

U, a-1

DULUTH--Dr. R. Dale Miller, chairman of UMD's humanities division, has returned from a short-term leave to Italy with an awesome appreciation for its capital city, Rome.

Miller, his wife and two small children left Dec. 15 for a first-hand view of Italian art and antiquity. They made sidetrips to Cologne, Germany; Paris and London.

Whereas all other cities could be seen in a stated time, Miller termed Rome "inexhaustible."

"Rome is living history," he said. "Although the past is not intact, it is there -- standing in unbroken continuity." All in this one city, he said, are the monuments of classics -pagan antiquity, Christianity, medieval and renaissance, and superimposed on all this, modern-day Rome. "There isn't a century missing."

The Millers lived in the center of old Rome in a hotel "pensione," or quarters with a home-like atmosphere. Their children Nicholas, 7, and Lisa, 5, accompanied them on tours about the city.

An unexpected and rewarding view of excavations under the Basilica of St. Peter's came when Miller's seatmate on an Italian plane turned out to be a higher-up of the Augustinian order in Rome. It was arranged that he see the diggings which have recently revealed the tomb of St. Peter beneath the altar of the great church.

The educator's interest in archaeology was supplemented also by a trip to the ruins of Pompeii.



Miller's slides on the Byzantine influence on Romanesque culture will be added to the UMD humanities library and his findings incorporated into his course, "Appreciation of the Arts." He said that by the end of his stay he could distinguish true western mosaics from those patterned after the eastern, Byzantine art.

Wherever they traveled in Italy the Millers found the people warm and hospitable. A few words in Italian on their part brought enthusiastic response, they said.