

BACTRIAN TREASURE INVENTORY ROLE CARDS

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1. Judge

In 2004 archaeologists were invited to view the objects that had been taken from sealed vaults in the Presidential Palace. However, the key holder (*tahilwidar*), who was originally appointed to oversee the safety of this collection had disappeared years ago. No one knew what had become of him or any member of his family. After much debate, the President of Afghanistan decreed that a judge from the Ministry of Justice would be allowed to serve as a substitute key holder. I am the judge who was given the honor to remove an object from the treasure chest and hand it to the head archaeologist.

(Student mimes taking an object from a treasure chest and handing it to the archaeologist.)

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2. Archaeologist

I am Frederik Hiebert of the National Geographic Society. To preserve the Afghan key holder tradition while introducing modern archeological inventory methods, I first receive each object from the judge. Then, using digital calipers and a digital scale, I measure and weigh the object and then assign it a new number.

(Student mimes receiving the object, measuring and weighing it.)

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3. Translator

Over the previous 25 years of shifting the objects from place to place, most of the original labels were either missing or unclear. So, using a laptop computer and a printer, I write a detailed description of the object in English and in Dari, the official language of Afghanistan.

(Student mimes typing on a laptop.)

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4. Photographer

As the photographer I make digital photographs and my team prints them out on the spot. We attach the photographs to the English/Dari description sheet of the object.

(Student mimes taking photos.)

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5. Clerk

It is my job to make sure that all the papers are in order. I make copies of the inventories using the latest scanning equipment and then give copies to the museum, the Ministry of Justice, and other institutions.

(Student mimes organization of papers.)

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6. New Key Holder (*Tabilwidar*)

I have been appointed as the new official key holder (*tabilwidar*) of this treasure trove. From this day on I am responsible for its security. After watching a team carefully pack each object in conservation materials, I sign my name to the English-Dari information sheet with photographs and place the papers alongside the object in a new safe.

(Student mimes signing of the paper and placing each object in a new, safe place.)