



# IARPS NEWS

July 2022

Link:

<https://www.tanea.gr/print/2022/07/02/politics/ta-elgineia-marmara-prepei-na-epistrafoun-amesos-stin-athina/>

*2 July 2022*

**«Τα Ελγίνεια Μάρμαρα πρέπει να επιστραφούν αμέσως στην Αθήνα!»  
[“The Elgin Marbles must immediately be returned to Athens!”]**

In 1986 Boris Johnson wrote two letters to Melina Mercouri, then Minister of Culture, in which he defended with pathos the reunification of the Parthenon Sculptures in Athens.

Source: TA NEA

Link:

<https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/revealed-1986-letters-greek-minister-boris-johnson-uk-andritsopoulos>

*2 July 2022*

**Revealed: In 1986 letters to Greek minister, Boris Johnson denounced UK government for not returning Parthenon Marbles**

New investigation by Yannis Andritsopoulos reveals that in 1986 Boris Johnson was such a fervent supporter of the Parthenon Marbles being returned to Athens that he wrote to the Greek culture minister to denounce the British government for not giving back the antiquities.

Source: LinkedIn – Yannis Andritsopoulos

Link:

[Museums should be free to return looted colonial artefacts, says V&A chief Tristram Hunt | News | The Times](https://www.thetimes.com/news/uk/article/museums-should-be-free-to-return-looted-colonial-artefacts-says-v-a-chief-tristram-hunt-12345678)

*2 July 2022*

**Museums should be free to return looted colonial artefacts, says V&A chief Tristram Hunt**

Tristram Hunt, Director of the V & A Museum, one of Britain’s leading museum directors has called for the government to be stripped of its power to block the return of objects looted during the colonial era.

Source: The Times

Link:

<https://www.artlyst.com/news/boris-johnson-denounced-uk-12345678>

*2 July 2022*

**Boris Johnson denounced UK Government over Parthenon Marbles. What about now?**

As a student, Boris Johnson lambasted UK officials for not allowing the repatriation of the Parthenon Marbles. He even wrote a letter in 1986 to the Greek Culture Minister in a bid to show support for their return, a policy he has continued to adopt as a Prime Minister. Artlyst was the first

[government-over-parthenon-marbles-what-about-now/](https://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/2022/jul/03/letters-show-how-boris-johnson-backed-return-of-parthenon-marbles)

to publish this news report in English from an article given to us by Yannis Andritsopoulos, London Correspondent for the Greek daily newspaper Ta Nea.

Source: Artlyst

*3 July 2022*

### **Letters show how Boris Johnson backed return of Parthenon marbles**

The extent to which Boris Johnson encouraged Greece to launch its campaign to retrieve the Parthenon marbles has been revealed in letters written by the future prime minister to Melina Mercouri.

Source: The Observer / The Guardian

Link:

<https://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/2022/jul/03/letters-show-how-boris-johnson-backed-return-of-parthenon-marbles>

*3 July 2022*

### **Boris Johnson denounced Government for not returning Elgin Marbles, 1986 letters reveal**

Boris Johnson who rejected in November 2021 any attempt to return the Parthenon Sculptures to Greece, insisting they were legally acquired, argued for the restitution of the Elgin Marbles in a letter to a senior Greek government minister while studying at Oxford.

Source: The Telegraph

Link:

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2022/07/02/boris-johnson-denounced-government-not-returning-elgin-marbles/>

*3 July 2022*

### **Révéle: Dans des lettres de 1986 au ministre grec, Boris Johnson a dénoncé le gouvernement britannique pour ne pas avoir rendu les marbres du Parthénon**

Boris Johnson était autrefois un si fervent partisan du retour des marbres du Parthénon à Athènes qu'il a écrit au ministre grec de la Culture pour dénoncer le gouvernement britannique pour ne pas avoir restitué les antiquités.

Source: Look-Travels

Link:

<https://look-travels.com/revele-dans-des-lettres-de-1986-au-ministre-grec-boris-johnson-a-denonce-le-gouvernement-britannique-pour-ne-pas-avoir-rendu-les-marbres-du-parthenon/>

*4 July 2022*

### **V & A Museum director says it is time to change UK law that stops museums from 'disposing' of works**

Tristram Hunt aims to start a "conversation" about the Museum Act next year, arguing that some items should be allowed to be restituted or deaccessioned.

Source: The Art Newspaper

Link:

<https://www.theartnewspaper.com/2022/07/04/victoria-and-albert-museum-director-says-it-is-time-to-change-uk-law-that-stops-museums-from-disposing-of-works>

4 July 2022

Link:

<https://www.tanea.gr/print/2022/07/04/lifearts/oi-antifaseis-tzonson-fernoun-antidraseis/>

**Οι αντιφάσεις Τζόνσον για τα Γλυπτά φέρνουν αντιδράσεις  
[The contradictions of Johnson about the Sculptures provoke reactions]**

Reactions on the 'Johnson Papers' in the international press. Yannis Andritsopoulos reporting from London in Ta Nea.

Source: TA NEA

Link:

<https://nam12.safelinks.protect.ion.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fial.uk.com%2Fbenin-bronze-joint-declaration%2F%3Fq%3D%252Fbenin-bronze-joint-declaration%252F&data=05%7C01%7C%7Ca7f2d50206914765a22408da72179876%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C637947742906307584%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IjEhaWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&odata=mgQ0nhkSKJkXUnpO9dBd4vuqlW3I0bKh5%2BO5MXym%2FuY%3D&reserved=0>

5 July 2022

**Benin Bronzes Joint Declaration signed between Germany and Nigeria... but what about the UK?**

At the Federal Foreign Office in Berlin on Friday, a joint declaration on the return of the Benin Bronzes was signed by Germany's Foreign Minister and Commissioner for Culture and Media, and by Nigeria's Minister of Culture and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs. By all accounts, it was an emotional occasion. 'Today we have reason to celebrate,' said Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock in her speech commemorating the event, 'because we have reached a historic agreement: the Benin Bronzes are returning home.'

Source: The Institute of Art & Law

Link:

<https://www.tanea.gr/print/2022/07/08/lifearts/na-dieksaxthei-mia-orimi-syzitisi-gia-ta-glypta/>

8 July 2022

**«Να διεξαχθεί μια ώριμη συζήτηση για τα Γλυπτά»  
[A serious dialogue about the Sculptures must take place]**

Paul Scully, Minister for London, declares to Ta Nea that we have to start serious talks about the Parthenon Sculptures.

Source: TA NEA

Link:

<https://centralnews.com.au/2022/07/08/australians-take-up-the-fight-for-ransacked-parthenon/>

8 July 2022

**Australians take up fight for ransacked Parthenon**

The fight to have the Parthenon Marbles returned to their homeland is being taken up by an increasing number of Australians, according to archaeologists and activists.

A high level meeting of international campaigners from Australia and around the world will be held in Greece in September.

Source: Central News

8 July 2022

**The robot guerrilla campaign to recreate the Elgin Marbles**

Few cultural disputes inflame British passions more than the disposition of the Parthenon Marbles. Public debate about the statuary has raged since

Link:

[Robot Might Recreate the Elgin Marbles of Greece - The New York Times \(nytimes.com\)](https://www.nytimes.com/2022/07/13/arts/design/elgin-marbles-greece.html)

the early 1800s, when the sculptures and bas-reliefs were stripped from the Parthenon on the Acropolis of Athens by agents of Thomas Bruce, seventh earl of Elgin.

An overview!

Source: The New York Times

Link:

['Despite being an ethnic Greek, I supported Britain's claim to the Parthenon Marbles—here is why my position has changed' \(theartnewspaper.com\)](https://www.theartnewspaper.com/2022/07/13/despite-being-an-ethnic-greek-i-supported-britain-s-claim-to-the-parthenon-marbles-here-is-why-my-position-has-changed/)

13 July 2022

**'Despite being an ethnic Greek, I supported Britain's claim to the Parthenon Marbles – here is why my position has changed'**

“The arguments against their return to Greece are no longer tenable”, argues art historian and museum professional Eleni Vassilika.

Source: The Art Newspaper

Link:

<https://www.theartnewspaper.com/2022/07/13/returning-the-parthenon-marbles-to-athens-would-only-feed-the-beast-of-nationalist-myth-let-them-tell-their-story-in-london>

13 July 2022

**Returning the Parthenon Marbles to Athens would only feed the beast of nationalist myth – let them tell their story in London**

According to Mario Trabucco della Torretta, a classical archaeologist trained in Sicily and Athens: “let's choose, following Aristotle, historical truth over an emotive friendship. Let's immerse ourselves in the amazing stories – our stories – that the Elgin Marbles can only tell us in Bloomsbury. Declaring that they are only 'stones of no value' to us and sending them to Athens would only feed the beast of ideology and nationalist myth.”

Source: The Art Newspaper

Link:

<https://www.athensvoice.gr/future-eurovoices/765534/leilatim-eno-i-politistikoi-thisauroi-kathe-epanapatrismos-einai-epoulosi-mias-pligis/>

14 July 2022

**Ληλατημένοι πολιτιστικοί θησαυροί. Κάθε επαναπατριsmός είναι epούλωση μιας πληγής**

**[Plundered cultural treasures. Each repatriation is the healing of a wound]**

The vandalism inflicted on the Parthenon Sculptures remains for more than two hundred years the prototype case for the request to repatriate stolen artefacts, argues Sophia Hiniadou-Cambanis.

Source: Athens Voice

Link:

<https://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/entry/exclusive-sadiq-khan-says-deal-should-be-done-with-greece-over-elgin->

21 July 2022

**Exclusive: Sadiq Khan says deal should be done with Greece over Elgin Marbles**

Sadiq Khan, Mayor of London, said that a deal should be done with Greece to find a way of sharing the Elgin Marbles. He called on the British

[marbles\\_uk\\_62d66e8de4b008a2d03e0c31](https://www.britishmuseum.org/news/press-releases/2022/07/2022-07-20-marbles-uk-62d66e8de4b008a2d03e0c31)

Museum, UK government and Greek government to work together to “make progress” in the dispute.

Source: Huffington Post

*26 July 2022*

### **Who would want fake Elgin Marbles?**

Link:

<https://unherd.com/2022/07/who-would-want-fake-elgin-marbles/>

The replicas are better than the originals.

“Yes, the opportunity to have these brilliant reproductions in their place is one not to be missed. But amid all these wonders of technology, let’s not forget that they’re not the real deal .

Source: UnHerd

*29 July 2022*

### **On this day: Melina Mercouri calls for the Parthenon Marbles to be returned to Greece**

Link:

<https://greekherald.com.au/culture/history/on-this-day-melina-mercouri-calls-parthenon-marbles-be-returned-greece/>

On July 29, 1982, then-Minister of Culture in Greece, Melina Mercouri, addressed the World Conference on Cultural Policies organised by UNESCO in Mexico City and seized the opportunity to address the issue of the repatriation of the Parthenon Marbles to a global audience and demanded they be returned to Greece.

Since then, the issue of the reunification of the Parthenon Marbles has been in the political and cultural agenda of all consecutive Greek governments and of UNESCO.

Source: The Greek Herald

*29 July 2022*

### **Parthenon Marbles: The writing’s on the wall**

Link:

<https://www.greece-is.com/parthenon-marbles-writings-wall/>

An overview! Over the past year, the media frenzy surrounding the campaign for the return of the Parthenon Marbles has reached fever pitch. While Greek government officials, heritage professionals and members of the international academic community continue to exert unprecedented pressure on the British Museum in London, where Pheidias’ sculptures have been on permanent display since 1817, media outlets and members of the general public, in the United Kingdom and around the world, have been adding their voices to the deafening chorus of calls to reunite the 5th-century BC sculptures in Athens.

For the first time since the launch of the reunification campaign by Melina Mercouri in 1982, UNESCO has urged the UK to review its position on the issue and enter into discussions with the Greek state at an intergovernmental level. There has been a seismic shift in public attitude, too. According to the latest public opinion polls, respondents are resolutely in favour of returning the sculptures to Greece.

Source: Greece is

30 July 2022

**Σαντίκ Καν στα «ΝΕΑ»: «Δεν ωφελεί να στρουθοκαμηλίζουμε για τα Γλυπτά του Παρθενώνα»**

**[Sadiq Khan: we don't profit from keeping our heads in the sand over the Parthenon Sculptures]**

The Mayor of London asks the British government and the British Museum to start a dialogue with Greece over the Parthenon Sculptures.

Source: TA NEA

Link:

<https://www.tanea.gr/print/2022/07/30/world/den-ofelei-nastrouthokamilizoume-lfgia-ta-glypta-lftou-parthenona/>

Link:

<https://www.facebook.com/84491961316/posts/pfbid02FPnpvipT12iDpMLaVkJiSgALVuC3CCDYUteiBXEGek2RYHQgk4L5fnJyhdGUqAUNI/>

30 July 2022

**It's time to unite**

Very successful Trivia night and Campaign update organized by IOC-A-RPM

SOLD OUT!

30 July 2022

**Why the Elgin Marbles may finally return to Greece**

Exclusive report by Sarah Baxter. The British Museum wants to make a deal and end two centuries of rancour with Athens — what's changed their mind?

Source: The Sunday Times

Link:

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/why-the-elgin-marbles-may-finally-return-to-greece-09kfzwhgd>

30 July 2022

**Elgin Marbles: 'partnership' raises hope of deal for first return to Greece in 200 years**

The British Museum has opened the door to returning the Elgin Marbles to Greece as one of its most senior executives called for a "Parthenon partnership" with Athens. In a move that could ease one of the world's longest-running and most controversial cultural disputes, Jonathan Williams, the museum's deputy director, suggested there may be an opportunity for the ancient sculptures to go back to Greece for the first time in more than 200 years.

Source: The Times

Link:

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/elgin-marbles-partnership-raises-hope-of-deal-for-first-return-to-greece-in-200-years-7w9g6nsg3>

31 July 2022

Link:

[Elgin Marbles could be returned to Greece under new 'Parthenon partnership' \(telegraph.co.uk\)](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/culture/2022/07/31/british-museum-calls-for-parthenon-partnership-greece-marbles/)

### **Elgin Marbles could be returned to Greece under new 'Parthenon partnership'**

British Museum executive calls for a deal with Greece to establish greater 'cultural exchange' and to 'change the temperature of the debate'.

Source: The Telegraph

Link:

[https://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/2022/jul/31/british-museum-calls-for-parthenon-partnership-greece-marbles?utm\\_term=Autofeed&CMP=tw\\_tgu&utm\\_medium=utm\\_source=Twitter](https://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/2022/jul/31/british-museum-calls-for-parthenon-partnership-greece-marbles?utm_term=Autofeed&CMP=tw_tgu&utm_medium=utm_source=Twitter)

*31 July 2022*

### **British Museum calls for 'Parthenon partnership' with Greece over marbles**

Deputy director says institution seeks 'dynamic and positive conversation' over sculptures taken from Athens in 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Source: The Guardian

Link:

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-11066549/Elgin-Marbles-return-Greece-Parthenon-partnership-establish-cultural-exchange.html>

*31 July 2022*

### **Elgin Marbles could return to Greece under new 'Parthenon partnership' to establish greater 'cultural exchange', the deputy director of British Museum says**

Taken in 1801, the Elgin Marbles have been a contentious issue for decades. Jonathan Williams said the Museum wants to 'change the temperature' of debate. He added: 'There are many wonderful things we'd be delighted to borrow'. The British Museum has stopped short of saying the marbles will be given back.

Source: The Daily Mail

Link:

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2022-07-31/british-museum-executive-calls-for-parthenon-partnership-over-elgin-marbles>

*31 July 2022*

### **British Museum executive calls for 'Parthenon Partnership' over Elgin Marbles**

The deputy director of the British Museum called for a "Parthenon partnership" with Greece which could see the contentious Elgin Marbles return to Athens after more than 200 years.

Source: Bloomberg

Link:

<https://twitter.com/LBC/status/1553748699473494016?s=20&t=KHZdqzWSF1ZyMOuCBpAdQ>

*31 July 2022*

Yannis Andritsopoulos interviewed by Sangita Myska on the Parthenon Sculptures.

Ed Vaizey, former British Culture Minister, spoke right after him.

Source: LBC Radio



LBC-Parthenon-Marbles-Yannis-31-07-2022

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## Upcoming events

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*12 August 2022*

### **August full moon at the Acropolis Museum**

The Acropolis Museum celebrates August Full Moon with Greek songs about the moon, film music and famous melodies from abroad, performed by the historic Hellenic Air Force Band, in the Museum's entrance courtyard at 9 p.m.

The Museum will remain open from 8 a.m. to 12 midnight with free entry for all visitors from 9 p.m. onwards, giving visitors the opportunity to stroll through the galleries and enjoy the view of the Acropolis under the charming moonlight.

Follow the link:

<https://www.theacropolismuseum.gr/en/events/august-full-moon-acropolis-museum>

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Newsletter edited by Dr Kris Tytgat, President of IARPS