

Fire engulfs historic Copenhagen Stock Exchange

Flames tore through the historic building in Denmark's capital on Tuesday, toppling its iconic spire.

One of Copenhagen's oldest buildings went up in flames on Tuesday.

The blaze caused the 17th-century Old Stock Exchange to collapse, as passersby rushed to help emergency services save priceless paintings and other valuables.

Danish Culture Minister Jakob Engel-Schmidt said it was "touching" to see how many people lent their hand "to save art treasures and iconic images from the burning building."

One man jumped off his bicycle on his way to work to help.

Brian Mikkelsen, chief of the Danish Chamber of Commerce, headquartered in the Old Stock Exchange, and his staff scrolled through an index of paintings to be saved.

The works were carried to the nearby parliament and Danish National Archives around the corner.

"We have been able to rescue a lot," a visibly moved Mikkelsen told reporters. "It is a national disaster."

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Source:

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