

VILLA I TATTI

THE HARVARD UNIVERSITY CENTER
FOR ITALIAN RENAISSANCE STUDIES



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Letter From Florence

As the academic year begins once again at I Tatti and the new Fellows seem (if such a thing is possible) more gifted and promising than ever, one cannot fail to be impressed by the highest standards of scholarship that characterize the research done here or the incalculable impact this Center has on Renaissance studies throughout the world.

A glowing statement like that is, of course, just what Directors are expected to claim, and it would be easy for the skeptic to dismiss it as mere self-serving parochialism. Hence, it is especially gratifying to be able to report that my personal enthusiasm for this unique institution has recently been confirmed by dispassionate, authoritative evaluation.

During the past year, I Tatti was subjected to a thorough review by the National Endowment for the Humanities, first with a site visit by their representatives and then by a panel of scholars who assembled in Washington to act upon requests from a number of analogous institutions. It gives me special pleasure to tell you, not only that NEH renewed the fellowships it provides us, but that the scholarly evaluation of their experts gave I Tatti universally "excellent" ratings.

Among the panelists' written reports, one finds the following encomia:

"I Tatti Fellowships are fundamental to Renaissance Scholarship . . ."

"... the Center for Italian Renaissance Studies deserves Endowment support as a model of what advanced scholarly study can accomplish. Harvard provides all that scholars can expect and most of what they hope for in a foreign setting."

"For the more than 300 I Tatti Fellows who have gone through the program (I am not one of them) the experience has been a pivotal, critical point of their scholarly lives, of which the impressive bibliography of publications coming out of that experience may be taken as an outward and visible sign."

"... the quality of work that is done at I Tatti is testified to by the reports from Fellows . . . and it is well known to people well beyond the realm of Renaissance studies."

"... the Center has played a crucial role in the course of Italian Renaissance Studies since its creation, not just for Americans but for an international community of scholars . . . Through its emphasis on supporting younger scholars, its dividends pay out over an entire generation or more."

"From my visits there, I likewise share the impression . . . that to be able to do research, write, teach, and learn, freely and comfortably in sur-

roundings so agreeable and beautiful, is a rare privilege and itself a civilizing experience."

Such enthusiastic endorsement is both timely and welcome as we enter the critical phase of our \$15,000,000 endowment campaign. Although much has already been accomplished, much remains to be done if we are to achieve our goal and guarantee the continued existence of this Center. The tireless devotion of the members of the Steering Committee for the Fund for I Tatti, led by Bob Erburu and Sydney Freedberg, and ably assisted by our consultant, Inge Heckel, has provided us with a fine start to this campaign. It is essential now that every friend of the I Tatti community join them in their efforts by doing his or her utmost to assist us during the coming year.

I very much hope that, knowing I Tatti as you do and having read the extraordinary *cantata* of praise which has emanated from the NEH panel members, each of you will contribute to The Fund for I Tatti to the best of your ability, thereby helping us to ensure the future of this invaluable enterprise. The need is, I assure you, acute. The importance of the cause could not be greater or better attested.

Walter Kaiser, October, 1990.

The Fund for I Tatti

CAMPAIGN NEWS

Initiated in January 1990, the Fund for I Tatti, a \$15 million endowment campaign, received its first leadership gift in June with a \$1.5 million matching grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. The funds will benefit the library (\$1 million to be matched on a 1:1 basis), scholarly publications and the research/travel grant program (\$500,000 to be matched on a 2:1 basis).

Subsequently, the Robert Lehman Foundation awarded \$250,000 to establish a fund at I Tatti complementing and helping to match the Mellon Foundation grant.

The grants from these two foundations are the most recent demonstrations of support from two of I Tatti's oldest institutional friends.

In another aspect of the campaign, the Agnes Mongan Curatorship of the Fototeca has been established to honor Miss Mongan, a founding member of the Council and former director of the Fogg Art Museum. Miss Mongan's work on behalf of I Tatti goes back to its establishment as the Harvard Center.

STEERING COMMITTEE

Co-Chairmen

Robert F. Erburu
Sydney J. Freedberg

Vice-Chairmen

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Deborah Brice
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James R. Cherry
Maurice Lazarus
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Barnabas McHenry
Susan Mainwaring Roberts
Katharine Clark Sachs
Craig Hugh Smyth
Donald J. Sutherland
Eugene V. Thaw
Edwin L. Weisl, Jr.

Walter Kaiser
Director, Villa I Tatti

Ex Officio:

Edmund P. Pillsbury
Melvin R. Seiden
*Chairmen Emeriti,
Villa I Tatti Council*



A May afternoon brings Debby Brice and Walter Kaiser together in the giardino pensile.

The curatorship has a \$1 million goal and was initiated under the leadership of Melvin R. Seiden. At press date, more than \$550,000 has been committed in gifts and pledges. Contributions have come from students, colleagues, and friends of Miss Mongan from all over the world.

In a gesture of great munificence, Council member Debby Brice endowed the first fellowship of the campaign with a gift of \$750,000. The Deborah Loeb Brice Fellowship will be a permanent and happy reminder of someone who

continued on page 3

The Fund For I Tatti

Gift Opportunities

- | | |
|---|-------------|
| I. NAMED FELLOWSHIPS | \$750,000 |
| Income will provide for stipends, associated residential and academic expenses. | |
| II. BIBLIOTECA BERENSON | \$3,500,000 |
| Income to be used for acquisitions, salaries and operations. | |
| AGNES MONGAN CURATOR OF THE FOTOTECA AND ARCHIVE | \$1,000,000 |
| Income to support the salary, benefits and related expenses of the curator. | |
| III. PUBLICATIONS FUND | \$1,500,000 |
| Income to be used for the preparation and publication of various I Tatti sponsored publications, such as <i>I Tatti Studies: Essays in the Renaissance</i> as well as books and monographs. | |
| IV. SCHOLARLY PROGRAM FUND | \$1,500,000 |
| Income to be used for two major areas of activity: | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research and travel funds to enable the Center to invite visiting scholars in Europe and the United States to I Tatti for a period of a few days up to an academic year. • Funds for planning committees, travel, honoraria and the publication of papers in connection with the Center's program of conferences, symposia and lectures. | |
| V. CONSERVATION FUND | \$1,500,000 |
| Income to be used for the conservation of the art collection and for maintenance of the buildings and furnishings. | |

continued from page 2

has shown great interest in the work of the Center. In announcing the gift, Professor Kaiser noted: "I appreciate it enormously, and it gives me the greatest personal pleasure that it should come from one of our dearest and staunchest friends. It augurs very well indeed for this aspect of our efforts." Endowment for an additional seven fellowships is being sought.

A further boost came to the campaign in September with the news of the creation of a \$500,000 charitable annuity trust by one of I Tatti's greatest benefactors, Gabriele Geier, widow of former

Council member, Paul E. Geier. The announcement of the gift was made at a Council meeting in the Periodical Room of the library named for Paul E. Geier, whose family and friends established this wing of the Biblioteca Berenson in his memory in 1985.

Reporting at the Council meeting on the progress of the campaign, Professor Kaiser expressed his gratitude to Co-Chairmen Robert F. Erburu and Sydney J. Freedberg for their leadership and to the Vice-Chairmen for their work on behalf of I Tatti. Due to their excellent efforts, about 25% of the campaign goal has been reached in gifts and pledges as this newsletter goes to press.

I Tatti's Limonaia Dedicated

The Directorship of Myron Gilmore (1964-73) was celebrated at a dinner in I Tatti's newly renovated *limonaia* on September 29, 1990. Sheila Gilmore, widow of Myron Gilmore, surrounded by friends and well-wishers, was present for the ceremony. A fine evening brought nearly 100 people to I Tatti for the dedication and dinner. Among them were members of the Villa I Tatti Council and International Council already in Florence for their fall meeting, a number of members of the Steering Committee for the Fund for I Tatti, and a host of other friends and supporters from Florence and all over Europe and America.

"For everything they so selflessly contributed during the years they resided

here, Myron and Sheila Gilmore have earned a permanent place in the annals both of this institution and of this city," said Professor Kaiser in his dedicatory address. "Surely it is appropriate that a center of research devoted to understanding the past should remember its own past and honor those who have made it glorious . . . that the names of Myron and Sheila Gilmore should be forever commemorated in this place they loved so much and did so much to create. And so, accordingly, I wish now to dedicate this newly restored *limonaia*, which will be such a central part of the life of I Tatti in years to come, to them." The inscription was then unveiled.

Built originally to house lemon trees during the winter months, the *limonaia*



Gigi Brandi tackles a tree in the ilex grove at pruning time.



Lady-in-waiting: veiled in protective plastic, a garden sculpture awaits completion of work on the limonaia.



Sir Harold Acton (left) and Professor Kaiser congratulate Mrs. Gilmore.

has been paved in terracotta, electrified and heated to serve as long-needed conference, concert, and meeting space for the Center. Just a week after its dedication, a large public lecture and reception was held there, the first of many to come. The conversion of the space was made possible through the generosity of Robert F. Erburu and the following foundations: The Ahmanson Foundation, The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, the Fletcher Jones Foundation, the Times Mirror Company of Los Angeles, and Lila Wallace, co-founder of Reader's Digest. To its donors, I Tatti offers thanks, and to Sheila Gilmore, warmest congratulations.

I Tatti Community 1989/90

The appointment to a Fellowship represents not only the opportunity for a year of independent study at I Tatti but also initiation into a community of scholars that will last a lifetime. Again and again, former Fellows come back to attend a conference, to write a book, to renew a friendship, to touch base with the highest level of current scholarship, whatever the discipline, in the field of Italian Renaissance studies. I Tatti is therefore an institute made up not merely of a given year's scholars, but also of members from all former years, many of whom return regularly.

Opportunities for scholarly exchange abound—at lectures and conferences, and in the less formal circumstances offered by an encounter in the Library, the halls, the garden or common room. The current Fellow is immersed in the continuum of intellectual discussion begun at I Tatti in Berenson's day.

Fellowship appointees for 1989/90 are listed below, followed by university affiliation and field of study. A Visiting Scholar, Visiting Professors, Harvard Visiting Professors, Research Associates, the Director, and I Tatti's Research Librarian complete the roster of the resident academic community.

Fellows

Janis Bell (Kenyon College), Art History: A critical edition and translation of Matteo Zaccoloni's *Prospettiva del Colore* (Laurentian Ashburnham 1212).

Roberto Bizzocchi (Scuola Normale Superiore, Pisa), History: The clergy in Italian Renaissance society.

Graeme Boone (Harvard University), Music: Dufay's early songs: an analytical study.

Daniel Bornstein (University of California, San Diego), History: A social and religious history of the diocese of Cortona in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries.

John K. Brackett (University of Cincinnati), History: The *Otto di Guardia e di Balia*: Crime and its control in Florence, 1537-1609.

Anthony M. Cummings (Princeton University), Music: The Medici and music, 1512-1537.

Maria Monica Donato (Scuola Normale Superiore, Pisa), Art History: Wall paintings in Italian public buildings, thirteenth through sixteenth centuries.

Roberto Fedi (University of Florence), Literature: Lyric poetry of the Renaissance in Italy and its relationship with the figurative arts.

Paul Hills (University of Warwick), Art History: Venetian color 1200-1600: an historical inquiry.



A reception in the giardino pensile following Professor Mansfield's talk in May: Paolo Trovato (Fellow 1987-88) and Roberto Fedi (current Fellow) are among the guests.

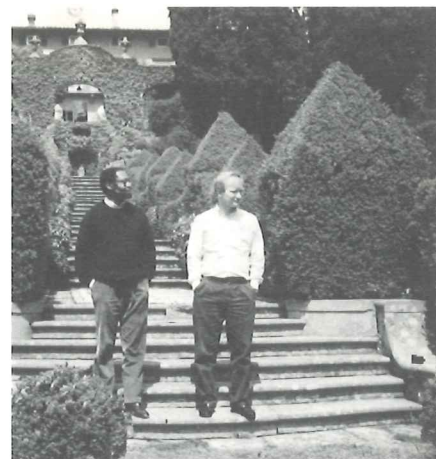
Ivano Paccagnella (University of Cosenza), Literature: A linguistic history of translations of the Bible into the Italian vernacular.

David E. Rutherford (Mercy College of Detroit), History: Antonio da Rho and his *Three Dialogues Against Lactantius*.

Christine Sperling (Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania), Art History: Artists, humanists and Roman epigraphy in Renaissance Italy.

Visiting Scholar

Christine A. Smith (Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton University), Art History: Architecture and humanist culture in the early Renaissance.



Fellows John Brackett and David Rutherford continue their dialogue in the garden.

Visiting Professors

William E. Hood, Jr. (former Fellow; Oberlin College), Art History: Fra Angelico's frescoes at San Marco.

Patricia Rubin (first semester) (former Fellow; Courtauld Institute of Art), Art History: Vasari studies and related matters.

Harvard Visiting Professors

Harry Levin (first semester), Irving Babbitt Professor of Comparative Literature, Emeritus.

Harvey Mansfield (second semester), Frank G. Thompson Professor of Government.

Research Associates

Fabio Bisogni (University of Siena), Art History: Computer index of iconography.

Eve Borsook (independent scholar), Art History: Biography of Filippo Strozzi the Elder.

Riccardo Bruscagli (University of Florence), Literature: (1) A commentary on "Orlando Innamorato"; (2) The late sixteenth century lyric (from the Battle of Lepanto onwards).

Salvatore Camporeale (The Johns Hopkins University), History: The chancellery of Carlo Marsuppini, 1444-1453.

Gino Corti (Emeritus), (independent scholar), Paleography and History: Documentation for a corpus of Sienese churches.

Laura Corti (Scuola Normale Superiore, Pisa), Art History: Computerization of art history data and documents.

Allen Grieco (independent scholar), History: Food for thought and food for the table: A social and cultural history of alimentary habits and their significance in Renaissance Italy (1350-1550).

Margaret Haines (*Rivista d'Arte*), Art History: Public sculpture in Republican Florence: a study in corporate patronage.

Marco Spallanzani (University of Florence), History: Relations between Florence and Islam during the fourteenth through sixteenth centuries: decorative arts.

The fellowship program at Villa I Tatti is presently supported by grants and endowment funds from: the Lawrence Berenson Fellowship Fund, the Francesco E. de Dombrowski Bequest, the Leopold Schepp Foundation, the Rush H. Kress Fellowship, the Robert Lehman Fellowship, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Hanna Kiel Fellowship, the Committee to Rescue Italian Art, and The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. To all of these donors, I Tatti and its Fellows are grateful.

In addition to the schedule of lectures and conferences listed below, the Fellows this year made a number of excursions organized by Julian Kliemann and other members of I Tatti's academic community. Under the guidance of Alessandro Cecchi, curator of the Contini-Bonacossi Collection, a visit was arranged to see this large collection of

Renaissance paintings, sculpture and majolica which is not normally on public view. In May, a group went down to Rome for dinner with the Fellows of the American Academy; this was a reciprocal visit from the Academy to I Tatti in January and represents the second year of this interchange. Several of the art history Fellows journeyed with Eve Borsook to Spoleto and then to Prato to see the cycles of frescoes by Fra Filippo Lippi. At the invitation of Pietro Marani, a former Fellow and now Curator at the Pinacoteca di Brera, a small group of Fellows went to Milan to see this collection. This group included William Hood, a former Fellow who returned to I Tatti this year, and whose involvement in the academic life of the institute and in the work of the Fellows exemplified with enthusiasm and generosity of spirit the role of Visiting Professor.

Lectures and Programs

The opening event of the academic year at I Tatti brought former Director Craig Hugh Smyth, and two former Fellows, Miklos Boskovits and Hayden B.J. Maginnis, to Florence to join Sir John Pope-Hennessy as principals in "The Achievement of Richard Offner: A Centenary Conference." Held at I Tatti in the afternoon of October 19th, the conference drew not only members of I Tatti's community but also a large audience of scholars, friends and representatives of Florentine cultural institutions. In his "Glimpses of Richard Offner," Professor Smyth gave, in the words of one in the audience, "a beautiful appreciation of Offner's life at the Institute

(of Fine Arts, New York University), complete with photos of him at work there" Miklos Boskovits followed with "Richard Offner e la Connoisseurship ieri e oggi" (a detailed description of his work on the Corpus); Hayden Maginnis spoke on "Richard Offner and the Ineffable: Method and Silence," and Sir John Pope-Hennessy concluded with an appreciation of Offner's achievement entitled "Offner the Critic." "All in all," continues our member of the audience, "it was a . . . memorable occasion, which vividly evoked—from four quite different perspectives—a man who (to many of us) had always been something of a mystery." A question period was fol-

lowed by a Reception in the Library for participants, Fellows and guests. The Offner conference, like many such events of major significance at the Harvard Center over the past four years, was sponsored by The Eugene V. and Clare E. Thaw Charitable Trust. For this immeasurable generosity, I Tatti and its scholars are grateful.

In early December, a seminar session of "The Origins of the Modern State in Europe, 13th to 18th Century," organized by the European Science Foundation of Strasbourg, was held at I Tatti. Entitled "Iconography, Propaganda, Legitimation," it attracted the following participants: Allan Eilenius (Uppsala); Sergio Bertelli (former Fellow; University of Florence); Peter Burke (Cambridge); Fernando Checa Cremades (Madrid); Juliusz A. Chroscicki (Warsaw); Gunnar Danbolt (Bergen); Thomas Froschi (Vienna); Kurt Johannesson (Uppsala); Jose Manuel Nieto Soria (Madrid); Michel Pastoureau (Paris); Friedrich Polieross (Vienna); Rudolf Preimesberger (Berlin); Gerard Sabatier (Grenoble); Matthias Winner (Rome). The two papers given at I Tatti were presented by Sergio Bertelli and Rudolf Preimesberger, and were followed by a discussion. Fellows were invited to attend, and to stay on for lunch with the participants.

continued on page 6



Visiting Professor Harry Levin's lecture filled the Fototeca with Fellows and Florentine friends and scholars. Professor Kaiser is at front left, next to Mrs. Levin.

continued from page 5

A chronological listing follows of informal talks and public lectures held at I Tatti on Thursday afternoons during the course of the academic year. Some were intended only for the Fellows, others were open to a larger audience. (No institutional affiliation is given for members of I Tatti's 1989/90 academic community.)

—Harry Levin: "Shakespeare's Italians."

—Roberto Bizzocchi: "Cultura genealogica nell'Italia del Cinquecento."

—Giorgio Chittolini (former Fellow; University of Milan): Seminar on "Il governo delle diocesi Lombarde nel Quattrocento."

—Salvatore Settis (former Fellow; Scuola Normale Superiore, Pisa): "Traiano a Hearst Castle: due cassoni estensi."



Harvard Visiting Professor Harvey Mansfield receives well-wishers following his talk on Machiavelli in the Biblioteca Berenson.

—John K. Brackett: "The *Otto di Guardia e di Balìa*: Crime and its control in Florence, 1537-1609."

—Jean Delumeau (Collège de France): "Il peccato e la paura."

—Graeme Boone and Anthony M. Cummings: Informal introduction to Renaissance music.

—Ivano Paccagnella: "La 'Bibbia Brucioli'. Note linguistiche."

—Patricia Rubin and William E. Hood, Jr.: Informal Seminar on "What Art Historians Do: The Case of Sassetta." (This seminar was open only to the Fellows and focused on the history and documentation of I Tatti's Sassetta altarpiece.)

—John K. Brackett: Informal seminar following on from the previous one. "Foucault or Not Foucault: New Methods of Historical Investigation."

—Paul Hills: "The Art of Fire in Sixteenth-Century Venice."

—Christine Sperling: "Donatello, Inscriptions, and Medici Power."

—Peter Burke: (Emmanuel College, Cambridge, and Wissenschaftszentrum, Berlin): "The *Cortegiano* Abroad."

—Harvey Mansfield: "Machiavelli as Prince."



News From the Library

The honoring of particular individuals through donations to the Biblioteca Berenson resulted in several gifts of great usefulness to I Tatti scholars this year. William A. Donaher (LLB '52) presented a magnificent new edition of Erasmus in memory of his aunt, Esther R. Donaher. "I can think of no greater memorial than a gift like this to the Library at I Tatti," Mr. Donaher wrote. Malcolm H. Wiener (AB '57; JD '63) donated an acquisition fund in memory of his friend Matthew W. Stirling. Melvin R. Seiden honored fellow Council member and campaign chairman Robert F. Erburu with the establishment of an endowed book fund in his name. Friends of Ludovico Borgo, a former Fellow who died this spring, gave generously in his memory for Library acquisitions. Contributions may be added at any time to these and other existing funds and should be sent to Anne Coffin at the address on this newsletter.

Other gifts of significance this year include: *Dictionary of the Middle Ages*, Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, donated by a former Fellow; *Gothic Sculpture in America*, edited by Dorothy Gillerman, New York, Volume I: The New England Museums, with contributions by former Fellow Anita Moskowitz and donated by her; Nicolas Barker's *Aldus Manutius and the Development of Greek Script & Type in the Fifteenth Century*, donated by William A. Donaher in response to an appeal in these pages last year; *Ville Pistoiesi*, by Nori Andreini Galli, Pistoia; *Messages in Mosaic. The Royal Programmes of Norman Sicily (1130-*

1187), Clarendon Press, Oxford, written by Research Associate Eve Borsook and donated by her; catalogues of the Pinacoteca di Brera, Scuole Lombarda, Ligure e Piemontese 1535-1796, Milan, and Raccolta Bertarelli, Carte Decorate, Milan, both given to the Biblioteca Berenson by Banca Commerciale Italiana. For these gifts, and for the generosity of countless other Friends of the Biblioteca Berenson whose contributions large and small support our acquisitions program, I Tatti is immensely grateful.

As Walter Kaiser recently wrote, "Although the original Berenson library gave primary emphasis to Fine Arts . . . it was distinguished for its astonishing range . . . It endeavored to encompass the whole of Mediterranean civilization . . . Since Mr. Berenson's death, substantial additions have been made in areas of Renaissance scholarship which were under-represented . . . but in general the acquisitions policy continues to reflect his original plan . . . The Library's chief goal is to possess the publications indispensable for Italian Renaissance Studies, however rare or expensive, and also to keep up-to-date with all recent publications of significance in the field. New acquisitions are also chosen in direct response to the needs of scholars working at I Tatti; indeed, their requests have helped the Library build an increasingly comprehensive and interdisciplinary laboratory for historical research in a variety of Italian Renaissance subjects."

—Roberto Fedi: "Nuove prospettive sulla poesia di Michelangelo."

—David E. Rutherford: "Lactantius in the Middle Ages and the Renaissance."

(Professor Levin's lecture "Shakespeare's Italians", scheduled for early October, was given in December.)

The strengthening of the periodical

collections, a priority of the librarians in recent years, is consistent with this mission; their importance is emphasized again and again by scholars working here. With 400 current subscriptions, some begun in Mr. Berenson's day, I Tatti's collection is wide-ranging and comprehensive and includes many that are unavailable in other libraries in Florence. Paul Hills, who came to I Tatti to work on color in Venetian painting, decided to expand his research into the

applied arts: "I like to bring in a broad number of issues rather than focusing on straight and narrow art history Because I was here, I was able to look at the applied arts, at glass, ceramics, costume and carpets. I had planned to go up to Venice more often, but I found that most of the secondary sources are here, for example a complete run of *Faenza*. Very few libraries have complete runs of these specialized journals I was also impressed by the number of more

recent journals which are methodologically more innovative, like *October*, or *Representations* These contain the sorts of ideas that I think Berenson would be interested in if he were alive and working today" It is thanks to a special grant from the J. Paul Getty Trust over the past four years that the librarians have been able to make the acquisitions necessary to update this collection and that enable I Tatti to offer this splendid resource to its scholars.



News from the Morrill Music Library

Two music scholars were once again drawn to I Tatti for the fellowship year by the offerings of the Morrill Music Library, the strength of the periodical collection having been cited in particular. Anthony Cummings, a Fellow from Princeton University working on music in Medici festivals, described the collections of periodicals and of scores in his experience as "by far the best in Italy" Thirteen new titles were added to the periodical section this year, bringing the total number of current subscriptions to 88. Purchases include journals



Musicologist Anthony Cummings and Art Historian Christine Smith meet on the way to the garden after lunch.

of analysis and theory. "Music analysis is a rapidly expanding field in musicology, extending now to early music, and analytical journals are increasingly con-

cerned with this," says Kathryn Bosi, Librarian for the Morrill Music Library. Titles ordered include *The Music Forum*, *Music Theory Spectrum*, *In Theory Only*, *Theory and Practice*, and *The Indiana Theory Review*; most of these are unavailable elsewhere in Italy. Dr. Bosi says she "tried to make sure that I Tatti had representative musicological journals from the major European countries as well as from the U.S. and the Commonwealth. Subscriptions were entered for journals from, for example, Hungary, Yugoslavia, Poland, Canada and Australia"

A catalogue of I Tatti's music periodical holdings has now been printed and is being distributed to Italian universities and research institutes, some of which have sent their own catalogues in return. Next to be catalogued and made available to other institutions is the Morrill Library's large collection of manuscripts and early printed music on microfilm.

News from the Fototeca Berenson



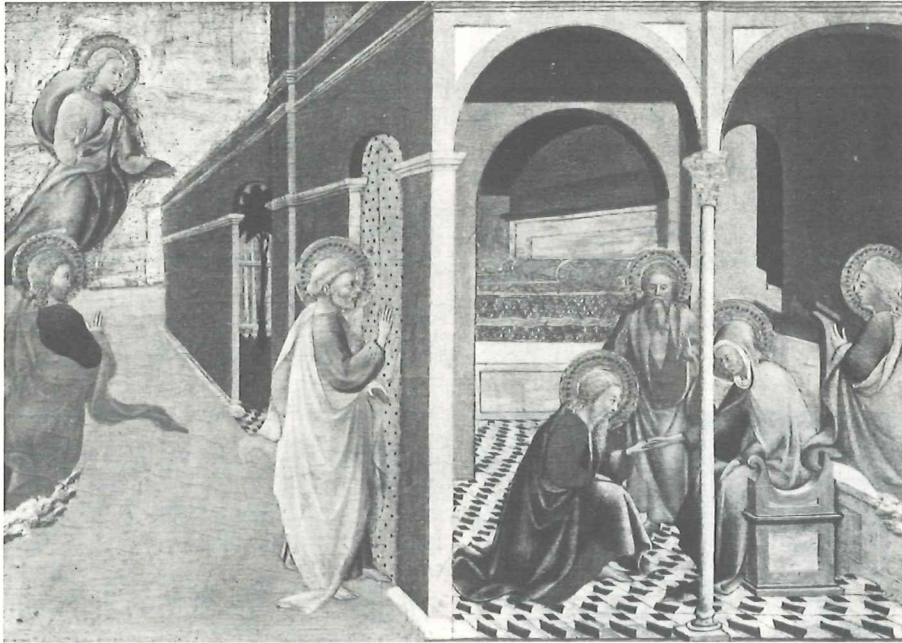
A quiet atmosphere of research-as-usual offers no indication of the multiple efforts currently underway on behalf of the Fototeca. While the Agnes Mongan Curatorship gathers momentum, a second annual gift of \$10,000 from the Nancy and Frank E. Richardson Foundation has enabled the Curator, Fiorella Superbi Gioffredi, to go forward with a

historic new project which will document the history of the technique and conservation of Italian painting. The creation of this new photographic archive at I Tatti will bring together at a central collecting point documentation of significant recent restorations of works of art from the period 1250-1550.

Dr. Superbi has already begun the acquisition process. Sets of photographs before and after will record the restorations, for example, of the frescoes in the Brancacci Chapel and the Sistine Ceiling. Dr. Superbi has been in touch with curators in Italy and throughout Europe and the United States to identify works of art that have recently undergone work and to request photographic documentation of this work.

This new project, which has the backing of the Italian Government, is a natural outgrowth of the historic collections of photographs assembled by Bernard Berenson. It will create in the Fototeca a central, invaluable resource for scholars and conservationists.

A gift to the endowment campaign for the Fototeca was also received this year in honor of Council member Susan Mainwaring Roberts, formerly New York Administrator of Villa I Tatti. Mrs. Roberts has worked unfailingly in both a professional and volunteer capacity for I Tatti during the past ten years. Donated by Melvin R. Seiden, the \$5,000 gift delights Mrs. Roberts' many friends at I Tatti.



Spring cleaning: A Sienese panel in the Berenson Collection received the attention of Florentine restorer Alfio Del Serra this spring thanks to the generosity of Richard Feigen, art dealer and friend of I Tatti. "The Dying Virgin Taking Leave of the Apostles," from the predella of the Asciano Altarpiece, was attributed by Mr. Berenson to the Master of the Osservanza. (Photograph courtesy of Gabinetto Fotografico—Sopr. Gallerie—Firenze.)

Council Notes

Two meetings in 1989/90 brought the Council together to weigh the future needs of Villa I Tatti. Thanks to the gracious hospitality of the Harvard College Library, the first, in early October, was held in Cambridge at Wadsworth House. Alliance Capital Management, New York, hosted the second meeting, in February. Melvin R. Seiden presided on both occasions, his last as Chairman of the Council. Although he will remain an active member of the Council and of the Steering Committee for the endowment campaign, Mr. Seiden felt that after five years the time had come to hand over the leadership of the Council. The Council applauded his many accomplishments on behalf of I Tatti, and the energy and support he had unfailingly offered over the years. He will be succeeded by Sydney J. Freedberg, Professor Emeritus of Harvard University and Chief Curator Emeritus of the National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C. Professor Freedberg has long been associated with I Tatti, first visiting Mr. Berenson in the 1930s, and since 1973 has held three residential positions here. He is a member not only of the I Tatti Council, but also of the Academic Advi-

sory Committee which nominates the Fellows each year.

The election of two additional Council members was confirmed at the February meeting: Mrs. Frank E. Richardson of New York City, a philanthropist, collector and writer; and Maurice Lazarus of Cambridge, long active in Harvard affairs. Mr. Lazarus has served Harvard in many capacities, as a Visiting Committee member and as a member of the Board of Overseers. Both know I Tatti well. The Council welcomes its new members and looks forward to their participation. Subsequent to this meeting, Anne H. Bass has also accepted an invitation to join the Council.

The news of Arthur Houghton's death was received with great sorrow. As an honorary member of the Council, Mr. Houghton had lent steady support to its projects since its founding.

The Villa I Tatti International Council held its first meeting in Florence in April. Jean-François Malle, Chairman, presided. A business meeting at which the role of this newly formed group was explored followed a tour of the Villa, the Library and the collections. Lunch with the Fellows offered an introduction to

the scholarly work currently in progress at the Center. After lunch, Professor William Hood, a Fra Angelico scholar, led the group on a visit to San Marco. Professor Kaiser hosted a dinner party that evening at I Tatti for members of the Council and their spouses. A second meeting was planned for September, 1990. I Tatti is grateful for the interest and support of this new group, and for the special wisdom they will bring to bear.

THE VILLA I TATTI COUNCIL

Sydney J. Freedberg, *Chairman*
Edmund P. Pillsbury, *Founding Chairman*
Melvin R. Seiden, *Chairman Emeritus*

Cecil Altmann
Anne H. Bass
Baron H.H. Thyssen-Bornemisza*
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Appeal to Friends of the Biblioteca Berenson

Consistent with notices in these pages in the past, however somewhat more ambitiously this year, the librarians have identified the *Lexicon Iconographicum Mythologiae Classicae* as the object of the special library appeal. I Tatti's Research Librarian Dr. Julian Kliemann writes as follows: "Mr. Berenson had a strong interest in archaeology, and our collection of books and periodicals in this field is still one of the best in Florence (probably the best outside the archaeological museum). Over the past years, we have tried to maintain this high standard as much as we could with our limited financial resources, concentrating on works relevant to the study of the Italian Renaissance.

"Unfortunately, we have not been able to subscribe to one indispensable encyclopedia, the *Lexicon Iconographicum Mythologiae Classicae*. This work constitutes certainly the major archaeological publication initiated in the last years. Its volumes (four have been published, four more are to appear during the next years) have already 'become the established source of iconographic information and reference within the scholarly world', to quote from a recent review. Two previous volumes have received special prizes bestowed by the French Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres.

"The wide range of famous scholars contributing to the project and the extraordinarily high number of illustrations (the last volume has 3,660 photographs plus 220 line drawings) explain the price of \$1,200 per volume. In order to buy the previously published volumes and to enter a subscription for the remaining part, we would greatly appreciate the help of a patron willing to give us the necessary \$9,600."

Gifts of individual volumes would, alternatively, be gratefully received. Contributions are tax-deductible and may be sent to the New York address on this Newsletter or directly to Villa I Tatti. Checks should be made payable to "Special Library Acquisition Fund, Villa I Tatti." It is thanks to the generous response of our readers in past years that major, specific needs of the Biblioteca Berenson such as this have been filled—to the great benefit of our scholars.

A Party in Boston

The Spanish Cloister of The Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum provided a splendid setting for I Tatti's fall party, its first in Boston. Council members already in Cambridge for a meeting were joined by over one hundred friends of I Tatti in the Boston/Cambridge area including President Bok and other members of the Faculty and Administration of Harvard University, Trustees and representatives of the Gardner Museum, members of the Association for Villa I Tatti and the Friends of the Biblioteca

Berenson, former Fellows, and members of the Academic Advisory Committee. Anne Hawley, newly appointed Director of the Museum, welcomed the guests, and introduced Professor Kaiser who spoke briefly of his first year as Director of I Tatti and his plans for its future. Following Professor Kaiser's remarks, the reception adjourned to the galleries. I Tatti is most grateful to the Trustees of the Gardner Museum for their generosity in extending this invitation.



Former Director Craig Hugh Smyth (1973-1985) and Mrs. Smyth revisit I Tatti during the summer of 1989.

Newsbriefs

■ A small memorial mass was offered in the Chapel at I Tatti on October 6, 1989, the 30th anniversary of Bernard Berenson's death. Don Carlo Bazzi, parish priest at San Martino a Mensola, officiated. Signor Marcello Romanelli, a tenant in the Mulino di Sotto since Berenson's day, read from the Epistles, and Sra. Liliana Ciullini, Head Housekeeper at I Tatti, from the Psalms. An overflowing crowd of friends, Fellows and neighbors adjourned afterward for tea on the terrace.

■ A ceremony in New York City in early June honored Villa I Tatti Council

member Barnabas McHenry. The many accolades from environmental and cultural organizations included the following statement from President Bok: "Harvard University joins the National Parks and Conservation Association and the New York Parks and Conservation Association in honoring you. Your devotion to our Center for Italian Renaissance Studies has helped assure the beauty of its gardens and the quality of Renaissance scholarship for decades to come. We thank you and salute you on this occasion." Mr. McHenry's most important initiative on behalf of Villa I

Tatti was the creation of the Lila Acheson Wallace/Villa I Tatti Fund, established at The New York Community Trust by the co-founder of Reader's Digest, which for nearly ten years has handsomely supported the maintenance of gardens and

continued on page 10

continued from page 9

grounds. I Tatti joins in congratulating its friend and patron.

■ A major conference sponsored by the Courtauld Institute this summer, "Cultural Definition and the Renaissance," brought together as principal speakers many former Fellows of Villa I Tatti. Of 22 papers, 15 were presented by alumni of the Harvard Center, this a measure of the extent to which the world of Renaissance studies is influenced today by the work that takes place at I Tatti.

■ Kathryn Bosi, Morrill Music Librarian, and former music Fellows Stanley Boorman, Howard Mayer Brown, James Haar, Jessie Ann Owens, and Colin Slim have all contributed essays to the latest volume of the series *Altro Polo*, entitled *Essays on Italian Music in the Cinquecento*. Edited by Richard Charteris and published by the Frederick May Foundation for Italian Studies at the University of Sydney, the book is dedicated to Armen Carapetyan as a belated gift for his 80th birthday.

■ The Villino is next on the list of projects to benefit from Preservation Fund monies. Work on replastering the façade, replacing the windows, partial rewiring, consolidating the garage and terrace, and grading the drive will begin this year under the supervision of Nelda Ferace. Originally a farmhouse, the Villino currently houses two I Tatti Fellows and their families.

■ An era ended in January with the retirement of Alfredo Cianti and Giorgio Piazzini and the closing down of their firm. Introduced to I Tatti by Gordon and Elizabeth Morrill in the 1960s, Cianti & Piazzini s.d.f. have carried out all the building and repairs at I Tatti since then. Combining work as contractors and surveyors, the firm has directed a host of Florentine craftsmen—in roofwork, masonry, carpentry, plumbing, painting and fresco—in the restoration and maintenance of the many historic structures on the property.

■ Art historian Valerio Pacini joined the staff to work part-time in the Library. He is at the same time involved in a project of his own: a computerized catalogue of all Florentine collections of painting and sculpture, c. 1200-1599, funded by the Italian government.

■ Barbara Flores came to I Tatti in September as part-time assistant to Nelda Ferace. With experience in import-export and in the financial business, and

knowledge of four languages, Miss Flores' many talents more than qualify her for the variety of administrative responsibilities she has taken on.

■ Additional administrative and staff news includes the appointment of Christopher Reynolds, a 1988-89 Fellow now at the University of California, Davis, as music editor of I Tatti Studies, and the engagement of Inge Heckel as consultant on fund-raising. Formerly associated with the Metropolitan Museum of Art, The Asia Society, the Princess Grace Foundation and Bradford College, where she served as President, Miss Heckel brings experience with many cultural and educational institutions to her work for I Tatti.

Coming Events at I Tatti

May 1991: I Tatti will host one day of a four-day conference organized by the University of Florence on the Latin works of Petrarch.

June 1991: I Tatti will host one day of a three-day conference on Giuliano and Benedetto da Maiano organized by the Comune of Fiesole and former Fellow Daniela Lamborini.

June 1992: Plans are moving forward for an international symposium entitled "Lorenzo il Magnifico and his World" to be held at I Tatti. Sponsored jointly by I Tatti and the Istituto Nazionale di Studi sul Rinascimento, the three-day event will mark the 500th anniversary of the death of Lorenzo de' Medici. Papers will address "Lorenzo and Florence" on the first day, and on the following days, "The Private World of Lorenzo" and "Lorenzo



Patrizia Carella greets visitors and callers in the reception area of the Biblioteca Berenson.

the Statesman." Chaired by Nicolai Rubinstein, the planning committee consists of Professor Kaiser, Cesare Vasoli, Director of the Istituto Nazionale, Gene Brucker (former Acting Director of I Tatti), Domenico De Robertis, Caroline Elam (former Fellow), F.W. Kent (former Fellow), Michael Mallett (former Fellow), Nino Pirrotta (Academic Advisory Committee), Sir John Pope-Hennessy (I Tatti Council) and Salvatore Settis (former Fellow).

Publications

Current Titles

Florence and Milan: Comparisons and Relations. Acts of two Conferences at Villa I Tatti in 1984 and 1986, organized by Sergio Bertelli, Nicolai Rubinstein, and Craig Hugh Smyth. 2 vols. La Nuova Italia Editrice, Florence, 1989.

Pirro Ligorio-Artist and Antiquarian, edited by Robert W. Gaston. Silvana Editoriale, Milan, 1988.

The Parte Guelfa, Brunelleschi & Donatello, by Diane Finiello Zervas. J.J. Augustin Publisher, Locust Valley, New York, 1987.

Tecnica e stile: esempi di pittura murale del Rinascimento italiano, edited by Eve Borsook and Fiorella Superbi Gioffredi, with an introduction by Craig Hugh Smyth. 2 vols. Silvana Editoriale, Milan, 1986.

I Tatti Studies: Essays in the Renaissance, Volume 1, edited by Salvatore Camporeale, Caroline Elam, and F.W. Kent. Villa I Tatti, 1985.

Volume 2, edited by Riccardo Bruscagli, Salvatore Camporeale, Louise George Clubb, Elizabeth Cropper, Caroline Elam, and F.W. Kent. Leo S. Olschki, Florence, 1987.

Volume 3, edited by Riccardo Bruscagli, Salvatore Camporeale, Louise George Clubb, Elizabeth Cropper, Caroline Elam, Walter Kaiser, and F.W. Kent. Leo S. Olschki, Florence, 1989.

Renaissance Studies in Honor of Craig Hugh Smyth, edited by Andrew Morrogh, Fiorella Superbi Gioffredi, Piero Morselli, and Eve Borsook. 2 vols. Giunti Barbèra, Florence, 1985.

Neighbours and Neighbourhood in Renaissance Florence: The District of the Red Lion in the Fifteenth Century, by D.V. and F.W. Kent. J.J. Augustin Publisher, Locust Valley, New York, 1982.

Florence and Venice: Comparisons and Relations. Acts of two Conferences at Villa I Tatti, organized by Sergio Bertelli, Nicolai Rubinstein, and Craig Hugh Smyth. 2 vols. La Nuova Italia Editrice, Florence, 1979-80.

Masaccio: The Documents, by James Beck with the collaboration of Gino Corti. J.J. Augustin Publisher, Locust Valley, New York, 1978.

Essays Presented to Myron P. Gilmore, edited by Sergio Bertelli and Gloria Ramakus. 2 vols. La Nuova Italia Editrice, Florence, 1978.

Annibale Carracci and the Beginnings of Baroque Style, by Charles Dempsey. J.J. Augustin Verlag, Glückstadt, 1977.

Studies on Machiavelli, edited by Myron P. Gilmore. Casa Editrice Sansoni, Florence, 1972.

Orders may be placed directly with the publisher or with Casalini Libri SPA., 3 via Benedetto da Maiano, 50014 Fiesole, Italy. Tel: (055) 599 941; FAX: (055) 598 895. A brochure is available.

Forthcoming Titles

The Triumph of Vulcan: Sculptor's Tools, Porphyry and the Prince in Ducal Florence, by Suzanne B. Butters.

A Catalogue of Bernard Berenson's Oriental Collection at Villa I Tatti, by Laurance Roberts, photographs by David Finn and Antonio Quattrone. Hudson Hills Press, Inc.

Andrea del Verrocchio and Late Quattrocento Italian Art: The Acts of Two International Symposia Commemorating the 500th Anniversary of his Death, edited by Steven Bule, Alan Phipps Darr and Fiorella Superbi Gioffredi. Brigham Young University and Villa I Tatti.

Please address inquiries to:

The Publications Secretary
Villa I Tatti
Via di Vincigliata 26
50135 Florence, Italy

I Tatti Studies. Essays in the Renaissance welcomes submissions from Renaissance scholars whether former Fellows or not. Manuscripts should be about 7,000 to 10,000 words long, and should be as accessible as possible in style, with minimum use of technical jargon. The editors are eager to encourage interdisciplinary approaches. Essays in languages

other than English or Italian are welcome. Copies of the style sheet may be obtained from:

The Editors
I Tatti Studies
Via di Vincigliata 26
50135 Florence, Italy

IN MEMORIAM

I Tatti records with sorrow the following deaths:

Richard Berenson (AB 28; MBA 30), nephew of I Tatti's founder and long-time member of the Association for Villa I Tatti, in April 1990.

Ludovico Borgo, former Fellow (1963-65) and Robert B. Mayer Memorial Professor of Fine Arts at Brandeis University, died at his home in Wellesley, Massachusetts, in May 1990. At his request, donations in his memory are being made to the Biblioteca Berenson.

Felton L. Gibbons, former Associate (1964-65), Professor of Art History at Princeton University, and long-time member of the Association for Villa I Tatti, died at his home in Hopewell, New Jersey, in April 1990.

Arthur A. Houghton, Jr., Honorary Member of the Villa I Tatti Council and benefactor of the Houghton Library at Harvard University, died in Florida in April 1990.

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Photographs in this issue by Anne Coffin, Anthony M. Cummings and Nelda Ferace.



Workmen ready the limonaia for its dedication on September 28, 1990.

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