

WARBURG INSTITUTE REPORT

September 1939 - June 1940

Throughout these months we have felt "Deus nobis haec otia fecit". We were given "leisure" against our will, and had to obey. It is due to Mr. Courtauld's sympathy and generosity that we were able not only to linger on but to go ahead. We lectured, published the Journal and some books, continued our researches and improved the Library and Photographic Collection considerably. On behalf of the Institute and all those who asked for and made use of our services I want to express my thanks to Mr. Courtauld.

Precautionary measures.

In accordance with the rulings of the Lord Privy Seal applying to University Institutions, the Principal of London University advised us on the outbreak of war to close down the Institute and to evacuate the books. More than 600 boxes were brought to the Watts Gallery in Compton (Surrey) with the consent of the Charity Commission. Mr. R. W. Alston, the Director of the Gallery, gave his help freely, and much help was needed. The photographs were in Sir Percival David's country house for several months, but we brought them back in April.

Staff.

All the English members of our staff, with the exception of Dr. Wittkower, found other employment during the first months, whereas none of the Germans could. Dr. Wind who was in America when war broke out continues his lecture tour there on behalf of the Warburg Institute. His aim is to form a Society of the American Friends of the Warburg

Institute in London.

Courtauld
and
Warburg
Institutes;
common
enterprises.

Our first business was to arrange some courses at the Courtauld Institute in Guildford in the absence of both Prof. Boase and Mr. Blunt. The teaching was undertaken mainly by Dr. Wittkower who for three terms lectured on Italian art of the 15th and 16th centuries. Dr. Kurz continued last year's course on the sources of art history, Dr. Pächt lectured on 15th century Flemish art, and a student who had chosen the Gothic period was specially tutored. In spite of the difficulties the students worked hard under the supervision of Miss Whitney, who was an admirable collaborator.

Publications
and
Research.

After careful preparation, the new "Journal of the Warburg and Courtauld Institutes" was published in April. Although produced under war conditions it gives a clear indication of what can be achieved by such close collaboration between the two Institutes as has now been established. We were also able to publish four books: the first two fascicules of the Corpus Platonium which we undertook with the help of the British Academy; Jean Adhémar's "Influences antiques dans l'art du Moyen-Age français"; and A. Katzenellenbogen's "Allegories of the Virtues and Vices in Mediaeval Art". At present we are printing E. Panofsky's "A Rediscovery in the Theory of Art of Leonardo da Vinci", and the third fascicule of the Corpus Platonium. Unfortunately we lost several publications which were being printed from our German and Dutch funds, five publications in all, which otherwise would have been out by now, too.

Research was carried out on a comparatively large scale.

Dr. Wind wrote his book on the Iconography of Michelangelo and Raphael, Dr. Wittkower studied and published a set of unknown drawings for St. Peter in Rome and prepared the second volume of the Poussin Drawings. Dr. Meier continued the work on the third volume of the Bibliography. Dr. Bing made good progress with Vol. III of Warburg's Collected Writings. I myself wrote papers on Aniello Falcone, on the Illustration of French Mediaeval Romances, and on a Florentine 15th century manuscript dealing with antique monuments. About the Corpus Platonicum see the appended note by Dr. Klibansky.

Miss Yates is preparing a book on the Academy of Henry III in Paris which she intends to publish with us. Miss Rathbone has almost finished her book on 12th century Cathedral Schools in England which London University had agreed to publish in conjunction with the Warburg Institute. Mr. Gerard Brett, of the Victoria & Albert Museum, has asked us to publish a paper on the Great Mosaic of the Imperial Palace in Constantinople (he was on the excavation staff), Mr. William Wells has finished part of his thesis on the Iconography of Blake, Mr. Donald Gordon (Trinity College, Cambridge) has written a continuation of my article on Veritas Filia Temporis, and Mr. Anthony Blunt's book on the Renaissance sources of art history, which we helped to prepare while he was on our staff, will appear within the next weeks (Oxford University Press).

But there is a great number of other books, pamphlets, and papers which we helped our German friends in London to

prepare. I am enumerating them in alphabetical order:

- H. Buchthal, "The Beginnings of Islamic Book Illustrations" (one article appeared in Syria, II, 1939)
- O. Demus, A monograph on the Mosaics of Monreale
- J. Hess, A critical edition of Baglione (subsidized by the Vatican Library).
- E. Kitzinger, A book "Early Mediaeval Art" was published by the Trustees of the British Museum at the beginning of this year. He also collaborated in two preliminary reports on Sutton Hoo (prepared by the British Museum), and in the publication of St. Cuthbert's Coffin (prepared by the Dean and Chapter of Durham).
- B. Kurth, A catalogue of textiles representing classical subjects (15th and 16th cent.)
- O. Kurz, A monograph on "Fakes" (ready for the press)
- J. Lanyi, A Donatello Monograph.
- L. Münz, A new edition of Rembrandt's etchings (ready for the press).
- O. Pächt, "Handlist of Illuminated Manuscripts in the British Museum". A detailed report on his work during the first year is in preparation.

Lectures.

The Lecture Programme for this winter which was planned last year partly had to be modified. But those lecturers who were available at all were keen to keep their promise, new lecturers came forward, and the public did not fail us. The attendance for the greater part of the lectures was about the same as in previous years, some, however, had a smaller audience.

Discussions.

In addition to these lectures we started weekly discussions at the beginning of the autumn. Informal lectures were followed by a discussion. The lecturers were glad of an opportunity to talk about the work they were engaged on, and the audience of having interesting material put before them which they could discuss. I hope these discussions served their purpose of counteracting intellectual isolation and starvation. As the Germans, with few

exceptions, were unemployed they formed most of the public. The attendance was between twenty and thirty.

Exhibition.

An opportunity of establishing contact with a wider public was offered to us when we were asked to show again last year's Exhibition (Greek and Roman Art) in the rooms of the Courtauld Institute. From there it went to Tonbridge School, Kent, where it is at present on view. The Exhibition which has been on loan to many towns has found an interested public: it is a popular success.

Library.

Curiously enough, it was found possible to improve the inner organization of the Library in spite of the books being stored. This was due to the efforts of Dr. Meier and the bookbinder. Ever since we came to London we have not had a large enough staff to bind and classify all our new acquisitions (including the gift of a small library which we received in 1937), and in addition the 3,000 volumes which had not yet been incorporated when we came over. We started on this task in October, and the monthly output is now about 160 newly bound and 130 classified volumes. Altogether about 1,300 volumes have been bound, and more than 1,000 classified.. We purchased about 700 books and pamphlets, a figure which is not much lower than last year's (Sept. 1938 to 15th June, 1939, 875). This unexpected result is due to the purchase of a part of Dr. Jean Paul Richter's library, which contained some rare publications, and a generous gift of about 150 pamphlets, offprints, etc. from Dr. Charles Singer. Miss Agnes Warburg gave us Murray's English Dictionary (14 volumes). We continued lending books to the

National Central Library as far as conditions made this possible.

Catalogue of
Scientific
Manuscripts.

To Mrs. Dorothea Waley-Singer we are indebted for a gift of outstanding importance: a catalogue of all scientific manuscripts in English Libraries which Mrs. Singer compiled with the help of a large staff. Year after year she added new entries, and improved on the old ones. Some time ago Mrs. Singer published a comparatively small section, the Latin alchemical manuscripts. Mrs. Singer's Catalogue is the first step towards a history of science based on an adequate knowledge of documents. It needs of course to be supplemented by a similar catalogue of the continental manuscripts. But it is undoubtedly the most important contribution ever made in this direction.

Photographs.

Since the photographic collection was brought back from the country, Dr. Kitzinger who has temporarily joined our staff has been working on our photographic collection of mediaeval manuscripts. The work is not finished but the results achieved are satisfactory. The photographic collection has received a gift of about a thousand photographs from Miss Longhurst, and has also acquired the largest single addition - as regards number and importance - since we came to London.

When Dr. Kramrisch, of Calcutta University, lectured at the Courtauld Institute last summer we asked her to collect for us photographs of all the Graeco-Buddhist sculptures in India. When war broke out we agreed with ^{her} that everything possible should be done to carry out this plan as this was

perhaps the last opportunity for carrying it out at all. Dr. Kramrisch set to work with great energy, and when she arrived here in May to lecture at the Courtauld Institute she brought with her about 1,500 photographs, some 500 of which were specially taken for us. She had an anxious time on board the ship and while travelling through France, carrying plates and prints through all sorts of dangers. She arrived safely, with the glass-negatives unbroken, and the prints in perfect order. As the Institute was not in a position to pay the whole sum which was required, Dr. Kramrisch raised part of the costs in India. She has put us under a heavy obligation. Even her energy would not have sufficed had she not found generous help from the Director of Archaeology in India, Dr. Dikshit. The following notice appears in the "Lahore Civil and Military Gazette":

INDIAN PHOTOGRAPHS FOR LONDON

New Delhi, April 11.

"A striking illustration of how the English people continue their cultural interests unperturbed by the war is afforded by the Warburg Institute of Art, London, which has asked the Archaeological Department of the Government of India to supply as many photographs as possible of the Gandhara style of sculpture. These sculptures are largely housed in the Lahore, Taxila and Peshawar museums. It is reckoned that the cost of these photographs will easily run into thousands of rupees."

F. Sall