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*Endpapers*: aerial cutaway view of the Bank of England drawn by Joseph Michael Gandy, architect Sir John Soane, reproduced by courtesy of the Trustees of Sir John Soane's Museum, London.

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*For Michael and Isabel Briggs*

# In Ruins

Christopher Woodward



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For I know some will say, why does he treat us  
to descriptions of weeds, and make us hobble  
after him over broken stones, decayed buildings,  
and old rubbish?

Preface to *A Journey into Greece*  
by George Wheeler (1682)

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