REQUESTS FOR ARTIFACTS

Prohibition: Objects, documents and images from Prohibition (1920-1933) that would help us tell the criminal, political and cultural stories of bootlegging, rum running, speakeasies, organized crime, public corruption and law enforcement during that era.

Law enforcement: Top priority would be law enforcement-related objects, images and documents from the pre-Prohibition era, roughly 1850 to 1920. This was the time when police departments and law enforcement agencies were forming and evolving rapidly. Examples: uniforms, firearms, department documents, images, case files. Also interested in law enforcement objects, images and documents of a more recent vintage, especially those related specifically to organized crime cases and stories. Examples: surveillance images or video footage, investigative documents, evidence, mugshots, police tools of the trade.

Forensic evidence: We are greatly interested in pieces of forensic evidence that were used in organized crime-related cases. These could be weapons, fingerprints, images, documents, etc. We also are interested in the forensic tools of the trade, especially if an object can be linked to a particularly noteworthy case or individual.

Firearms and other crime-related items directly connected to specific organized crime figures. These are the most desired items, but also the least likely to be accompanied by sufficient provenance proving authenticity. As far as the public market is concerned, Al Capone had a couple hundred watches and rings that he freely gave out to friends, relatives and acquaintances, but very few of these can be authenticated. Some firearms can be authenticated through various means (serial numbers, sales records, etc.).

Illegal gambling objects: Objects used for gambling or featuring illegal gambling operations circa 1900-1960. Punchboards, numbers racket items, gambling devices, gambling cheating devices, slot machines, etc.

Drug cartels: Objects, images and documents related to the drug cartels of Mexico, Central America and South America. The most desired items are probably the hardest to get, of course, such as a gold-plated, bejeweled firearm. But other items – wanted posters, products produced by the cartels, law enforcement items related to going after the cartels – would also be desirable. Anything linked to El Chapo.

Vehicles: We ARE interested in cars, but we MUST have strong provenance linking a particular vehicle to a real mob-related story. Per the above mention of Al Capone’s watches, there are many vintage cars out there that claim to be linked to one person or another but have no actual evidence to prove it.
Las Vegas: We are interested in Las Vegas historical items, but we have to be very selective due to very limited storage space! We mostly desire one-of-a-kind items that have a strong mob-related link.

Items we are NOT in need of at this time:

- Newspapers or newspaper clippings
- Books
- Casino ashtrays, swizzle sticks, chips (unless extremely rare)
- Items with no provenance
- Modern reproductions (signs, brochures, playing cards) marketing mob history
- Large gambling devices such as craps tables, blackjack tables, bars removed from old taverns supposedly with mob ties
- Large movie posters. (We ARE interested in movie lobby cards and other smaller movie-related items)