FEATURES / NEWS / GREECE

Parthenon Marbles were looted: Experts say there was no Ottoman edict allowing Lord Elgin to remove them

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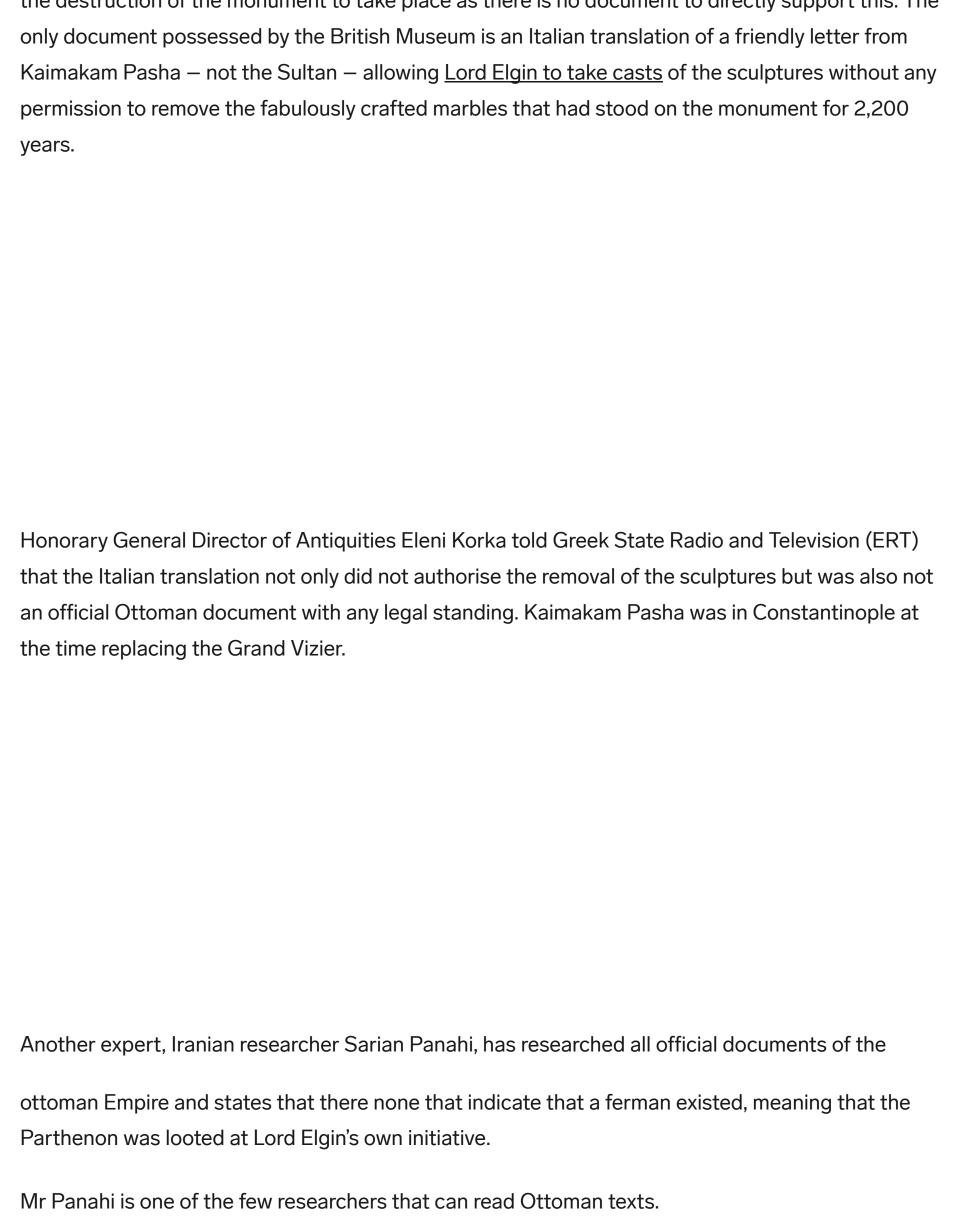






For years, the British Museum has claimed that there was an Ottoman ferman (edict) that allowed Lord Elgin to plunder the Acropolis and remove the Parthenon sculptures from the monument.

The museum's claim has never been substantiated with actual proof that the Sultan had allowed for



Mr Panahi's claims are confirmed by Turkish researchers Zeynep Aygen and Orhan Sakin who presented the results of their own long-term study and stated that "all the fermans as well as their contents, were written in a special book." The British Museum's claim that permission had been given to remove the sculptures was refuted. The letter was not a ferman because only the Sultan, and not the Pasha, could sign such documents. "There was only a permit to visit," said Mr Sakin.



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