

## Getty Returns 40 Artifacts to Italy

The J. Paul Getty Museum returned four artifacts to Italy this week, ending a two year effort from the Italian government to repatriate what they believe were looted antiquities. The works, insured for \$425 million, will be followed by 36 others, following an agreement reached at the end of September. The objects returned some of the museum's most prized works, including a statue that the museum paid \$18 million to obtain. The works will be distributed to Italian museums.

The Getty denied knowingly acquiring looted objects, and the agreement included no admission of guilt by the museum. Despite the signing of the accord, the trial of one of their former antiquities curators, Marion True, continued in Rome. The curator was charged with conspiring to acquire looted artifacts. Civil charges were dropped, but criminal charges are still pending.

The Getty was not the only institution to return repatriated works this year. In September, Yale University agreed to giving title to a group of 350 artifacts excavated at Machu Picchu in 1907 which had remained in the university's collection. Yale will retain some of the ceramic, metal, and stone works for research purposes, and will return the rest for a museum to be built in Peru.

Although the works were removed from Peru with the government's consent at the time, Peru decided that these artifacts were an important part of their Inca heritage and wanted them returned. Other institutions, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York and the Museum of Fine Art, Boston also returned repatriated works this year.

JSIS Insurance, October 2007