

## Patrick M. OWENS, speaker #4 Teaching Greek According to the Direct Method

In recent years the direct method of teaching Latin has gained momentum in both Europe and America, as testified by the growing number of teaching materials geared towards the direct method of instruction and summer conferences for spoken Latin. The direct method uses an intuitive reading-based text and exercises the target language through active conversation, thereby minimizing or eliminating the use of the non-target language in the classroom. This method has been applied to Latin instruction and to a much lesser extent to the teaching of Greek.

The use of spoken Greek as a pedagogical tool is not entirely new but has been implemented to varying degrees in the U.S. and in Britain. This paper will explore how educators have employed the direct method in their Greek courses, what obstacles they have met and what tools are available to instructors who wish to use the direct method.

Recently the opportunity arose for me to observe a class for a full academic year at Accademia Vivarium Novum in Montella, Italy, in which the direct method for Greek instruction is used. This arrangement allowed me to document the use for comparison both with other similar teaching techniques for instruction in Latin and with the more frequently applied reading and grammar-based method in Greek.