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The destruction and the extensive looting of the National Museum of Baghdad following the end of the battle conflicts in Iraq, demands that the national community should take affirmative steps in order to discourage plundering and ensure that no illicit trade will ever take place in the material of the cultural heritage. The vivid images of the looting of the museum exhibits have caused a great surprise to the national community, taking into consideration the fact that a substantial number of countries, worldwide, have ratified and enacted international, bi-lateral conventions and state laws, which ensure the respect as well as the protection of the cultural objects in case of an arm conflict, first and foremost the widely known Hague Convention 1954 (Convention for the Protection of cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict). Despite international efforts and protests, the cultural heritage will always be in jeopardy, due to the actions of unscrupulous individuals, who, by grasping the first possible chance will take advantage of it in their own interests. Thus, the destruction of the National Museum of Baghdad was triggered off our decision to mention in an article of this issue the code of moral virtues and museum regulations in accordance with which the museums should act. In this issue, more specifically, among the subjects presented, one is related to the Palaeontological and the Geological Museum of the University of Athens and another one concerns a review about the Museum of Natural History at the Arsakeia -Tositsia schools. In addition, three articles focus on two different activities, which are just as well essential for the maintenance of museums. Two articles concern the field of conservation, while the last one is related to the financial activities of the museum organizations.

In the previous issue of our journal we asked our readers to comment on these attempts of the University of Athens as well as let us know, whether they are interested in receiving the journal in the future. We would like to thank all the readers, who have promptly responded to this request and have submitted positive remarks on this publication alongside with those, who have supplied us with fruitful comments in order to ensure that in the future the structure as well as the content of this publication will be improved even further.

As we have already mentioned in our previous issues, the aim of this publication is to obtain a more scientific nature in order to become one of the basic tools of the Hellenic bibliography in the field of Museology. To achieve this purpose, the editorial team of the journal came to the conclusion that it is essential the authors should comply with specific instructions, concerning the structure and the content of the articles, so that the journal should acquire the desired scientific character and required homogeneity. On this basis, in the beginning of this issue we provide you with practical guidelines, which the future collaborators of our journal should follow.

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Geological Museum and the Museum of
Archaeology and History of Art of the
University of Athens.

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SEMESTRAL EDITION OF THE MUSEUMS BOARD OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ATHENS

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