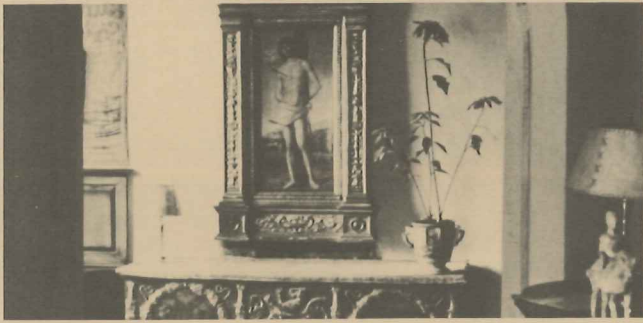


# Villa I Tatti



The Harvard University Center for Italian Renaissance Studies  
Via di Vincigliata 26/50135 Florence, Italy

Vol. 4  
1981-82

## I Tatti Community 1981-82

This year there are seventeen Fellows, a Visiting Professor, two Visiting Scholars, and six Research Associates, making the I Tatti community the largest in the history of the Center. It is also one of the most diverse in background, with Fellows coming from Poland, Hungary, Australia, England, Canada, and Italy, as well as the United States mainland and Hawaii, while there is, for the first time, a Visiting Professor from France. This year's Fellows are at I Tatti almost daily, because most of their work keeps them at the Center or in Florence; so coffee, midday meals, and tea are exceptionally busy and productive occasions. It is a dedicated and enthusiastic group. A listing of the members of the 1981-82 community and their topics of research follows:

### Fellows

ANTONIA BORLANDI, University of Pavia, Literature, "Edizione Epistolario Antonio Ivani (1462-1480)."

BARBARA BOWEN, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Literature, "Cicero's Theory of Jokes in Renaissance Italy and France."

JOEL BRINK, University of British Columbia, Art History, "The Paintings of Simone (continued next page)"

## New Life for the Gardens

Thanks to a wonderfully generous capital gift from Mrs Lila Acheson Wallace, the gardens of Villa I Tatti are taking on new life. Aging shrubbery and trees are being replaced, new flowers are being planted, and much-needed improvements, including a ramp to allow access to a tractor, are being made. Mrs Wallace's gift for the continuing care of the gardens came with "great affection for the gardens and for the work of Bernard Berenson and his disciple John Walker," who as a young man studied under Mr Berenson at I Tatti and was his assistant there.

Aided by the Wallace grant, I Tatti now has the means to continue a program of medicating the cypresses against the diseases which have killed so many of Italy's famous trees, and to purchase and plant young resistant trees to fill the most obvious gaps in the allée and hedges when the dead or ailing cypresses are removed. There have never been sufficient funds available to permit pruning all of the elms, ilexes, and other garden trees. With a tractor ramp now built behind the giardino pensile, the tractor with trailer has for the first time been able to enter the garden. Large limbs and dead trees have been cut down and hauled away; the summer of 1981 saw an intensive clearing away of the garden's dead wood.

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## I Tatti Community, continued

Martini of Siena."

JAMES CHATER, University of Oxford, Music History, "Musical Settings of Poems by G. B. Strozzi the Elder."

CAROLINE ELAM, University of London, Art History, "Urban Development of Renaissance Florence."

KATHLEEN FALVEY, University of Hawaii at Manoa, Literature, "A book entitled 'Early Italian Drama'."

ROBERT GASTON, La Trobe University, Art History, "Monographic Study of Bronzino's Martyrdom of St. Lawrence; and Ligorio Studies."



Fellows Piero Morselli, Pietro Marani, Paolo Simoncelli

GARY IANZITI, The University of Wollongong, Literature, "Humanistic Historiography in 15th Century Milan."

RACHEL JACOFF (second semester), Wellesley College, Literature, "Dante and the Poetics of Literary Influence."

ADAM MANIKOWSKI, University of Warsaw in Bialystok, History, "The Role of Luxury in Early Modern Economics and Society."

PIETRO MARANI, University of Florence, Art History, "Corpus of Francesco di Giorgio's Drawings."

CHARLES McCORQUODALE, Central School of Art and Design, London, Art History, "Research into the Life and Work of Carlo Dolci."

PIERO MORSELLI, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Art History, "Monograph on S. Maria delle Carceri, Prato."

MARIA PROKOPP (first semester), University of Budapest, Art History, "Activities of Giotto's pupils: T. Gaddi, Lorenzetti, Sassetta."

MICHELE RAK, University of Naples, Literature, "Arte e Letteratura Popolare Italiana tra il XVI e il XVIII secoli."

PAOLO SIMONCELLI, University of Rome, History, "La 'Repubblica Fiorentina,' 1532-1580."

PAULINE WATTS TRINKAUS, University of Michigan, History, "Relationship among Cosmography, Geography, and Spirituality in Renaissance Italy."

I Tatti's Visiting Professor is CHARLES de la RONCIÈRE, an historian from the University of Provence. Professor de la Roncière's research topic while at I Tatti is: "Vita Cristiana e mentalità religiosa dei Toscani nel '300."

Visiting Scholars this year are: MALCOLM CAMPBELL, Professor of Art History at the University of Pennsylvania, whose subject is "Medici Patronage and Style Change in 17th century Florence," and CHARLES TRINKAUS, Professor of History at the University of Michigan. Professor Trinkaus is continuing his work on the "Powers of Man in 16th century Italian Humanism, Theology, and Natural Philosophy."

The Research Associates are scholars resident in Florence who are appointed by the Director and possess special expertise which can be helpful to I Tatti and to the Fellows. They generally continue from one year to the next and this year are seven in number: FABIO BISOGNI, of the University of Siena, art historian and expert on the art historical use of the computer; EVE BORSOOK, art historian with special knowledge of mural painting; Father SALVATORE CAMPOREALE, of Santa Maria Novella, historian of humanism and theology who also serves as the I Tatti Library's bibliographer; GINO CORTI, paleographer and historian; CHARLES DAVIS, art historian who advises the Fototeca; MARCO SPALLANZANI, historian from the University of Florence with special concern for Italy and the Near East; and LEONETTO TINTORI, conservator and historian of technique.

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## Gardens, continued

The most remarkable character in all of the garden operations is undeniably Sig. Elio Romani, whom I Tatti has named "The Cat." A 60-year-old virtuoso tree man, Sig. Romani scales the I Tatti trees to their tops, using only a bamboo pole with a hook at the end. Swaying above an admiring audience, he deftly lops out the dead wood around him, at times seeming to remove the very limbs he uses for support. "The Cat" and I Tatti's own men have pruned and trimmed almost every tree in the gardens, and the improvement is dramatic.

There has also been a strengthening of the garden work force. I Tatti has been able to promote a part-time gardener to full-time, bringing the garden personnel to three full-time men. In addition, a reorganization of the administration of the gardens allows Heidi Boardman to devote part of her time to assisting Barbara Smyth, wife of the Director, in the overall direction of garden operations.

As an Italian national landmark, I Tatti is of course obliged to keep a well-maintained aspect, and this has had to be accomplished within a stringently controlled budget. Thus there has always been an unavoidable need to give priority to those exterior maintenance projects whose results show most clearly. Tiny cracks in the garden walls which will worsen, dead limbs which should be pruned, fertilizing which should be done more often, have all been "deferred" for lack of funds. With the infusion of new garden income from the Wallace gift, creative planning for the future has replaced the management of immediate crises. We are deeply grateful to Mrs Wallace for this new spirit, which is felt at I Tatti well beyond the garden precincts. Also, we would like to express our great appreciation to Villa I Tatti Council member Barnabas McHenry, whose personal interest in I Tatti's welfare made this grant possible.



Pruning the cypresses in the allée

## Special Events, Spring-Summer 1981

During the spring of the academic year 1980-81, I Tatti welcomed several noted guests and was host to numerous lectures. One such talk was that given by BRIAN VICKERS, Professor of English and Renaissance Literature at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zürich. The fact that he spoke on "Occult and Scientific Method in the Renaissance," is a reminder of the wide range of interests that I Tatti represents in Renaissance studies.

In late May, J. CARTER BROWN, Director of the National Gallery in Washington, D.C., was in Florence to open an exhibition at the Palazzo Strozzi, "Gli italiani e la creazione dell'America 1440-1809" (May 23-June 22), which was organized by the John Carter Brown Library of Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island. As a young art history student, Mr Brown stayed at I Tatti for a period of some months and was on this occasion again a guest of I Tatti.

At the end of May, I Tatti was visited by the INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF FINE ARTS DEANS, a group of 80 deans from state and private (continued next page)



universities in the U.S. and Europe who were conducting a conference on "Career Entry in the Arts" in Florence and at the Rockefeller Foundation center at Bellagio. John Straus, a member of this International Council and Harvard Class of 1940, made the arrangements with I Tatti for a reception there, at which Professor Smyth spoke.



J. Carter Brown at I Tatti

During June, there was a symposium at I Tatti for Harvard alumni resident in Europe, about which there is a separate article in this newsletter. I Tatti was also opened to several other university groups. Forty SMITH COLLEGE alumni, and two groups from RADCLIFFE COLLEGE visited in the early part of the month, while on June 17th, I Tatti was host to the HARVARD ALUMNI COLLEGE IN TUSCANY AND UMBRIA, comprised of over 70 Harvard alumni and their family and friends. The Alumni College was under the academic guidance of Professor David Herlihy, former Fellow of I Tatti, and Dr. Christine Smith of Florence, and had previously toured Siena, Perugia, Urbino, and Arezzo, among other medieval and Renaissance centers. After seeing the Library, collections, and gardens of I Tatti, the participants were received in the New Library.

Also in June, I Tatti welcomed two University Presidents, JOHN BRADEMÁS, the new President of New York University, who visited I Tatti on the 19th, and PRESIDENT DEREK BOK of Harvard University, who was in Florence for meetings and came to lunch with the Fellows on the 22nd, accompanied by Mrs Bok and their son, Thomas. The visit with the Boks, an unofficial one, was particularly warm and pleasant.

During the spring months, former American Ambassador to Italy RICHARD GARDNER, who had resigned in January when the new administration came to Washington, stayed at I Tatti in the Villino while he taught at the European University Institute at the Badia in S. Domenico. Ambassador Gardner, a Harvard Law School alumnus and on leave from his professorship at the Columbia University Law School, took part in various activities of the Center, including Fellows' lunches, and was a frequent reader in the Biblioteca Berenson. It was a pleasure to welcome him as a member of the I Tatti community.

The summer was a quieter time at I Tatti, although July brought two special groups to Florence and the Center. On the third, the HARVARD-RADCLIFFE COLLEGIUM MUSICUM performed a program of sacred music at the church of S. Martino a Mensola, which is in the grounds of I Tatti. The concert brought together members of the I Tatti community and local parishioners of the church and was greatly appreciated. The 50-member Collegium Musicum sang selections from Monteverdi, Orazi Vecchi, Heinrich Schutz, and Bach, among others. During his lifetime, Mr Berenson had felt a special affection for the church of S. Martino and took personal responsibility for its welfare. The concert helped reaffirm the ties between the I Tatti staff and S. Martino's parishioners. The fine voices of the Collegium Musicum were matched by equally fine appetites at the ricevimento held for the group afterward at the Villa.

July 7th brought the INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL and members of the board of the MUSEUM OF MODERN ART, New York City, to I Tatti for tours and a reception. They were in Florence for the opening of the Joseph Cornell show at the Palazzo Vecchio. Arrangements to visit I Tatti were made by the Secretary of the International Council and member of the MoMA board of trustees, Mrs Lily Auchincloss.



## Special Events, Fall-Winter 1981-82

In September, 1981, several more or less informal talks were given at the Center by Renaissance scholars. On September 17, PROFESSOR RENSSELAER LEE of Princeton University made "Some Observations on the First Illustrations of Tasso's *Gerusalemme Liberata*." The next week, PROFESSOR HENK VAN OS of the University of Groningen spoke on "Sienese Painting after the Black Death: A Problem of Interpretation." On the 29th, OLGA PUJMANOVA of the National Gallery of Prague presented her remarks on work in progress on "A Catalog of Italian Paintings in Czechoslovakia, 14th-15th century."

PROFESSOR KATHLEEN WEIL-GARRIS, Professor of Fine Arts, New York University, and Art Historian in Residence, American Academy in Rome, gave a lecture on Wednesday, October 7 on "Were This Clay But Marble: Emilian Terracotta Groups Reassessed." October also saw informal talks by PROFESSOR CHARLES TRINKAUS, University of Michigan (retired) and Visiting Scholar, Villa I Tatti, and by PROFESSOR RICCARDO FUBINI of the University of Florence. Professor Trinkaus spoke on "The Question of Truth in Renaissance Rhetoric and Anthropology," and Professor Fubini presented observations on "Machiavelli, Platone e Annio da Viterbo: Il problema della continuità o discontinuità della storia in Discorsi II, 5."

There were four informal talks in the last months of 1981. On November 19th, ERIC COCHRANE, University of Chicago, spoke on "Renaissance Historiography;" FABIO BISOGNI and LAURA CORTI, University of Siena, gave a joint talk on "L'uso del Computer nella Storia dell'Arte" on December 3rd. On December 10, PROFESSOR DENYS HAY, of the Istituto Universitario Europeo, Badia Fiesolana, spoke informally on "Nations without Histories: The Case of Italy," and five days later, CANDACE ADELSON, Scuola Normale Superiore, Pisa, made observations on "The Decoration of Palazzo Vecchio in Tapestry: The Joseph Series and Other Precedents for Vasari's Decorative Campaigns."

During the month of February, 1982, three talks were held at I Tatti. PROFESSOR VITTORE BRANCA, Fondazione Cini, spoke on the third on "Poliziano a Venezia e la Scoperta della Poetica," and I Tatti Fellow BARBARA BOWEN, University of Illinois, gave a talk on "Mercury at the Crossroads: The History of a Renaissance Emblem" on the 11th. Two weeks later, PAOLO ROSSI MONTI, University of Florence, spoke on "Storia della Natura e Storia dell'Uomo: 1650-1750. On March 4, former Fellow ANDREW MORROGH, Courtauld Institute of Art, gave a talk on "Vasari and Coloured Stones."

## Spring Talks

In the later months of the academic year, I Tatti Fellows, Visiting Scholars, Professors, and Associates may, if they choose, give informal presentations of the progress of their research to other members of the I Tatti community. A listing of this year's talks follows:

CAROLINE ELAM, Fellow, "Building Policy in Renaissance Florence," March 11.

CHARLES de la RONCIÈRE, Visiting Professor, "I Feudatari Toscani del Trecento Attraverso i loro Testamenti," March 18.

PIETRO MARANI, Fellow, "I disegni di figura di Francesco di Giorgio: una cronologia e una valutazione," April 27.

PAULINE TRINKAUS, Fellow, "From the Desert to the New World," May 6.

JOEL BRINK, Fellow, "Simone Martini at Assisi: A Self-Portrait in the Capella di S. Martino?," May 11.

KATHLEEN FALVEY, Fellow, "Medieval Drama at Perugia: The Nature of the Evidence," May 18.

PAOLO SIMONCELLI, Fellow, "La 'Repubblica fiorentina' nell'esilio di Lione (1556-1580)," May 27.

MALCOLM CAMPBELL, Visiting Scholar, and ROBERT GASTON, Fellow, "Bronzino's *Martyrdom of St. Lawrence*: The Image in Context," June 8.

CHARLES McCORQUODALE, Fellow, "Carlo Dolci pittore tutto di grido," June 15.

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## Spring Talks, continued

Other spring talks at I Tatti were given by: ALESSANDRO PEROSA, University of Florence, who spoke on "Edizioni di testi umanistici" on April 29; RICHARD GOLDTHWAITE, The Johns Hopkins University, who gave a talk on "An Economic Approach to Understanding the Demand for Art in Renaissance Italy" on May 13; and MICHAEL JAFFE of the Fitzwilliam Museum who, on June 2, spoke on "A Van Dyck Problem."

## Library Donations

Our warmest thanks to all those former Fellows of Villa I Tatti who, in response to a request for biographical information, have also sent copies of their recent publications to the Library, or donated photographs to the Fototeca. With the regrettable but unavoidable cuts in the Biblioteca Berenson's acquisitions funds, these gifts are especially welcome and a much-appreciated way for the Library to stay up-to-date with former Fellows' work. We would be very grateful if others who have worked in the Biblioteca Berenson and its Fototeca would consider this means of remaining a part of the I Tatti community.

## Harvard Alumni Symposium at I Tatti

During June 1981, I Tatti was host to a symposium on the Florentine Renaissance held for European alumni of Harvard sponsored by the University's Continuing Education program. Participants in the two-day seminar stayed in hotels in Florence and met each day at I Tatti for talks and gatherings. The talks were held in the Big Library, and were given by members of the I Tatti community.

The speakers for the Symposium were led by Elizabeth Cropper (Visiting Scholar at I Tatti 1980-81), who spoke on "Leonardo in Florence;" Charles Dempsey (former fellow and the 1981 Charles Singleton Professor at the Spelman Villa of Johns Hopkins University) talked about Michelangelo's

Medici Chapel. James Chater (Fellow 1981-82) gave a talk on "Music and Spectacle in Rome during the Renaissance;" Melissa Bullard (Fellow 1980-81) spoke about "Lorenzo the Magnificent, between History and Myth;" and Ralph Lieberman (Fellow 1980-81) made observations on "Architecture in Florence."

Tours of the Center's Library, art collections, and gardens were given on the first day of the seminar, followed by a buffet luncheon in the I Tatti dining room. On the second day, cocktails and a farewell dinner were given by I Tatti after the talks in the Library.

The two days were eventful and enjoyable. They gave Harvard alumni living in various different countries and representing several different nationalities the chance to meet each other and the I Tatti Fellows as well as see Harvard's Center in Europe and learn more about its purpose.



Cecil Altmann, Elizabeth Morrill, Sanda Altmann, and Gordon Morrill at the Alumni Symposium.

Alumni participants in the educational program were: Cecil and Sanda Altmann of Geneva; Elizabeth Brugnion (Mrs Stanilas) of Paris; Ann and Carlton Colcord of London; Mr and Mrs Pietro A. de Meo from Rome; Prof. and Mrs Joseph Hoet of Brussels; Charles and Sally Johnson, also from Brussels; John A. and M. Cristina King from Rome; Dr. Peter K. Knoefel from Florence; Susan Labiner (Mrs Gerald) from Los Angeles and then President-elect of the Associated Harvard Alumni; Nancy Morgan (Mrs Paul S.), President of the Associated Alumni and from Cambridge; Carlo and Maria Ludovica Parisi of Milan; Mary Fouse Peyton from (continued next page)



Perugia; Gunter Rischer from Paris; and Mrs Charles Van Teslaar, also from Paris. Accompanying the group were James Quitslund and Graham Holmes from the Associated Alumni Office in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

It was a splendid two days. Moreover, the group's interest in and appreciation of I Tatti were an added bonus and encouragement to the staff and Fellows.

#### New Members of the Villa I Tatti Council

It is a great pleasure to announce that MRS PAUL E. GEIER has joined the Villa I Tatti Council as an Honorary Member. Mrs Geier and her late husband Paul (see p. 8) have been I Tatti's close friends since the Center's earliest days and had known Bernard Berenson well. Their great generosity and concern for I Tatti's welfare have been a constant inspiration to the staff and the directors of I Tatti over the years. Mrs Geier, who has a special interest in music, lives in Rome and Austria and drops in often to visit I Tatti. We are pleased to welcome her to honorary membership in the Council.

At the November 9, 1981 meeting of the Villa I Tatti Council in New York City, Chairman Edmund P. Pillsbury welcomed a new member, MR ROBERT F. ERBURU. Mr Erburu is the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Los Angeles Times Mirror and received his Doctor of Law degree from Harvard in 1955. Mr Pillsbury noted that the Council is especially grateful to Mr Erburu for travelling such a distance to attend Council meetings and that it is a great boon to have I Tatti's interests so well represented on the West Coast.

MR CECIL ALTMANN (Harvard AB'55; MBA '57) has accepted an invitation to join the Villa I Tatti Council. Mr Altmann, whose home is in Geneva, Switzerland, has been an active European alumnus of Harvard, and has been Harvard College Class of '55 European Chairman. He is President of Colbert, S.A., an investment company specializing in direct investments, particularly in U.S. real estate. He travels frequently to the U.S. Mr Altmann's membership in the Council will broaden I Tatti's

international representation. It is a pleasure to welcome such an involved and active Harvard alumnus.



Craig Hugh Smyth at the Uffizi Anniversary convocation, December 19, 1981, Palazzo Vecchio

#### Uffizi Celebrations

Florence's Uffizi Gallery celebrates its 400th anniversary in 1982, and throughout the year convegni and special exhibitions are being held to mark the occasion.

The opening of the Uffizi year was inaugurated with a grand convocation in the Palazzo Vecchio's Sala dei Cinquecento on December 19th. Prime Minister Giovanni Spadolini was present for the occasion, and Professor Craig Hugh Smyth was the keynote speaker. An audience of over 2,000 packed the great room. Introductory talks were given by the Mayor of Florence Elio Gabugiani, the President of the Region of Tuscany Mario Leone, and the President of the Provincia Franco Ravà.

Professor Smyth spoke in Italian on the subject of: "The Uffizi and the Problems of the Great Museums at the End of the Century." The first part of his address was a brief discussion of the beginnings of the Uffizi and the invention of its pattern of circulation for visitors. He turned then to the difficulty the  
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Uffizi and its visitors face in an age when it has become an obligatory stop for tourists. He went on to many other problems common to great museums in our day. His talk was on a theme that will be explored later in the celebration year at a convegno on the subject of the Uffizi. Professor Smyth is also serving on the committee to plan this convegno. Everyone connected with the Harvard Center is pleased that it has been represented in the celebration year and that the Director of an American institution in Florence could be invited to give the convocation address.

Eleanor E. Murdock

June 13, 1904–August 23, 1981

It is with great sadness that we announce here what many of I Tatti's friends already know. Eleanor E. Murdock, widow of Kenneth B. Murdock, the first Director of the Harvard Center, died in Boston on August 23, 1981. As the wife of Professor Murdock, she aided him with her wisdom, intelligence, wit and warmth in transforming the home of Bernard Berenson into the research center he hoped it would be. In the process, she set an example for the role of Director's wife, establishing a tradition for her successors to draw upon and develop. After leaving I Tatti, she continued to show her belief in it and her love for it by her generous gifts and by her service on the Villa I Tatti Council. We sorely miss her visits to I Tatti and her presence at the Council's meetings. Her contributions to the character of Harvard's Center at I Tatti is very tangible still and will remain so.

Craig Hugh Smyth  
Director, Villa I Tatti

Paul E. Geier

November 19, 1914–October 23, 1981

In October, 1981, I Tatti lost one of its most loyal and devoted friends and supporters, Paul E. Geier. His death was a great personal loss to his friends at the Center. He had been a frequent and welcome visitor here since well before Bernard Berenson died and left his villa, library, and collections to Harvard University in 1959.

Paul Geier received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Harvard in 1936, and his Harvard law degree in 1939. As a Foreign Service Officer he served from 1941 until 1953 in Tangier, Jidda, Vienna, Casablanca, and Rome. In 1949 he married Gabriele Brougier, who survives him. Mrs Geier has become an Honorary Member of the Villa I Tatti Council (see p. 7).

Having his winter home in Rome, Paul Geier could make visits often to I Tatti, where his vitality, warmth, and intellectual curiosity enlivened all the days he spent with us. He had seen I Tatti transformed from Mr Berenson's home into an internationally-recognized research institution, and he played an invaluable part in the process. His interest in the arts and humanities was deeply personal and wholehearted. His belief that I Tatti fostered a uniquely stimulating interchange in humanistic studies was encouraging to us all.

In Paul Geier we have lost a beloved and valued friend. We shall miss him profoundly.

Craig Hugh Smyth  
Director, Villa I Tatti



Eleanor Murdock and Paul Geier at a  
Villa I Tatti Council meeting (near left)



## NEH Grant Awarded

In the summer of 1981, the National Endowment for the Humanities announced that it will continue its support of I Tatti Fellowships for the next three years through an annual grant of \$57,000. A commission from the NEH had met with Craig Smyth, Director of Villa I Tatti, and Walter Kaiser, Professor of Comparative Literature at Harvard University and co-chairman of the I Tatti Advisory Committee, which selects the I Tatti Fellows each year. The decision to continue giving a block of NEH fellowships came after this meeting. We are honored that the Endowment felt I Tatti's proposal worthy of full support. In this time of cutbacks in federal funding, the NEH grant serves as a strong endorsement of I Tatti's contributions to humanist studies, and we very much appreciate this recognition.

endowment. This additional support for I Tatti's capital funds comes as a most welcome gift.



Biblioteca Berenson, I Tatti

## Foundation Gifts to the Endowment

The Indian Head Foundation of New York has granted the Villa I Tatti endowment a gift of \$100,000 to be paid over the next five years. This funding was made possible through the good offices of Baron H. H. Thyssen-Bornemisza, an Honorary Member of the Villa I Tatti Council. A world-reknowned collector of art, he has been much interested in I Tatti for a number of years, and his generous support through the Indian Head Foundation is greatly appreciated.

A grant of \$25,000 from the Samuel H. Kress Foundation has been awarded to the endowment of Villa I Tatti. This gift was announced by Mary Davis, a member of the Villa I Tatti Council and Executive Vice-President of the Foundation until her retirement in December, 1981. The Kress Foundation has generously supported the work of Villa I Tatti for many years, through the Rush Kress Fellowship in the history of art at I Tatti, the funding of a five-year pilot project for the use of the computer in indexing Italian works of art, and through gifts to the

## Year-End Grant from Billy Rose Foundation

Thanks to a generous grant of \$35,000 from the Billy Rose Foundation, Villa I Tatti was able to complete the 1980-81 fiscal year with a balanced budget. Without this help, I Tatti would not have finished the year in the black. All associated with the Center are especially grateful to James Cherry, President of the Foundation, who is a member of the I Tatti Council.



## The Association for Villa I Tatti

Friends of the Harvard Center and visitors to I Tatti have often asked how they might express their appreciation and support for I Tatti's scholarly programs. In response to this interest, the Villa I Tatti Council has established a membership organization, the Association for Villa I Tatti. By providing important non-restricted funds, the Association will be essential in insuring I Tatti's future as a pre-eminent center for Renaissance studies. Members' contributions are supporting the Library acquisitions program, vital to the continuing value of the Biblioteca Berenson as a current resource for advanced study; helping to insure that I Tatti's publications and symposia will continue to communicate the Center's work; and providing for care of the art collection and the landmark buildings, which are I Tatti's trust to conserve and maintain.

It is a pleasure for I Tatti to announce that Lady Nolwen Clark, wife of Lord Kenneth Clark, has agreed to serve as the Honorary Chairman of the new Association for Villa I Tatti. In May, 1980, Lord and Lady Clark were guests of the Center for a several-day stay, the first time Lord Clark had returned to I Tatti since his years there with Mr Berenson as a young art historian, and a first-time visit for Lady Clark. It was a delightful few days, and Professor and Mrs Smyth and the Center's staff enjoyed showing Lord and Lady Clark what I Tatti has become since Mr Berenson's day. That Lady Clark has accepted our invitation to become Honorary Chairman of the Association is an honor to the Center and a much-appreciated personal endorsement of I Tatti's scholarly value.

All those invited to join the Association are asked to contribute annually to I Tatti. In addition to the Sustaining Members, who give \$1,000 or more, there are three other levels of giving: Contributing Members, who donate \$1,500 or more; Patron members, who give \$5,000 or more; and Benefactor Members, who contribute \$10,000 or more.

An Association event will be held each year in the United States. Members will have the opportunity to hear former I Tatti Fellows talk about their work and the Director speak about the year's events. Members are invited to visit the Library, collections, and gardens at I Tatti. During mid-week, they are welcome for lunch with the Director and Fellows. Arrangements have been made for them to use the Berenson Library and Fototeca. All members receive the I Tatti newsletter and announcements of special events at the Center. As of April, 1982, there were 24 Members of the Association for Villa I Tatti, which is a most encouraging start for an organization less than a year old.

The Association was inaugurated on November 9, 1981 with a formal dinner at the Harvard Club of New York City. The dinner was attended by the members of the Villa I Tatti Council, by several former Fellows, and by both long-time supporters and new friends of the Center - some from as far away as California. Professor Craig Smyth and Harvard Professor Walter Kaiser, co-chairman of the Academic Advisory Committee for Villa I Tatti, made opening remarks. Paul F. Watson, former I Tatti Fellow and Associate Professor at the University of Pennsylvania, spoke about his year at I Tatti and how the experience influenced his academic and personal life. It was a fine occasion, a pleasant way to launch the new organization.

Inquiries about the Association may be addressed to:

Miss Susan Mainwaring  
Secretary, Association for Villa  
I Tatti  
46 East 70th Street  
New York, NY 10021 U.S.A.



## Staff Changes and Additions

After being a part-time member of the I Tatti staff for two years, Heidi Boardman has joined the staff full-time. Mrs Boardman is working with Nelda Ferace in administrative and financial matters. She also assists Barbara Smyth, wife of the Director, with the management of the gardens.

Alexa Mason is the new Secretary to the Director, and her full-time assistance is turning out to be of great help to him. She has taken the place of Jane Immler, who has returned to her studies and is finishing her dissertation. She had succeeded Jacqueline Darby, who returned to Britain to live in 1980.

## I Tatti Publication

I Tatti is publishing a book this year by two former Fellows, Francis W. Kent of Monash University and Dale V. Kent of La Trobe University. Entitled Neighbours and Neighbourhood in Renaissance Florence: the District of the Red Lion in the Fifteenth Century, it was written by the Kents mainly in their fellowship year at I Tatti in 1977/78 and is based on their archival work in Florence. The Kents evoke the day-to-day administration, associations among neighbors, and daily life in the neighborhood of San Pancrazio, a section, or gonfalone, of Renaissance Florence which includes the Palazzo Rucellai and the Via della Vigna. The sixth publication in the Center's series, Neighbours and Neighbourhood is being published for I Tatti by J. J. Augustin and is in English. It is being financed with the help of the Myron and Sheila Gilmore Publication Fund. Previously, Francis Kent has written Household and Lineage in Renaissance Florence. The Family Life of the Capponi, Ginori, and Rucellai, Princeton, 1977, and Dale Kent is the author of The Rise of the Medici, Oxford, 1978.

Inquiries concerning the availability of Neighbours and Neighbourhoods should be addressed to: J.J. Augustin, Locust Valley, New York, NY 11560. The volume will consist of 181 pages plus an index, and cost will be \$22.00.

## Appeal to Friends of the Biblioteca Berenson

In the 1980-81 newsletter, we appealed to Friends of the Library for help in purchasing a large reference work of major importance, La Concordance de la Bible. We are extremely grateful to all who responded to our need for funds toward the purchase of these important and quite expensive volumes. We repeat our appeal, for we are in need still of funds for the Concordance acquisition. Again, our goal is:

### La Concordance de la Bible

Concordantia Polyglotta  
Hebrew, Greek, Latin, and English

Five volumes in quarto (6,000 pp.),  
1980, edited by Brepols, Belgium;  
Price: 50,000 Belgian francs -  
approximately \$1,200.00

Checks may be made payable to  
Special Library Acquisition Fund, Villa  
I Tatti, and sent to Villa I Tatti, Via  
di Vincigliata 26, 50135 Florence, Italy,  
or, in the United States, to Villa I  
Tatti, New York Office, 46 East 70th  
Street, New York, NY 10021.

All gifts are tax-deductible.

I Tatti Newsletter editor:  
Susan R. Mainwaring

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