

Dear Gentlemen and Women of the Connecticut State Legislature:

Recently some English antiques dealers who were coming to exhibit in Miami Beach, and somehow didn't have every "i" dotted and "t" crossed, were forced to destroy hundreds of thousands of dollars of 18th and 19th century antiques that contained ivory. These were important artifacts of our world's past. I am sickened by these abominable acts. Only men with little minds and no heart would do such a thing.

Elephants and Rhinoceros and other creatures with ivory are worth getting angry about with regard to environmental protection. Thankfully today we are aware of the threat to endangered species and are trying to do something about it. I love animals and am particularly concerned about protecting them from poachers and illegal trade. But I also love history. The way in which governments are enacting laws is misguided. Further, and the way that these laws are forcing law enforcement to carrying out the penalties is barbaric.

This is akin to book burnings. And they are burning the wrong books. An 18th century inlaid chest or tea caddy or rifle has nothing to do with the current problem. And our government and law enforcement have no right to seize personal property with ivory that is from our past.

Who in the world has any logic left? Some days it seems like no one at all, at least not in state and federal governments. I hope that Connecticut can show an uncommon degree of sense in discerning history and antiques from the present problem with poaching.

Warm Regards,

Jeff

**Jeff R. Bridgman American Antiques, INC**

*Early American Flags \* Painted American Furniture \* Folk Art*

Member - Antiques Council, Antiques Dealers Asso. of America (ADA), Antiques & Arts Dealers League (AADLA), Cinoa  
York County, Pennsylvania