

Lewis Chessman fetches almost \$1 million

A long-lost chess piece bought for £5 in 1964 and kept in a drawer at an Edinburgh home for 55 years, was sold for £735,000 (\$928,000)*, a new record for a medieval chess piece at auction



▲ Eleven **Lewis Chessmen** held by National Museums of Scotland

■ Newly-discovered piece (left) is **Warder**, equivalent of **Rook** in modern chess set

Chessmen found on beach



Reverse

Front

■ **1831:** Chessmen found on Isle of Lewis, concealed in small, drystone chamber for safe keeping

■ Hoard, carved from walrus ivory, comprised 78 chess pieces (from four sets), 14 other games pieces and buckle for bag or belt

■ Thought to have been produced in Trondheim, Norway, circa late 1100 to early 1200AD – end of Viking era

■ **One Knight and four Warders** missing since 1831 – new piece first to be found since then

*1964 sale price of £5 (\$14) equivalent to £100 (\$126) in 2019

Sources: BBC, Sotheby's

Pictures: Sotheby's, National Museums Scotland

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