

ARTISTS' FEATHERS SERVING THE CONSERVATION *IN SITU* OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS : TIMELESS PROPONENTS OF THE MODERN DEBATES



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What are the historical roots of the debate about the dream of the “musée universel” ? Who were the first authors (& theoretical papers) about the issue of the restitution debates ? What forms ?

- Poetry verses
- Pamphlets
- Private correspondance

“Scaped from the ravage of the Turk and the Goth, thy country send a spoiler worse than both. Athena, no! Thy plunderer was a Scot” Lord Byron (*The Curse of Minerva*)

“Diviser c’est détruire ! Le pays lui-même est le museum” Quatremère de Quincy (*Lettres à Miranda*)

“Que votre Majesté laisse au moins quelque chose à l'Italie. Ces monuments antiques forment une chaîne avec une infinité d'autres qui ne se peuvent transporter. Vous avez leur cadavre, mais non leur vie” Canova (*Lettres à Napoléon*)



Current campaign for the return of the Parthenon marbles

Although very different, all those theoretical papers are far from being out-of-date : more, they opened the door to modern campaigns for the return of cultural heritage and thus become timelessly contemporary.

Quatremère de Quincy



Lord Byron