620 --> 00:30:37,040

already here but now you know we have a

790

00:30:42,040 --> 00:30:38,630

treaty with Mexico which does not allow

791

00:30:43,630 --> 00:30:42,050

the importation of those materials hmm

792

00:30:45,700 --> 00:30:43,640

and all of those were dug up from

793

00:30:47,770 --> 00:30:45,710

farmers and they would sell them yeah

794

00:30:49,600 --> 00:30:47,780

from whatever yeah well you know that's

795

00:30:51,250 --> 00:30:49,610

the thing I would and for your listeners

796

00:30:53,260 --> 00:30:51,260

who are into you know collections of

797

00:30:54,850 --> 00:30:53,270

Antiquities you know it's something that

798

00:30:57,040 --> 00:30:54,860

you really had to be aware of because

799

00:30:58,450 --> 00:30:57,050

every year the United States signs new

800

00:31:00,340 --> 00:30:58,460

memorandums of understanding with

801
00:31:02,110 --> 00:31:00,350
different countries I think there's

802
00:31:04,210 --> 00:31:02,120
thirteen or fourteen now that you cannot

803
00:31:06,340 --> 00:31:04,220
import material from those countries so

804
00:31:07,830 --> 00:31:06,350
you know you have to be careful with it

805
00:31:10,750 --> 00:31:07,840
and know what you're doing before you

806
00:31:12,610 --> 00:31:10,760
get Navarro I think they just signed

807
00:31:18,070 --> 00:31:12,620
another treaty in December with Greece

808
00:31:20,049 --> 00:31:18,080
involving ancient coins really Wow

809
00:31:22,120 --> 00:31:20,059
you can you name a number of a few other

810
00:31:25,690 --> 00:31:22,130
countries that this is our own place

811
00:31:30,549 --> 00:31:25,700
Thailand Guatemala

812
00:31:32,110 --> 00:31:30,559
Peru look at in China and adding China

813
00:31:33,460 --> 00:31:32,120

to it I don't think they've done that

814

00:31:37,960 --> 00:31:33,470

quite yet but I think you're looking at

815

00:31:39,669 --> 00:31:37,970

it Greece Italy all those countries you

816

00:31:41,919 --> 00:31:39,679

know all those are source countries

817

00:31:48,220 --> 00:31:41,929

where this material is bad

818

00:31:49,509 --> 00:31:48,230

I imagine Egypt Egypt Yeah right right

819

00:31:52,240 --> 00:31:49,519

sliding back to what we were talking

820

00:31:54,039 --> 00:31:52,250

about earlier the thieves you know how

821

00:31:55,750 --> 00:31:54,049

you you watched in the movies they

822

00:31:57,279 --> 00:31:55,760

always have all this high-tech stuff and

823

00:31:59,529 --> 00:31:57,289

somehow they have all the money to have

824

00:32:01,210 --> 00:31:59,539

all this high-tech stuff you know to

825

00:32:03,039 --> 00:32:01,220

steal the diamond out of the museum and

826

00:32:05,080 --> 00:32:03,049

stuff like that have you ever seen a

827

00:32:07,570 --> 00:32:05,090

case where someone actually used any hi

828

00:32:10,149 --> 00:32:07,580

text there was one case a number of

829

00:32:12,970 --> 00:32:10,159

years ago in Vienna where individual

830

00:32:16,990 --> 00:32:12,980

went into the the State Museum install a

831

00:32:19,629 --> 00:32:17,000

golden statue called the the saltcellar

832

00:32:21,940 --> 00:32:19,639

by Julie knee and that individual didn't

833

00:32:24,159 --> 00:32:21,950

have information about how to cut or he

834

00:32:27,009 --> 00:32:24,169

was an alarm specialist so he did have a

835

00:32:29,680 --> 00:32:27,019

way of silencing the alarms when he went

836

00:32:31,659 --> 00:32:29,690

in and he wasn't detected but other than

837

00:32:35,080 --> 00:32:31,669

that usually it's just an armed robbery

838

00:32:37,570 --> 00:32:35,090

or it's a shoplifting you know I think

839

00:32:40,799 --> 00:32:37,580

where the most high-tech pieces I've

840

00:32:44,169 --> 00:32:40,809

seen in recent years was an exacto knife

841

00:32:46,450 --> 00:32:44,179

one bat dealer was using to cut maps out

842

00:32:47,529 --> 00:32:46,460

of the rare book library at the Beinecke

843

00:32:50,740 --> 00:32:47,539

library inhale

844

00:32:53,860 --> 00:32:50,750

so I mean usually it's pretty pretty

845

00:32:55,419 --> 00:32:53,870

low-tech stuff well you know I I did an

846

00:32:57,820 --> 00:32:55,429

appraisal years ago I think you'd find

847

00:33:00,460 --> 00:32:57,830

this interesting because I did an

848

00:33:02,980 --> 00:33:00,470

appraisal that the woman had a mansion

849

00:33:03,669 --> 00:33:02,990

in Pennsylvania that basically burned to

850

00:33:06,129 --> 00:33:03,679

the ground

851

00:33:10,629 --> 00:33:06,139

and it was an early mansion and in it

852

00:33:13,470 --> 00:33:10,639

she had a one of the well-known Gilbert

853

00:33:16,870 --> 00:33:13,480

Stuart paintings of George Washington

854

00:33:19,509 --> 00:33:16,880

and she said yes we lost that and I was

855

00:33:21,519 --> 00:33:19,519

in her basement doing an appraisal and I

856

00:33:22,810 --> 00:33:21,529

saw this frame I asked her what the

857

00:33:24,909 --> 00:33:22,820

frame was because it was an amazing

858

00:33:26,260 --> 00:33:24,919

frame very large one and and she said

859

00:33:30,669 --> 00:33:26,270

well that's what the Gilbert Stuart was

860

00:33:31,820 --> 00:33:30,679

in and I looked at it and the there was

861

00:33:36,789 --> 00:33:31,830

razor cut

862

00:33:40,310 --> 00:33:36,799

around the stretcher and smoke on the

863

00:33:42,110 --> 00:33:40,320

jagged edge of the canvas and I said you

864

00:33:45,590 --> 00:33:42,120

know what someone cut this painting out

865

00:33:48,799 --> 00:33:45,600

of the frame before the house burned

866

00:33:51,320 --> 00:33:48,809

down and the woman started crying I mean

867

00:33:53,419 --> 00:33:51,330

she had no idea I just can't imagine how

868

00:33:55,100 --> 00:33:53,429

that could happen have you ever heard of

869

00:33:59,389 --> 00:33:55,110

a situation like that

870

00:34:00,830 --> 00:33:59,399

no but they find it she's never I was in

871

00:34:03,019 --> 00:34:00,840

touch with her a little while after this

872

00:34:05,659 --> 00:34:03,029

appraisal and asked you know what she

873

00:34:07,370 --> 00:34:05,669

did about this but as far as I know well

874

00:34:09,320 --> 00:34:07,380

I don't know anything has ever happened

875

00:34:12,500 --> 00:34:09,330

I would think did that be pretty easier

876

00:34:14,119 --> 00:34:12,510

fine I mean if it's out there you know I

877

00:34:15,919 --> 00:34:14,129

don't know how many years ago was or

878

00:34:17,869 --> 00:34:15,929

whatever but I mean it should be

879

00:34:19,879 --> 00:34:17,879

reported so they can be added into the

880

00:34:21,409 --> 00:34:19,889

databases so that you know if it does

881

00:34:25,099 --> 00:34:21,419

come off or officer doesn't own for sale

882

00:34:26,480 --> 00:34:25,109

we can get a I want to speak about

883

00:34:28,940 --> 00:34:26,490

auction do you have a lot of situations

884

00:34:31,520 --> 00:34:28,950

where you've actually had to go to an

885

00:34:36,020 --> 00:34:31,530

auction of an upcoming article that was

886

00:34:38,000 --> 00:34:36,030

to be auctioned and in confiscated with

887

00:34:39,589 --> 00:34:38,010

the bureau with the FBI on a number of

888

00:34:41,720 --> 00:34:39,599

occasions we stopped the auctions and

889

00:34:43,099 --> 00:34:41,730

and recovered material could pick about

890

00:34:46,040 --> 00:34:43,109

three different occasions where we did

891

00:34:47,659 --> 00:34:46,050

that sure time in New York as well with

892

00:34:49,970 --> 00:34:47,669

Christie's or Sotheby's whatever there's

893

00:34:51,619 --> 00:34:49,980

these antiquities auctions and whatnot

894

00:34:53,869 --> 00:34:51,629

and when I say all I don't mean all

895

00:34:55,220 --> 00:34:53,879

maybe once or twice a year where you

896

00:34:57,589 --> 00:34:55,230

know countries will make a claim on

897

00:34:59,150 --> 00:34:57,599

something and then and then what happens

898

00:35:00,800 --> 00:34:59,160

is you know once the claim is made then

899

00:35:03,260 --> 00:35:00,810

the auction I mean the auction of that

900

00:35:05,960 --> 00:35:03,270

specific item might be it might be held

901
00:35:08,270 --> 00:35:05,970
up you know or done until until it's

902
00:35:10,640 --> 00:35:08,280
been you know identified and adjudicated

903
00:35:12,800 --> 00:35:10,650
but the auction continues is just the

904
00:35:14,710 --> 00:35:12,810
one item comes off yes I had a situation

905
00:35:18,500 --> 00:35:14,720
where I had a really nice weather vane

906
00:35:19,910 --> 00:35:18,510
that was I ever ties everywhere and that

907
00:35:21,560 --> 00:35:19,920
same thing happened it was a stolen

908
00:35:23,210 --> 00:35:21,570
weather vane I had no idea and the

909
00:35:26,690 --> 00:35:23,220
person that owned it had no idea he

910
00:35:30,620 --> 00:35:26,700
bought it at had a large fair you know

911
00:35:33,680 --> 00:35:30,630
antique fair back I don't know how that

912
00:35:35,839 --> 00:35:33,690
ever panned out but he spent some money

913
00:35:36,970 --> 00:35:35,849

on it too I would tell your listeners I

914

00:35:39,260 --> 00:35:36,980

mean you know if you're gonna buy

915

00:35:40,970 --> 00:35:39,270

material that's you know it has any kind

916

00:35:43,190 --> 00:35:40,980

of substantial value you need to get

917

00:35:45,380 --> 00:35:43,200

good good provenance and good history on

918

00:35:47,210 --> 00:35:45,390

it and also make sure that the person

919

00:35:48,740 --> 00:35:47,220

from as legitimate and get their

920

00:35:50,660 --> 00:35:48,750

information look at the driver's license

921

00:35:53,839 --> 00:35:50,670

get their name and numbers because you

922

00:35:54,620 --> 00:35:53,849

never know you know yeah that's that's

923

00:35:57,620 --> 00:35:54,630

good advice

924

00:36:00,109 --> 00:35:57,630

are there ever high-profile thefts that

925

00:36:02,000 --> 00:36:00,119

are just kept out of the news well you

926

00:36:03,799 --> 00:36:02,010

know I think that sometimes museums have

927

00:36:06,740 --> 00:36:03,809

this mistaken idea that they should not

928

00:36:09,140 --> 00:36:06,750

report and I think that's that's an

929

00:36:12,170 --> 00:36:09,150

older idea back in Nam in the 70s and

930

00:36:14,029 --> 00:36:12,180

80s and and before museums were loath to

931

00:36:15,470 --> 00:36:14,039

report missing items because they

932

00:36:18,440 --> 00:36:15,480

thought that they were affect you know

933

00:36:20,029 --> 00:36:18,450

future the donations so that means if

934

00:36:21,829 --> 00:36:20,039

you and that type of thing and really

935

00:36:23,779 --> 00:36:21,839

bad publicity but I think today there's

936

00:36:26,420 --> 00:36:23,789

a whole sea change or ideas and that and

937

00:36:28,130 --> 00:36:26,430

the fact is you know if you don't report

938

00:36:30,890 --> 00:36:28,140

that you can't you can't get it back

939

00:36:32,690 --> 00:36:30,900

number one mmm it goes away secondly

940

00:36:35,299 --> 00:36:32,700

you're inviting the criminal to come

941

00:36:37,730 --> 00:36:35,309

back and do it again okay gonna get away

942

00:36:39,589 --> 00:36:37,740

with it and thirdly you know as far as

943

00:36:41,150 --> 00:36:39,599

due diligence is concerned the people

944

00:36:42,829 --> 00:36:41,160

who are in charge of the museum when in

945

00:36:45,589 --> 00:36:42,839

charge of the historic house or whatever

946

00:36:46,819 --> 00:36:45,599

may have some liability issues because

947

00:36:48,500 --> 00:36:46,829

they're not you know they're not they're

948

00:36:51,170 --> 00:36:48,510

not withholding their duties and doing

949

00:36:52,370 --> 00:36:51,180

it correctly so you know there's a lot

950

00:36:54,259 --> 00:36:52,380

of different ways of thinking about

951
00:36:56,210 --> 00:36:54,269
nowadays I think most of times most of

952
00:36:59,990 --> 00:36:56,220
these high-profile pieces do they're

953
00:37:03,140 --> 00:37:00,000
reported now do you yourself go into

954
00:37:05,779 --> 00:37:03,150
museums and and look at pieces and think

955
00:37:08,509 --> 00:37:05,789
well this could be taken this way this

956
00:37:10,309 --> 00:37:08,519
could be stolen that way no I never

957
00:37:11,660 --> 00:37:10,319
think of how pieces can be stolen I

958
00:37:14,779 --> 00:37:11,670
always think about how pieces can be

959
00:37:17,299 --> 00:37:14,789
better secured ah no I mean it's a

960
00:37:19,279 --> 00:37:17,309
different thought process it's more of

961
00:37:21,319 --> 00:37:19,289
you know I was just had a better you

962
00:37:23,210 --> 00:37:21,329
know a better hanger system or I wish

963
00:37:25,220 --> 00:37:23,220

these these bolts where this was bolted

964

00:37:26,960 --> 00:37:25,230

you know to the to the to the wall or

965

00:37:29,420 --> 00:37:26,970

you know maybe that piece shouldn't

966

00:37:30,920 --> 00:37:29,430

because so close to the door but you

967

00:37:32,870 --> 00:37:30,930

know I always think about how you know

968

00:37:34,460 --> 00:37:32,880

they can strengthen security hmm

969

00:37:36,920 --> 00:37:34,470

well they must train you through the FBI

970

00:37:39,769 --> 00:37:36,930

how to think like a criminal or how a

971

00:37:41,769 --> 00:37:39,779

criminal thinks I should say well you

972

00:37:44,450 --> 00:37:41,779

know when we talk about art theft and

973

00:37:47,509 --> 00:37:44,460

art crime it's not about our history

974

00:37:49,309 --> 00:37:47,519

it's about the art business so you know

975

00:37:51,859 --> 00:37:49,319

having a business background in the

976

00:37:54,349 --> 00:37:51,869

auction galleries or in the art world is

977

00:37:56,749 --> 00:37:54,359

very helpful so it's all about how to

978

00:37:58,370 --> 00:37:56,759

make a deal in the art world now did you

979

00:37:58,820 --> 00:37:58,380

have any background with that at all

980

00:37:59,840 --> 00:37:58,830

yeah

981

00:38:03,650 --> 00:37:59,850

my parents were in the antiques business

982

00:38:05,270 --> 00:38:03,660

oh so I kind of grew up in to a certain

983

00:38:06,500 --> 00:38:05,280

degree and was actually working with my

984

00:38:09,020 --> 00:38:06,510

father you know

985

00:38:10,880 --> 00:38:09,030

you know Asian antique shop on Howard

986

00:38:14,090 --> 00:38:10,890

Street in Baltimore which was now the

987

00:38:15,980 --> 00:38:14,100

the antique row of the city so he he

988

00:38:17,540 --> 00:38:15,990

always had a desire and always loved

989

00:38:19,970 --> 00:38:17,550

Asian antiques and he started a business

990

00:38:22,520 --> 00:38:19,980

up and for a few years I would go out

991

00:38:25,400 --> 00:38:22,530

help them on Saturdays or none and you

992

00:38:27,680 --> 00:38:25,410

know you learned how to make a deal and

993

00:38:29,510 --> 00:38:27,690

that by the way that I'm sure you're

994

00:38:32,120 --> 00:38:29,520

probably aware this but the Asian market

995

00:38:36,560 --> 00:38:32,130

as strong as can be right now as far as

996

00:38:39,230 --> 00:38:36,570

Chinese goes yeah it sure has

997

00:38:40,580 --> 00:38:39,240

yeah one less we're about out of time

998

00:38:43,490 --> 00:38:40,590

here you know I feel like I could talk

999

00:38:46,430 --> 00:38:43,500

to you all day you mentioned earlier

1000

00:38:48,620 --> 00:38:46,440

that about somewhere around 10% of the

1001

00:38:50,600 --> 00:38:48,630

items are not recovered and never

1002

00:38:52,970 --> 00:38:50,610

resurfaced what what would you have to

1003

00:38:57,380 --> 00:38:52,980

guess if you had to happens to those

1004

00:38:59,210 --> 00:38:57,390

items I think you destroyed oh yeah we

1005

00:39:00,980 --> 00:38:59,220

do lose pieces I mean I told you those

1006

00:39:02,750 --> 00:39:00,990

pieces that were stolen from the app and

1007

00:39:04,460 --> 00:39:02,760

it's very matter we're destroyed

1008

00:39:06,800 --> 00:39:04,470

I think paintings sometimes still over

1009

00:39:08,660 --> 00:39:06,810

over years without properly cared for or

1010

00:39:10,270 --> 00:39:08,670

when they're cut out of frames I think

1011

00:39:12,590 --> 00:39:10,280

sometimes it does a lot of damage and

1012

00:39:15,050 --> 00:39:12,600

sometimes if I transported correctly so

1013

00:39:18,860 --> 00:39:15,060

I think that that is our percentage of

1014

00:39:20,270 --> 00:39:18,870

loss mm-hmm and that doesn't mean to say

1015

00:39:22,070 --> 00:39:20,280

that we're never gonna get them back it

1016

00:39:23,960 --> 00:39:22,080

means it also means sometimes they're

1017

00:39:25,940 --> 00:39:23,970

distort away and they haven't you know

1018

00:39:27,470 --> 00:39:25,950

they haven't surfaced at this point so I

1019

00:39:28,610 --> 00:39:27,480

would think sometimes it takes a whole

1020

00:39:31,610 --> 00:39:28,620

generation you know before they come

1021

00:39:35,060 --> 00:39:31,620

back yeah well an ebay first began

1022

00:39:36,590 --> 00:39:35,070

around 1997 1998 somewhere around there

1023

00:39:39,710 --> 00:39:36,600

I bought a painting and I was actually

1024

00:39:43,820 --> 00:39:39,720

contacted by the FBI because the person

1025

00:39:45,920 --> 00:39:43,830

that sold the painting I guess had sold

1026
00:39:48,650 --> 00:39:45,930
some fraudulent paintings does the Art

1027
00:39:53,270 --> 00:39:48,660
Crime Team keep an eye on eBay and other

1028
00:39:55,040 --> 00:39:53,280
online resale I own it as much as they

1029
00:39:57,380 --> 00:39:55,050
you know they take complaints from it in

1030
00:39:58,910 --> 00:39:57,390
other words if someone I don't think

1031
00:40:00,800 --> 00:39:58,920
it's a proactive situation where they're

1032
00:40:02,180 --> 00:40:00,810
actually looking at it every day what

1033
00:40:03,410 --> 00:40:02,190
happens is so if someone makes a

1034
00:40:05,330 --> 00:40:03,420
complaint off of it

1035
00:40:07,300 --> 00:40:05,340
yeah they look at that and take that

1036
00:40:09,140 --> 00:40:07,310
seriously you know the biggest

1037
00:40:11,570 --> 00:40:09,150
complaints that come into the cyber

1038
00:40:11,970 --> 00:40:11,580

crime Center are ebay fraud so that's

1039

00:40:13,890 --> 00:40:11,980

the

1040

00:40:15,990 --> 00:40:13,900

number of complaints and it's not good

1041

00:40:17,580 --> 00:40:16,000

as any royalty day it's just some of the

1042

00:40:19,770 --> 00:40:17,590

material that goes on there it's not not

1043

00:40:21,150 --> 00:40:19,780

correct this has been really fascinating

1044

00:40:22,650 --> 00:40:21,160

all right Luther Martin thanks so much

1045

00:40:24,390 --> 00:40:22,660

for the opportunity to be on the show

1046

00:40:26,930 --> 00:40:24,400

and best of luck to you

1047

00:40:28,890 --> 00:40:26,940

so this is Martin Willis with Bob Witten

1048

00:40:30,540 --> 00:40:28,900

boy try it again

1049

00:40:41,460 --> 00:40:30,550

this is Martin Willis with Bob of

1050

00:40:43,349 --> 00:40:41,470

Whitman of Whitman I'm sorry I think I

1051

00:40:51,100 --> 00:40:43,359

got to keep that end and we're sigh and

1052

00:40:51,110 --> 00:40:56,980

[Music]