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## The Joys of Collecting

By J. Paul Getty

Broomhall+stele

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Elgin might—just *might*—be willing to sell three of the Elgin Marbles that remained in the family's possession. Would I be interested?

Would I! I wasted no time, but dispatched an affirmatory cable immediately. The three pieces in question were at Lord Elgin's ancestral mansion, Broom Hall, in Scotland. They consisted of the following:

1. *Myttion*, a fourth-century B.C. sepulchral **stele** representing the figure of a young girl with short, curly hair.
2. An Archaic *Kore*, or female figure, 28 inches high, made of Parian marble, of Attic origin and dating from the early fifth century B.C.
3. A sepulchral **stele** of Theogenis, Nikodemos and Nikomache dating from the early part of the fourth century B.C.

Needless to say, lengthy and delicate negotiations had to be made, export permits obtained and many other details attended to before the three precious pieces were mine. Withal, I was successful—and, as a collector, it was one of my great triumphs.