Adult Education and the Museum

Final Report on the Socrates Project TM-AE-1-995-DE-1
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Project Gr 3: A day on the Acropolis with Plutarch and Pausanias

Date of commencement: 1994

Description: The Acropolis is visited by large numbers of Greeks and foreign nationals. The programme is run throughout the year. It is the result of an effort to create educational material which will accompany and guide each individual visitor.

Aims: To facilitate access to both the art and architecture of classical antiquity and to the major conservation and restoration works being carried out on the Acropolis.

Background: The Acropolis Ephorate and the Committee for the Conservation of the Monuments of the Acropolis believe that contact with the spirit of classical antiquity should not be the exclusive domain of a few specialists, but should be accessible to whoever is interested. From its inception, and as one of its aims, the Union of the Friends of the Acropolis has actively promoted educational programmes. The Friends, who partly fund and organise the programmes, also take part in them.

Funding: Ministry of Culture and the Association of Friends of the Acropolis.

Innovative features: A very simple booklet gives the visitor direct contact with the ancient texts. Graphic reconstructions created by leading contemporary scholars further this aim. This programme is applicable simultaneously to either one or several visitors, either with or without the help of a museum guide. When accompanied by a museum educationalist, the programme starts with a slide show or video, showing reconstruction work on the Acropolis. Afterwards, guided by Pausanias with the help of audio-visual material, the visitor follows his/her own route.

Outcomes: To date, around 10,000 teachers have taken part in these seminars. Of these around 900 have followed more than one course and have made frequent use of the material we provide on loan. 300 students have been trained to participate as instructors in specific programmes organised by the Department.

Available documentation: Book, resource pack.