

MoB Lunar Chalice Loan Request Current Status Feb 24, 2020

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The Museum of the Bible (MOTB), in Washington DC, has requested the loan of the Apollo 11 chalice used for lunar communion for a temporary display November 2020 through November 2021 with a one-month return to WPC in July 2021 for our Lunar Communion activities.

The Museum has provided WPC with a 2nd draft Loan Agreement with the terms of the loan. Many outstanding technical items have been clarified. They are:

- Both the silver Communion Chalice and the Presbyterian Church Seal used on Apollo 11 will be loaned together as a set. (At WPC's suggestion, this was to emphasize that this had the backing of the larger Presbyterian Church.)
- WPC will not be without the items for the 51st or 52nd Lunar Communion in 2020 and 2021.
- Insurance Appraisal: WPC can have the items independently, appraised to set the insurance value. The items can be appraised separately.
- Insurance Coverage: The insurance cover taken out is the so-called "All Risks". ... The scope of cover of this insurance is usually described by the expression "nail to nail", which means that the item is insured from the time it is moved from its original location until it is returned there.
- The items will only be returned to WPC with the Clerk of Session as the point of contact.
- WPC has the right to withdraw the items from the Museum at any time.
- Warranty/Title: The Museum would require no warranty or title from WPC for these items.
- Transportation/handling: [From the Museum...] "Fine Art Transport" would provide a packing and pickup service and secure transportation to MOTB. We use Masterpiece one of the most experienced shippers in the country. As the objects are of a smaller dimension a Hand Carry/Courier by one of your staff could also be a possibility if you desired to be present throughout the whole shipment and to be present for the installation. MOTB would cover either cost. [MOTB] would recommend the Fine Art option as it is the safest and most secure. Note: It has not been clarified if "Fine Art Transport" is a company or the name of a MOTB service.
- Display: This will be a static display inside the Museum.
- WPC should take detailed, high magnification images of these items. These should be archived in a documented chain of custody manner and not distributed, for purposes of verification upon return, etc., wherein a copy based on published images could be detected.

Other questions have been raised.

- Museum Admission: The Museum does charge admission.
- News reports on past Museum activities:

- Articles on the Museum's acquisition problems are available with an internet search. This article appeared in January:
<https://www.theguardian.com/news/2020/jan/09/a-scandal-in-oxford-the-curious-case-of-the-stolen-gospel>
- I invited the Museum to address these concerns. Their letter "MOTB Letter to Webster Presbyterian Church" is included in its entirety.