

## THE IMPACT OF TRADE BANS ON IVORY COLLECTIONS

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The Ivory Education Institute is dedicated to enhancing understanding of the historic, practical and cultural importance of ivory. Because of its ivory's extraordinary chemistry, creamy appearance, and relative rarity, it has been a favored material of artisans and the aristocracy from ancient times. As a result, it has long attracted collectors interested in studying, preserving and displaying its properties.

The Ivory Education Institute represents collectors of ivory objects made from or with the ivory of elephants, walruses, whales, boars, and hippopotami, as well as those who appraise, curate, conserve and market ivory items. All of these interested parties are deeply affected by the current bans on ivory trading. Here's why:

**All *serious* collectors are interested in improving their collections — either by acquiring higher quality examples and/or specializing their collections in particular areas. It takes considerable resources to fund, research, and catalog a world class collection as well as to pay the expenses of preserving and protecting it with proper insurance, effective security equipment and trained personnel.**

By ending trade in ivory, many collectors are no longer able to generate the funds needed to keep their collections active. The Ivory Education Institute has expressed the concern that when major collections go stagnant, deteriorate and eventually end operations, they will no longer be able to make a contribution to our culture.

Serious collectors provide the first draft of historic preservation. They make sure that the best examples of any art form or artifact are removed from the marketplace to be preserved and protected. Museums have always relied on collectors for their displays. Name a major art museum in America that is *not* based on a major donated private collection. We are in danger of losing the source material that every museum relies on through short sighted and ineffective policies.