



Within the frameworks of the International Day for Monuments and Sites, theme of which is the "Heritage of Sport", "Erebuni" Historical & Archaeological Museum-Reserve, in a close collaboration with the ICOMOS/Armenia, is organizing an exhibition entitled “Lion and bull hunt in the Ancient Near East”. The exhibition will represent to its visitors some sport events from the Ancient Near East and scenes which prove the existence of the lion and bull hunt in Urartu. In the religious systems of several regions of Ancient Near East lion hunting, sometimes even bull ritual hunting had an important role. These are demonstrated not only in the various scenes of the Ancient Near East iconography, but also in several written sources.

The «institution» of the lion and bull ritual hunting was mostly widespread during the period of Middle and New reigns of the Assyrian state. Here it was bearing mostly "royal character". The lion and bull hunting was original and unusual competition and included some sporty elements. In the urartian iconography, there are some scenes, which can prove the existence of the ritual hunting in the kingdom of Van. Such scenes are appeared especially in the Urartian belts depicted with trimmings. "Erebuni" Historical & Archaeological Museum-Reserve is one of the unique institutions, where archaeological artifacts with the scenes of lion and bull hunting are stored. These are fragments of belts found from the Nor Aresh columbarium and from the Biainili vault. The opening of the exhibition “Lion and bull hunting in the Ancient Near East” dedicated to the International day for Monuments and Sites will be in “Erebuni” Historical & Archaeological Museum-Reserve, on April 18, 2016 at 14:00 /Yerevan, Erebuni 38st. /. The exhibition will run until May 8, 2016.

By the proposal of the International Council on Monuments and Sites /ICOMOS/ since 1983 UNESCO celebrates April 18 as the International Day for Monuments and Sites, calling on its state members to contribute to the preservation of the monuments and highlight the importance and problems of heritage protection in various ways and to the raise social vigilance and responsibility towards the heritage conservation.

This year ICOMOS suggested to the heritage guards to come up with the various cultural initiatives within the context of «Heritage of Sport».