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The Ludovisi Head Once Again

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famed Pergamo" in 1625. Petty spoke of having acquired but "meane things, not worth his charge, only as testimonyes of his travails" from Pergamon,[20] and while it is possible that the "new" Lambeth fragments were among them, we shall probably never know for certain.

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In 1979, as my contribution to the volume of studies in honor of Peter H. von Blanckenhagen, I advanced the hypothesis that the Ludovisi Head, at times identified as an Erinys or a Medusa, was instead a dead Giant from the Gigantomachy frieze of the Pergamon Altar. Size, general iconography and presence in Italy could be reconciled with such a theory; final proof, however, could be provided only by additional evidence. I concluded my article, therefore, with the wish that samples could be obtained from both the head in Rome and the Pergamon frieze, to test the composition of the marbles.[1]

Through the kindness of many persons,[2] I was recently able to obtain small specimens from the Ludovisi Head in Rome and from a fragment of the Pergamon Altar, the so-called Fawley Court Giant at present on display in the Ashmolean Museum at Oxford, England. The samples were sent to the Center for Archaeological Sciences of the University of Georgia at Athens, Georgia, and Dr. Norman Herz has kindly provided the following comments.

Both samples were analyzed for their stable isotope ratios of $^{18}O/^{16}O$ and $^{13}C/^{12}C$. The results were normalized against the PDB standard and showed:

	$\delta^{18}O$	$\delta^{13}C$
BR-1 (Museo Naz. Rome)	−0.93	+3.99
BR-2 (Ashmolean)	−0.65	+2.82

Dr. Herz's conclusion from the isotopic analysis is that the two pieces are from different originals. Weathering will often change the oxygen isotopic ratio by one or two per mil., but almost never the carbon ratio. The differences in isotopic ratios between the samples are too large to be explained in any other way than their having different sources.

Since no doubt exists that the Fawley Court Giant once belonged to the Pergamon Altar, the theory that the Ludovisi Head may originally have been part of the same monument must be rejected. Chemical analysis has also shown that the sample from the Pergamon Altar has a high magnesium content which classifies it as dolomitic. Its isotopic signature would link it with marbles from Marmara or Denizli in Turkey. The second sample (from the Ludovisi Head) offers less conclusive information, but its isotopic signature is not incompatible with a provenience from Carrara.[3] It is clear that the problems presented by the Ludovisi Head have yet to be solved and deserve more thorough treatment.

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THE HERCULANEUM BOAT: PRELIMINARY NOTES ON HULL DETAILS

During the summer of 1982, staff archaeologists uncovered the bottom of an overturned Roman boat while excavating an area of the ancient beach at Herculaneum. At the invitation of Dr. Giuseppina Cerulli Irelli, of the Soprintendenza Archeologica di Pompei, I recorded the exposed portion of the hull and began preliminary work on its reconstruction under a grant from the National Geographic Society (see *National Geographic* 165.5 [May 1984] figs. on 602–603, 606).

The boat apparently was a victim of the eruption of Mt. Vesuvius in A.D. 79 and originally was covered by 23 m. of volcanic overburden. Most of the material surrounding the boat was pyroclastic flow, which carbonized nearly the entire structure of the hull. The vessel was located only 5 m. from the seaward wall of the suburban thermae and close to a series of boat chambers

[20] Haynes 1975 (supra n. 1) 6.

[1] B.S. Ridgway, "The Ludovisi Head," in G. Kopcke and M.B. Moore eds., *Studies in Classical Art and Archaeology. A Tribute to Peter Heinrich von Blanckenhagen* (Locust Valley 1979) 153–61. The latest reference to the head is by B. Palma in A. Giuliano ed., *Museo Nazionale Romano. Le Sculture* I.5, *I marmi Ludovisi* (Rome 1983) 127–30, no. 56 (inv. 8650). The head is there considered a Roman (Antonine) copy from a bronze original of the 2nd c. B.C., perhaps part of the Pergamene victory monument against the Gauls.

[2] I am deeply indebted to the Rev. Gerard Domanski, M.I.C., Provincial Superior of the Congregation of Marian Fathers, who gave permission for the sample to be taken from the Fawley Court Giant, to Mrs. Gwyn Miles, who actually took it, and to Michael Vickers, of the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, who obtained all the necessary permissions and mailed me the specimen. I am equally grateful to Dottoressa Rita Sanzi Di Mino, of the Museo Nazionale Romano, and to Dr. Baldassare Conticello, who were instrumental in obtaining the marble sample from the Ludovisi head.

[3] For N. Herz's work to determine the provenience of ancient marbles, see G.V. Foster and N.R. Herz, "Identification of Marble Provenience by Pattern Recognition of Xeroradiographs," *AJA* 89 (1985) 331; also N. Herz, "Isotopic Analysis of Marbles," in G. Rapp, Jr. and J.A. Gifford eds., *Archaeological Geology* (New Haven and London 1985) 331–51.