

COMMENTS ON  
"THE PRESERVATION AND RESTORATION OF THE ANCIENT RUINS  
IN GREECE AND ITALY"  
BY LINDA PIPER

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Dr. Piper presented, through slides, a report of her findings on a student tour of Roman and Greek antiquities. Her presentation was particularly interesting because of the parallels which can be drawn between historic preservation in Greece and Italy, and the United States. It also demonstrated the value of exposing students to the major issues of preservation and historical interpretation through on-site observation and discussion. Dr. Piper presented the restoration philosophy issues of reconstruction vs. the stabilization of ruins, the moving of artifacts and buildings out of context into museums in order to preserve them, political and public policy in relation to professional direction, questions about the role of historians in the development of policy in addressing technical questions, and the importance of historical continuity in the environment.

These issues are among those which concern the preservation movement in the United States. In response to questions, Dr. Piper indicated that archaeologists more than architects or historians dominate the professional direction of preservation in the countries which she visited, and verified the educational effectiveness of exposing students directly to the monuments and to the preservation issues through field visits.