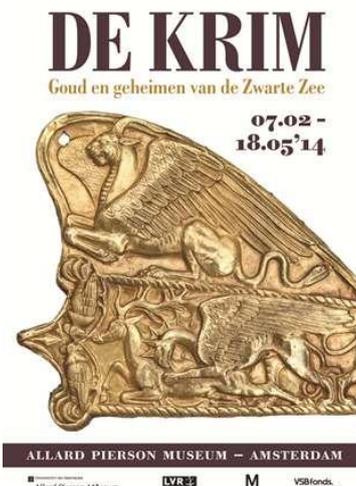


Press release, 29/01/2014

## THE CRIMEA

Gold and secrets of the Black Sea

7 February to 18 May 2014



### **Golden discoveries at the crossroads between Europe and Asia** *Allard Pierson Museum opens exhibition on the Crimea*

Starting on 7 February, the Allard Pierson Museum presents *The Crimea - Gold and secrets of the Black Sea*. The exhibition will feature some spectacular archaeological finds from five Ukrainian museums. Never before has Ukraine made so many prize archaeological exhibits available on loan: stunning artefacts made of gold, including a scabbard and a ceremonial helmet, and countless precious gems. These objects and other archaeological discoveries reveal the rich history of the peninsula colonised by the Greeks since the seventh century BC. The Crimea and the Black Sea were and remain an important crossroads between Europe and Asia. A perfect example of this is featured in the exhibition: a lacquered box, originally from China, that in Roman times found its way to the Crimea via the Silk Road. This exhibition casts new light on the Scythians, Goths and Huns, for centuries dismissed as little more than 'barbarians'.

Exhibition conservator and archaeologist Valentina Mordvintseva, based at the Crimean Branch of the Ukrainian National Academy of Sciences in Simferopol, will be on hand during the construction of the exhibition at the Allard Pierson Museum and will be available for interviews. Mordvintseva is the absolute specialist in the field of Crimean archaeology.

The exhibition will be officially opened by several key dignitaries on Thursday 6 February. They will unveil a gold ceremonial helmet dating from the fourth century BC. This precious Scythian helmet was split in half during excavations but has been restored to its former glory following painstaking restoration work.

**Press preview:** Monday 3 February at 11.00

**Opening :** Thursday 6 February, 15.00 to 17.00

**Address:** Allard Pierson Museum, Oude Turfmarkt 127

**To register** for the press preview on 3 February and/or to request an interview, contact: Amber van Schagen, a.e.vanschagen@uva.nl +31 (0)20-5252555 / +31 (0)6-30058181

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**Note for editors:**

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**The Crimea. Gold and secrets of the Black Sea** 7 February 2014 to 18 May 2014

Allard Pierson Museum, Oude Turfmarkt 127, Amsterdam, [www.allardpiersonmuseum.nl](http://www.allardpiersonmuseum.nl), +31 (0)20 52 52 556