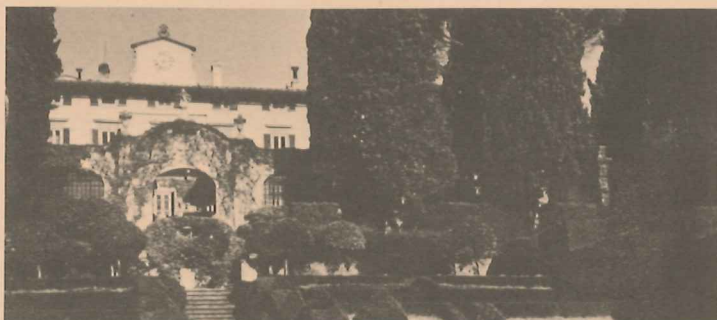
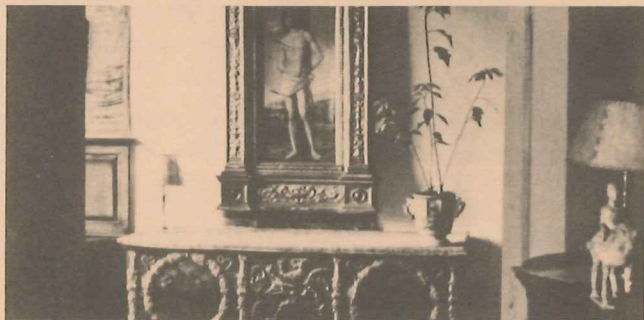


Villa I Tatti

FALL 1978



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

We have been thinking for some time of publishing an occasional informal newsletter about I Tatti's activities for former Fellows, visitors, and friends. This is the first newsletter, and I hope it serves its purpose in bringing you up-to-date. Despite administrative and financial pressures, the scholarly work at I Tatti flourishes.

Craig Smyth

Craig Hugh Smyth
Director

Highlights of I Tatti Activities, 1977-1978

-- The second seminar on FLORENCE AND VENICE: COMPARISONS AND RELATIONS opened the 1977-78 academic year. Because Venice and Florence have been much studied separately, the Conferences were designed to bring together specialists on each to stimulate comparisons and consideration of relationships that may have existed between the two cities and the two regions. It was divided into the following sessions: Science, Philosophy and Religion; Historiography, Political Thought and Humanism; Government and Institutions; Dominion; Music; Art and Architecture. The first seminar was held in 1976.

-- I Tatti welcomed many visiting scholars and other special guests throughout the year. In October it hosted a luncheon for the scholars participating in the International Conference on Brunelleschi Studies in Florence.

-- Visiting scholars and Fellows presented numerous informal talks about their work.

-- Geremia Gioffredi was honored for his forty years of service to I Tatti as estate manager. He was presented with a Harvard chair flown over for the occasion by the University. Farmers, gardeners, institute staff and other friends joined the Director and his wife and Fellows in the farmyard to toast one of the most esteemed members of the I Tatti community.

-- Anonymous donors made generous contributions to I Tatti to establish a fellowship in honor of Hanna Kiel, long-time member of the I Tatti community and collaborator of Bernard Berenson. A reception for Fellows, staff and friends of Hanna Kiel was held in the Big Library to celebrate the event.

I Tatti Fellows, 1978–79:

The ten I Tatti Fellows appointed for 1978-79 represent, as usual, a broad range of interests related to the Renaissance: music, art, economics, comparative literature and law:

ALLAN W. ATLAS, Professor of Musicology at Brooklyn College of New York:
a study of Neapolitan-Florentine musical interchange during the late fifteenth
and sixteenth centuries.

ELIZABETH CROPPER, Associate Professor of Art History at the Tyler School of Art at Temple University: Pietro Testa and seventeenth century art theory (including an edition of Pietro Testa's manuscript in the Kunstmuseum, Düsseldorf.)

JOHN D'AMICO, Assistant Professor of History at the University of Rochester:
the transformation of Renaissance humanism as its focal center moved from
Florence to Rome at the close of the fifteenth century, concentrating on
Paolo Cortesi's Cardinalatu.

COSTANZO (DINO) DI GIROLAMO, Assistant Professor of Literature at Johns Hopkins University: a critical edition of Libro di lu transitu et vita di misser sanctu Iheronimu.

ALBERTO GROHMANN, Professor of Economic History in the Faculty of Political Science of the University of Perugia: Demography and Society in Perugia between the Middle Ages and the Renaissance.

JULIUS KIRSHNER, Associate Professor in the Department of History at the University of Chicago: the laws concerning family property in thirteenth and fourteenth century Florence.

ELIZABETH WARD MAHNKE, Lecturer in History at Harvard: the private correspondence of the Gonzaga of Mantua, particularly the family of Ludovico Gonzaga (1412-1478) and his wife, Barbara of Brandenburg (1423-1481), in order to complete a study of the family life of the Gonzaga.

DAVID QUINT, Professor of Comparative Literature at Princeton: a critical monograph on the fourteenth century vernacular poet Luigi Pulci.

PAUL F. WATSON, Chairman of the Department of the History of Art at the University of Pennsylvania: Italian illustrations of the writings of Giovanni Boccaccio from 1350 to 1500, an investigation of Boccaccio's influence on the visual arts during the early Renaissance.

DIANE FINIELLO ZERVAS, formerly Assistant Professor of the History of Art at Mount Holyoke College: a monograph on the church of Orsanmichele in Florence during the thirteenth to sixteenth centuries.

We are grateful for the fellowship support that has made possible the community of scholars at I Tatti over recent years. Special thanks go to the Samuel H. Kress Foundation, the Leopold Schepp Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities, Commissione per gli Scambi Culturali tra l'Italia e gli Stati Uniti, and the Committee for the Rescue of Italian Art. The newest fellowship at I Tatti is provided by the Hanna Kiel Fellowship Fund, donated by friends of Hanna Kiel.

Because of the budgetary pressures caused by Italian inflation, the number of I Tatti Fellows has been cut back from fifteen last year to ten this year. This reduction was effected at the suggestion of Harvard's Office of Budgets to see if maintaining a smaller group of Fellows substantially reduces operating expenses.

Tangible Support for I Tatti

Insuring I Tatti's scholarly excellence in the face of rising costs and continually higher Italian inflation remains a constant concern. In recent years major endowment support has been provided by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. The Foundation made an outright grant of \$1,000,000 to I Tatti in 1974 and, in addition, offered \$1,500,000 on a matching basis. Gifts for endowment received by December 31, 1978 are matched by the Foundation dollar-for-dollar. Two-thirds of the challenge has been met through the generosity of foundations and loyal and concerned friends of I Tatti.

The importance of every gift received, large or small, for endowment or current use, cannot be over-emphasized. Gifts to I Tatti may be sent to the Office of the Recording Secretary, Harvard University, Holyoke Center, Cambridge, MA 02138.

Myron P. Gilmore Honored

Myron P. Gilmore, Director of I Tatti from 1964 to 1973, has been honored with two volumes of essays contributed by scholars who were I Tatti Fellows during his directorship.

In his forward to the essays, Craig Smyth explains that this body of work "commemorates Professor Gilmore's contribution in shaping I Tatti as a vital center of study and meeting place of scholars no less than his great achievement as historian, teacher and mentor."

Edited by former Fellow Sergio Bertelli, professor of history at the University of Perugia, and Gloria Ramakus of the I Tatti staff, the volumes were published by La Nuova Italia. They were made possible by the Myron and Sheila Gilmore Publication Fund, to which many friends of the Gilmores generously contributed.

What is the Harvard University Center for Italian Renaissance Studies?

The Harvard Center is devoted to advanced study of all aspects of the Italian Renaissance: fine arts, literature, music, science, philosophy, and political, economic and social history. Fellows and visiting scholars come to I Tatti each year from many parts of the world. The Center was founded on the principle that scholars working independently profit by close association with each other and with visiting scholars of various ages, interests, and achievements. The Center's greatest asset is its location: the fact that it is in Florence where the materials for study -- archives, collections, monuments, libraries, and Italy itself -- are at hand.

I Tatti's scholarly community consists of 10 to 15 postdoctoral Fellows, men and women whose fellowships usually last a year; several Research Associates; a professor-in-residence some years; visiting scholars for short periods; and the resident director. Since these represent a wide range of disciplines focusing on the Renaissance period, I Tatti provides opportunity for interdisciplinary study and interchange of information and ideas between scholars of many countries.

The writings of Fellows and Associates during the 18 years of the Center's existence are the tangible evidence of its worth, but just as important is the contribution that I Tatti makes to the effectiveness and stature of former Fellows in their later careers as university and college teachers, researchers, librarians, and museum personnel.

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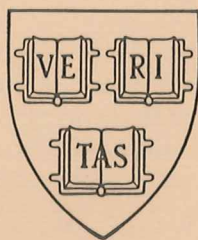
Smyth on Leave

In September Professor Dante della Terza of the Department of Comparative Literature, Harvard University, came to I Tatti as Acting Director for the fall semester. Professor Craig Hugh Smyth will spend the autumn at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton to work with MIT Professor Henry Millon on their series of studies on Michelangelo and St. Peter's in Rome. He will return to I Tatti in January.

Publication Program

The acts of the two conferences held at I Tatti in 1976 and 1977 on Florence and Venice: Comparisons and Relations, are being published by La Nuova Italia in two volumes in the I Tatti series. The first is in press, the second about to be, and both will be issued in early 1979. The papers range in subject from political, social and economic history to literature, music, art and architectural history. Authors in the first volume, which has been financed by a generous contribution from the Billy Rose Foundation, are James Beck, Sergio Bertelli, Gene Brucker, Giorgio Cracco, Felix Gilbert, Myron Gilmore, Isabelle Hyman, Michael Mallett, Roslyn Pesman, Nicolai Rubinstein, Craig Hugh Smyth, Francesco Tateo, Cesare Vasoli, and Angelo Ventura. Authors in the second volume are James Ackerman, Angelo Baiocchi, Howard Brown, Howard Burns, Gaetano Cozzi, Elena Fasano Guarani, Sydney Freedberg, James Haar, John Hale, Valerio Marchetti, Carlo Pincin, John Pope-Hennessy, Giorgio Spini, and Paola Zambelli.

Two former I Tatti Fellows have authored books for the I Tatti series published by J.J. August in Gluckstadt and Locust Valley, NY: Charles Dempsey, ANNIBALE CARACCI AND THE BEGINNINGS OF THE BAROQUE STYLE, and James Beck, MASACCIO: THE DOCUMENTS.



I Tatti Newsletter
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Office of the Director

As this newsletter went to press, the sad news arrived of the death of Myron Piper Gilmore, former Director of I Tatti, of cancer, on Friday, October 27 in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Memorial services were held Friday, November 8, at 3 p.m. in Memorial Church, Harvard Yard.

Mr. Gilmore, 68, was most recently the Gurney Professor of History and Political Science at Harvard. From 1957 to 1962, he served as Chairman of the Department of History, and he was Director of Villa I Tatti from 1964 to 1973.

As a renowned Renaissance historian, Mr. Gilmore was admired and respected by students and colleagues from within the Harvard Community and throughout the world. Mr. Craig Smyth, current Director of I Tatti stated: "Myron Gilmore's great achievement at I Tatti was the development of its potentialities as a truly international center for advanced study. He made it outstanding, to the great benefit of humanistic studies at Harvard and elsewhere. By virtue of both the admiration in which his own contributions to scholarship were held and his warmth and generosity as a person, he forged for the Harvard Center the best of relationships in the Center's host country."

For his service to Florence in organizing foreign help following the disastrous floods of 1966, the President of Italy conferred upon Mr. Gilmore the order, "Stella della Solidarietà Italiana," giving him the rank of "Grande Ufficiale." In 1976, the Society for Italian Historical Studies cited him for his distinguished contribution as an historian. Also in 1976, Mr. Gilmore received the honorary Doctor of Letters degree from the University of Florence. As noted elsewhere in this newsletter, Mr. Gilmore was recently honored at a celebration in Florence by former Fellows and Associates at I Tatti with a two-volume collection of essays, Essays Presented to Myron P. Gilmore.

Mr. Gilmore is survived by his wife, Sheila Gilmore, of Cambridge; and their four children, Mrs. Christopher (Janet) Greene, Mrs. Lawrence (Diana) Fane, Thomas North Gilmore, and John Allen Dehn Gilmore; and six grandchildren.

The family requests that, in lieu of flowers, contributions be made to the "The Myron and Sheila Gilmore Publication Fund at I Tatti," c/o Dr. Walter Kaiser, Harvard University, Boylston Hall 401, Cambridge, MA 02138.

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