

Newsletter

III

VILLA I TATTI

THE HARVARD UNIVERSITY CENTER
FOR ITALIAN RENAISSANCE STUDIES
FLORENCE, ITALY

November 1969

This year, 1969, marks the tenth anniversary of Bernard Berenson's death and the acceptance of his magnificent bequest by Harvard University. The Harvard Center for Italian Renaissance Studies was opened at Villa I Tatti in 1961 and has now completed its eighth year of activity. This Newsletter, the third to be issued, reviews particularly developments since November 1967 when the last Letter was published.

I. Fellows and Visiting Scholars

The entire I Tatti community suffered an irreparable loss in the death of Nicky Mariano which occurred on 3 June 1968 in her eighty-first year. Since the opening of the Center in 1961 she had served by appointment of the President and Fellows of Harvard College as Advisor to the Director. Unfailingly generous and helpful to the Fellows, she put her unrivalled knowledge of I Tatti and the Florentine scene at the disposal of the Harvard administration. The realization of Bernard Berenson's plans for the Center owes an incalculable debt to her interest and cooperation.

By the terms of an arrangement made with the Harvard administration in 1967 the Director returns to Cambridge every other year to teach in the Harvard History Department for one semester. During his absence in the spring of 1967 and again in 1969 the Center has been fortunate in securing the services of Professor Millard Meiss of the

Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton, who has been willing to accept appointment as Acting Director for these periods.

The number of Fellows has increased from five in the first year, to eleven in 1967-8, and to fourteen in 1968-9 and 1969-70. Further increases are not, however, contemplated as the available studies and dining arrangements cannot accommodate a larger number without radical changes.

The Fellows are recruited internationally and in the eight years of the Center's existence we have had scholars from Austria, Canada, England, France, Germany and Italy, although the majority continues to be drawn from universities in the United States. In accordance with Bernard Berenson's wishes and the recommendations of the Advisory Committee about half the Fellows are in Art History while the other half are in various other fields of Renaissance studies. In making its selections the Committee defines very broadly the research interests which fall within the period of the Italian Renaissance.

It was originally planned to appoint only scholars who had already attained the doctorate or its equivalent, and who were between twenty-five and forty years of age. However, the Committee has been increasingly impressed by the qualifications of a few graduate students who have reached the stage of completing their theses. The post-doctoral requirement has accordingly been relaxed and now every year a small number of advanced graduate students is selected along with the older Fellows.

The present income from the I Tatti endowment permits us to provide stipends for about one-third of the Fellows. In 1963 the Kress Foundation made a grant to Villa I Tatti of \$10,000 a year for a five-year period for a fellowship and the purchase of books and photographs for the library. This grant was generously renewed for a second five-year period in 1968. In 1964 the Old Dominion Foundation granted \$50,000 to be expended at the rate of \$10,000 annually for similar purposes. The other Fellows are supported by term or annual grants from foun-

dations or institutions such as the American Commission for Cultural Exchange with Italy (the Fulbright Commission), the Guggenheim Foundation, the Finley Fund of the National Gallery, the Istituto Nazionale di Studi sul Rinascimento in Florence, the Leopold Schepp Foundation, the Medici Fund of the Renaissance Society of America, and the National Humanities Foundation. These Fellows whose stipends are derived from outside sources nevertheless have the same privileges as do the Fellows supported by I Tatti funds.

One of the most successful features of the program has been the scheduling of regular short visits to I Tatti by senior scholars in various fields of Renaissance studies. This part of the program has been supported by a grant from the Gulbenkian Foundation made in 1964 for a four-year period and renewed in 1969 for five years. The funds thus made available are used to pay the travel and living expenses of European scholars invited to the Villa for a week or a fortnight. The Fellows therefore have the benefit of meeting and discussing their work with many of the most distinguished men and women in Renaissance studies. From time to time the visiting scholars are invited to give lectures to which interested members of the Florentine community are also welcome. Such lectures are supplemented especially in the second part of the academic year by informal discussions in which the Fellows report on work in progress and invite critical comments from their colleagues. The Villa also sponsors occasional concerts which are of interest to the Florentine public.

II. Publications

The Fellows who have been appointed to the Center in its first eight years have published an impressive number of books, articles and reviews. In the appendix to this Newsletter is a list of books written wholly or in part while their authors were holders of an I Tatti fellowship, and in which in many cases there is specific acknowledgment to

the Harvard Center, even though financial support was supplied from other sources. This list testifies to the range and quality of the scholarly interests that characterize the program at I Tatti.

It has long been the hope of the Director and the Advisory Committee that I Tatti would be able to have a program of publication supported by the Center but funds have hitherto been lacking. So far there have been published under the imprint of Villa I Tatti the Newsletters, the *Inventory* of the Berenson correspondence, and in 1969 the facsimile of Machiavelli's *First Decennale*, the first edition of which is in the possession of the Houghton Library at Harvard and which was reproduced in commemoration of the 500th anniversary of Machiavelli's birth. For this anniversary a seminar was held at I Tatti to discuss the most recent research on Machiavelli's life and times. About thirty-five scholars accepted the invitation to participate and the seminar was organized on four broad topics: 1) Machiavelli and the internal political history of Florence; 2) Machiavelli and Florentine foreign policy; 3) Machiavelli the historian; 4) Machiavelli man of letters. A day's session was assigned to each of these topics. It is hoped that these papers will be published as the first volume of the series of I Tatti Studies.

The publication of small monographs of the type « too long for an article, too short for a book, » on subjects which reflect the interest of the I Tatti Fellows, is also planned. The realization of these enterprises, however, depends on our success in raising additional funds.

III. Library and Fototeca

The most important addition to the library since 1967 has been the construction of a new room, the Morrill Music Library, the gift of F. Gordon Morrill '32 and his wife, Elizabeth Morrill. The room was designed by Mr. Morrill who supplied the funds to build it and in addition pledged an annual contribution for the purchase of books in Ren-

aissance music. A considerable collection of scores, periodicals and literature on this subject has been assembled which serves the needs not only of the Fellow in musicology who is now appointed annually to I Tatti, but also of students of music in the Florentine community.

The new Photograph Library, construction of which was completed in 1967, besides housing the Berenson collection of photographs, provides a large, comfortable and well-lit reading room, six studies for Fellows, and a darkroom for the photographer. The photograph collection continues to grow as much as our resources allow. The project of copying the Berenson photographs of Italian paintings before 1600, to which fourteen institutions have subscribed, is being successfully carried forward.

The collections of orientalia and archeology, in which only subscriptions to periodicals are kept up, have been moved to separate rooms, thus creating more space in the main library and making possible a more rational organization of volumes in the various fields of Renaissance studies.

In the main library two microfilm readers from University Microfilms, Inc. have been donated through the generosity of Mr. Eugene Power. We have also been able to install a xerox machine which has proved to be very useful and which facilitates the research of the Fellows and the work of the library in many ways.

Besides adding new titles to the Music Library, about 1,000 volumes per year are purchased in the fields of Italian painting, Florentine history, and the history and literature of humanism. Even with this modest expansion the problems of redoing the catalogue and finding adequate space for future growth will have to be faced within a few years.

IV. Collection and Garden

More than 2,500 visitors annually make appointments for the Wednesday tours of the house and grounds sched-

uled at three and at four o'clock. In the summer these tours are offered also on Monday and Friday afternoons.

The arrangement of the paintings continues to be very much as it was in Berenson's time although some panels have been rehung and the downstairs rooms have been repainted, again thanks to the generosity of Mr. Eugene Power.

During the last two years the cypresses in the garden have been attacked by a virus which is widespread in Tuscany and for which there first appeared to be no remedy. By cutting away the affected parts and spraying, it is hoped that the damage has been brought under control. Some of the older trees in the hedges of the formal garden have died and the gaps will have to be replaced. Work of this kind makes it necessary to appeal for special funds for the gardens.

V. The Financial Position

This letter gives an opportunity to express again publicly our gratitude to those who have contributed to meeting the various needs of I Tatti in the last two years.

Contributions to the permanent endowment in memory of Nicky Mariano were received from: Elizabeth Berenson, Lawrence Berenson, C. Henry Coster, Paul Geier, Myron P. Gilmore, Mason Hammond, Mr. and Mrs. R. Keith Kane, Agnes Mongan, Mr. and Mrs. F. Gordon Morrill.

Additional contributions to the permanent fund were received as follows: Benjamin Alexander, Jr. (the Pepper Hollow Fund), Lawrence Berenson, John Coolidge, the Earl of Crawford (the Lindsay Trust), Henry Detweiler, the Estate of Charles E. Dunlap, Emanuel Friedberg, Paul Geier, M.P. Geraghty, Felix Gilbert, Charles Gilmore, Albert Gordon (the Kidder Peabody Fund), Marchesa Luisa Grossi, Mrs. Donald Hyde, Mr. and Mrs. Walter J. Kaiser (the Copperfield Fund), Mrs. Alice Morgan, Mrs. John Phillips (a fund in memory of her mother, Maria Borletti), Francis T. P. Plimpton, Mrs. John Reid, H. Colin Slim, John Te-

deschi. The total of these contributions to the permanent fund was \$54,030.91.

Another group of gifts was applied to current expenses and included special scholarships for one or two years as well as gifts designated for the library or for the garden. In addition to the foundations mentioned above such contributions were received from the following: Mr. and Mrs. Fellowes Davis, M. P. Geraghty, Felton Gibbons, Derek Hill, Henry McIlhenny, Mr. and Mrs. F. Gordon Morrill, Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth B. Murdock, Eugene Power, Peter Riesenbergh, Arnold Ross, John Walker (Finley Fund of the National Gallery), Mrs. Frank Wooster. These gifts in the two-year period totalled \$29,003.41.

VI. Appeal

The generous contributions recorded above have brought us nearer the original goal of the \$2,000,000 fund drive launched in 1961 to put the finances of I Tatti on a firm basis. We are still, however, some \$700,000 away from that goal, without taking into account the extent of inflation since 1961. As noted above less than half of the I Tatti Fellows receive their support from I Tatti endowment funds. We are still operating with the help of term grants which keep the program going. Our aims include:

1. The establishment of enough fellowship money so that we attain complete independence in the selection of Fellows.
2. The appointment of an Associate Director who would share the tasks of administration and in particular supervise the growth of the library and the photograph collection.
3. Creation of a publication fund.
4. Adequate provision for the current expenses of the library and the garden.

In 1968 one generous friend pledged that he would match gifts up to \$10,000 annually for the next ten years.

I hope others will be encouraged by this example to make a contribution, large or small, either to the permanent endowment or for current expenses. Of course we hope to realize the goal originally set for the permanent endowment but we would also like to enroll groups of Friends of the Library and Friends of the Garden whose annual contributions may serve to keep up these essential parts of the I Tatti heritage.

Myron P. Gilmore

Contributions may be sent to Villa I Tatti, Via di Vincigliata 26, Florence, Italy, or to the Treasurer's Office, Harvard University, 225 Franklin Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02110. Checks should be made out to Harvard University and donors should specify whether the contribution is for the endowment, library, or gardens of Villa I Tatti.

Recent books published by Fellows of Villa I Tatti

- Bacci, Mina (Liceo Classico Michelangelo, Florence): *Piero di Cosimo*, Milan, Bramante Editrice, 1966
- Becker, Marvin B. (Univ. of Rochester): *Florence in Transition*, 2 vols., Baltimore (Md.), The Johns Hopkins Press, 1967
- Bertelli, Sergio (Univ. of Perugia): *Introduzione all'Opera Omnia di Niccolò Machiavelli*, Milan, Giovanni Salerno Editore, 1968
- Brucker, Gene (Univ. of California, Berkeley): *Renaissance Florence*, New York (N. Y.), John Wiley and Sons, 1969
- Conti, Elio (Univ. of Florence): *Struttura Agraria nel Contado Fiorentino*, 2 vols., Rome, Istituto Storico Italiano per il Medio Evo, 1965
- Gibbons, Felton (Princeton Univ.): *Dosso and Battista Dossi, Court Painters at Ferrara*, Princeton (N. J.), Princeton Univ. Press, 1968
- Jayne, Sears (Queens College): *John Colet and Marsilio Ficino*, Oxford, Oxford Univ. Press, 1963
- Martines, Lauro (Univ. of California, Los Angeles): *Lawyers and Statecraft in Renaissance Florence*, Princeton (N. J.), Princeton Univ. Press, 1968
- Molho, Anthony (ed.) (Brown Univ.): *Social and Economic Foundations of the Italian Renaissance*, New York (N. Y.), John Wiley and Sons, 1969
- O'Malley, John, S.J. (Univ. of Detroit): *Giles of Viterbo on Church and Reform*, Leiden, E. J. Brill, 1968

- Rearick, Janet Cox (Mrs. H. Wiley Hitchcock) (Hunter College): *The Drawings of Pontormo*, 2 vols., Cambridge (Mass.), Harvard Univ. Press, 1964
- Saalman, Howard (Carnegie-Mellon Univ.): *The Church of Santa Trinità in Florence*, New York (N. Y.), College Art Association of America, 1966
- Seigel, Jerrold E. (Princeton Univ.): *Rhetoric and Philosophy in Renaissance Humanism*, Princeton (N. J.), Princeton Univ. Press, 1968
- Starn, Randolph (Univ. of California, Berkeley): *Donato Giannotti*, Droz, 1968
- Tateo, Francesco (Univ. of Bari): *Trattati delle virtù sociali*, Rome, Edizioni dell'Ateneo, 1965
- Turner, Richard (Middlebury College): *The Vision of Landscape in Renaissance Italy*, Princeton (N. J.), Princeton Univ. Press, 1966

Fellows and Associates of I Tatti, 1961-70

- Roberto Abbondanza, History, 1964-5
- Mina Bacci, Art History, 1965-6
- James Beck, Art History, 1967-8
- Marvin Becker, History, 1963-4
- Sergio Bertelli, History, 1965-7
- Peter Bietenholz, History, 1969-70
- Ludovico Borgo, Art History, 1963-5
- David Brown, Art History, 1969-70
- Howard Brown, Music History, 1963-4, 1969-70
- Gene Brucker, History, 1964-5
- Malcolm Campbell, Art History, 1966-7
- Anthony Caputi, Literature, 1964-5
- Cecil Clough, History, 1963-4
- Eric Cochrane, History, 1961-2
- Charles Cohen, Art History, 1967-9
- Elio Conti, History, 1963-4
- Dario Covi, Art History, 1964-5
- Carlo Del Bravo, Art History, 1968-70
- John Donnelly, S.J., History, 1969-70
- Colin Eisler, Art History, 1962-3
- Everett Fahy, Art History, 1964-6
- Sherwood Fehm, Art History, 1968-9
- Francis Fergusson, Literature, 1963-4
- John Freccero, Literature, 1961-2
- David Friedman, Art History, 1969-70
- Riccardo Fubini, History, 1964-70
- Felton Gibbons, Art History, 1964-5, 1967-8
- Creighton Gilbert, Art History, 1962-3, 1967-8

Carlo Ginzburg, History, 1966-7
 Guglielmina Gregori, Art History, 1963-5
 James Haar, Music History, 1965-6
 John Hale, History, 1962-3
 Robert Hatfield, Art History, 1964-6
 Detlef Heikamp, Art History, 1963-4
 David Herlihy, History, 1961-2
 Michael Hirst, Art History, 1969-70
 Sears Jayne, Literature, 1962-3
 Robert Klein, Art History, 1966-7
 Irwin Kremen, Art History, 1969-70
 Myron Laskin, Jr., Art History, 1965-7
 Michael Mahoney, Art History, 1962-3
 Lauro Martines, History, 1962-5
 Marco Massa, Art History, 1969-70
 Anthony Molho, History, 1968-9
 John Najemy, History, 1969-70
 Nancy Neilson, Art History, 1966-7
 Jeremy Noble, Music History, 1967-8
 Maria Angela Novelli, Art History, 1966-7
 Konrad Oberhuber, Art History, 1965-6
 John O' Malley, S.J., History, 1966-8
 Martin Picker, Music History, 1966-7
 Edmund Pillsbury, Art History, 1967-9
 Carlo Pincin, History, 1968-9
 Joseph Polzer, Art History, 1968-9
 Richard Pommer, Art History, 1968-9
 Lionello Puppi, Art History, 1968-9
 Janet Cox Rearick (Mrs. H. Wiley Hitchcock), Art History,
 1961-3
 William Robert Rearick, Art History, 1961-3
 Peter Riesenbergh, History, 1964-5
 Artur Rosenauer, Art History, 1968-9
 Antonio Rotondò, History, 1967-8
 Lawrence Ryan, Literature, 1963-4
 Howard Saalman, Art History, 1963-5
 Jerrold Seigel, History, 1966-7
 Curtis Shell, Art History, 1961-2
 Irving Singer, Philosophy, 1965-7

H. Colin Slim, Music History, 1968-9
 James Snyder, Art History, 1962-3
 Randolph Starn, History, 1964-6
 James Stubblebine, Art History, 1969-70
 Francesco Tateo, Literature, 1965-6
 John Tedeschi, History, 1967-8
 Richard C. Trexler, History, 1968-70
 Richard Turner, Art History, 1963-4
 Donald Weinstein, History, 1962-3
 Hayden White, History, 1961-2
 Ronald Witt, History, 1968-9
 John Woodhouse, Literature, 1969-70
 Manfred Wundram, Art History, 1967-8

Advisory Committee on Villa I Tatti, 1969-70

Myron P. Gilmore, Director of Villa I Tatti, Chairman
Robert Lee Wolff, Coolidge Professor of History, Harvard
University, Deputy Chairman
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