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**THE J. PAUL GETTY MUSEUM ANNOUNCES THE RETURN OF
A HEAD OF HADES FROM ABOUT 400–300 B.C.**

LOS ANGELES—The J. Paul Getty Museum announced today plans to voluntarily return a terracotta head to Sicily representing the god Hades and dating to about 400–300 B.C. The Museum acquired the sculpture in 1985.

Joint research with colleagues in Sicily over the past two years has yielded previously unknown information on the likely provenance of the sculpture suggesting that it was appropriate to return the object. In keeping with the principle of repatriating works when compelling evidence warrants it, the decision to transfer this head is based on the discovery of four terracotta fragments found near Morgantina in Sicily, similar in style and medium to the Getty head. Getty Museum curators initiated discussions with Sicilian colleagues on the possible relationship between the head and the fragments in 2011, and then worked with the director of the Morgantina Archaeological Park to corroborate the identification. These fragments indicate that the original location of the head was the site of a sanctuary of Demeter, which was clandestinely excavated in the late 1970s.

"The Getty greatly values its relationship with our Sicilian colleagues, which culminated in the 2010 Cultural Collaboration Agreement," said Timothy Potts, director of the J. Paul Getty Museum. "This collaboration has brought significant opportunities for scholarly dialogue, joint conservation projects, and loans, most notably the 'Charioteer' from Mozia that is currently undergoing a thorough seismic conservation assessment and remounting in our conservation studios."

According to Enrico Caruso, director of the Parco Archeologico di Morgantina, "Close collaboration with the Getty's curators and conservators on the examination of the head has allowed us to give a name to the sanctuary shrine where several fragments of its curls of hair were found in 1978, as well as a name to the Getty's anonymous sculpture. It is Hades, god of

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the Underworld, the terracotta body of which is in the course of an extensive restoration in the Archaeological Museum in Aidone."

The head will be transferred to the Museo Archeologico in Aidone after it goes on display in the Getty-organized traveling exhibition *Sicily: Art and Invention between Greece and Rome*. The exhibition will be on view at the Getty Villa from April 3 to August 19, 2013, the Cleveland Museum of Art from September 30, 2013 to January 5, 2014, and will end at the Palazzo Ajutamicristo in Palermo from February to June 2014. The head is currently on view at the Getty Villa as part of the special installation *The Sanctuaries of Demeter and Persephone at Morgantina* until January 21, 2013.

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The J. Paul Getty Trust is an international cultural and philanthropic institution devoted to the visual arts that includes the J. Paul Getty Museum, the Getty Research Institute, the Getty Conservation Institute, and the Getty Foundation. The J. Paul Getty Trust and Getty programs serve a varied audience from two locations: the Getty Center in Los Angeles and the Getty Villa in Malibu.

The J. Paul Getty Museum collects in seven distinct areas, including Greek and Roman antiquities, European paintings, drawings, manuscripts, sculpture and decorative arts, and photographs gathered internationally. The Museum's mission is to make the collection meaningful and attractive to a broad audience by presenting and interpreting the works of art through educational programs, special exhibitions, publications, conservation, and research.

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