

Smuggling of Cultural Values in the customs posts of Samara and Smolensk

Prepared by Olga Khropina and Filippova Elena

- Cultural values are the heritage of the state and its people. The Russian Constitution enshrines the right of every citizen to participate in cultural life and cultural institutions, access to cultural property (Art. 44). The duty of the state consists in ensuring the granted right of the citizen, including criminal and legal means.



In 2011 year the Central operative customs and the TsTU regional customs raised 34 criminal cases according to Art. 188 upon smuggling of cultural and historical values.



- At the end of October during the inspection of wagon with the use of x-ray machine was found the cup wrapped in a towel from metal of white color with the image of two eagles, a German cross with a swastika and an inscription «1939».



Inscriptions in German said:
Sergeant-Major Franz Hagelshtange,
August 16, 1942", "For outstanding
achievements in the air war."



- The German tank of times of the Second World War was detained at Smolensk customs. Historically significant subject which isn't present even in museums of Germany, was taken out from Russia as scrap metal. To prevent smuggling information on value of the tank, helped information received on channels of World Customs Organization (WTO).



- During the customs control of international postal items in Samara in the train following from Ukraine to Russia were found: two silver coins, par 15, and 20 cents, made in 1893 and in 1870 the Mint St. Petersburg, eleven postage stamps in England, Germany (Saxony, Braunshveyt, Hannover) and Iran.



On July 6 the staff of the Samara customs raised four criminal cases on the facts of smuggling of cultural values in the international postal items.

- In postal items from Germany to Russia were found a picture "Behind a card play" and a gratuity cross of German mother having many children in silver on a tape. The picture is written by the Bergholz at the end of the 19th century in Western Europe. The cross is made in Germany in 1938.

