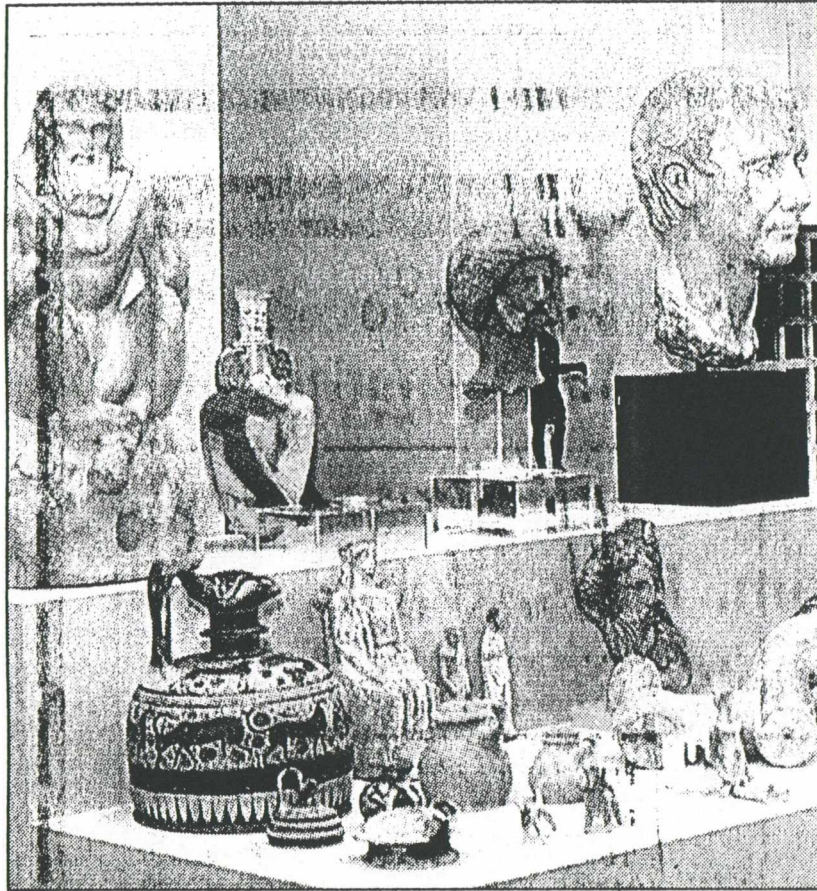


# Stolen treasures return to Greece



Some of the items from Greece recovered in America

**From John Carr**  
in Athens

MORE than 270 antiques stolen from the Corinth Archaeological Museum 11 years ago were returned to Greece yesterday after what police described as their most successful treasure hunt in years.

Among the 274 exhibits, which were recovered in America, are a 5th-century BC marble statuette of Pan, a marble head of a young man, called a kouros, from the same period, and a dozen sculpted marble heads from Hellenistic and Roman times. The rest include vessels, urns and wine jugs spanning the classical and Hellenistic periods. They arrived in Piraeus from Miami in eight crates.

Evangelos Venizelos, the Culture Minister, used their return to appeal for the return of the Elgin Marbles from Britain. "I hope God will allow

us to celebrate the repatriation of other treasures," he said.

In April 1990 four Greek men overpowered an elderly guard at the museum, which was not fitted with an alarm system, and stole most of the contents exhibited in glass cases. The haul was shipped to America.

Major George Tzallas, who led the hunt, had his first success in December 1998 when two small vases were put up for sale at Christie's in New York. He was tipped off.

In September 1999 Major Tzallas and FBI agents raided a Miami warehouse and found the collection, fortunately in good condition. A marble bust of Julius Caesar and a marble head of Eros are still missing. A bust of the god Serapis turned up at an auction last year.

Four men are in custody in Athens charged with the theft. Two others being sought are said to be in South America.