

General MAKRIYANNIS, Ioannis

Memoirs, Athens 1907

“You must not give away these things [the ancient statues], not even for ten thousand talers; you must not let them leave the country; it was for them we fought.”



PITTAKIS, Kyriakos

(General Keeper of Antiquities of Greece),

L'ancienne Athènes, ou la description des antiquités d'Athènes et de ses environs,
Athens 1835.

p. 379

“I believe that in the state of independence we are entering we will have the right to reclaim from the English nation the masterpieces of our ancestors to put them back in the place which the divine Phidias chose for them.”

Chrysalis (Greek Journal), October 1863 -Obituary to Kyriakos Pittakis

“In 1821 during the War of Independence, the Acropolis was being besieged by the Greeks. The Ottomans holding the citadel ran out of lead to make bullets with, and started to remove the lead clamps linking the marble pieces, thus threatening those beautiful monuments with destruction. Young Pittakis was then a soldier in the ranks of the besieging army. From the military point of view the embarrassment in which the Ottomans found themselves was welcome, but looking at it from the archaeological point of view Pittakis at once saw the dangers involved. Thanks to his efforts the threat to the monuments from the removal of the lead clamps was averted, when it was agreed that the Greeks themselves should provide the Ottomans with the lead they needed.”