
Los Angeles Times

Friday, January 11, 2013

QUICK TAKES

Getty to return artwork to Sicily

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Entertainment Desk

5 inches; 197 words

By David Ng and Jason Felch,

A terra cotta head depicting the Greek god Hades that the J. Paul Getty Museum acquired in 1985 is being voluntarily sent back to Sicily, the museum has announced.

The museum said on Thursday that the head's original location was the site of a sanctuary to the goddess Demeter in Sicily that was "clandestinely excavated" in the '70s.

The Getty bought the terra cotta head of Hades in 1985 from New York collector Maurice Tempelsman, who had purchased it from London dealer Robin Symes. Getty records show the museum paid \$530,000 for it.

Getty officials say that while researching their collection, they turned up similarities to fragments discovered in Morgantina, Sicily.

In joint research with local archaeological authorities, the Getty determined the Hades head was looted from the site's sanctuary of Demeter and Persephone in the early 1970s.

Morgantina is the same heavily looted archaeological site in central Sicily where the Getty's former statue of Aphrodite was looted around the same time as the Hades.

The head can be seen at the Getty Villa as part of "The Sanctuaries of Demeter and Persephone at Morgantina" until Jan. 21. It will be transferred to the Museo Archeologico in Aidone, Sicily.

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David Ng and Jason Felch



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