

WARBURG INSTITUTE REPORT

June 1940 - August 1941.

During the second year of the war the Warburg Institute concentrated on public activities rather than on research: on the production and circulation of exhibitions; on lecturing; on teaching; and on our publications. We helped to preserve the work left behind by scholars who died within the past year; we made photographic records of London buildings whose loss through bombing might be feared; and we made special efforts to foster intellectual collaboration with American scholars and institutions.

These activities were carried out in close contact with the Courtauld Institute. The pooling of the staff and working materials of the two Institutes for these purposes is, we feel, one of the beneficial results of the present situation.

The loss of Dr. H. Meier, our Librarian, who died in an air raid on 17th April, and the destruction of essential parts of our equipment in the same night, necessitated some important administrative changes. Dr. Meier had been connected with the Institute for almost twenty years, and the Library owes a great deal of its structure and working order as much to his remarkable administrative gifts as to his untiring devotion and perseverance. His post has been taken over by Dr. H. Buchthal who in former years frequently acted as Dr. Meier's deputy.

EXHIBITIONS

Indian Art.

After having concluded her course on Indian Art at the Courtauld Institute last summer, Miss Kramrisch readily fell in with our suggestion to arrange a photographic exhibition at the Warburg Institute. The aim of the Exhibition was to show the religious attitude of Hindu and Buddhist art, partly by means of comparison with works of art from Europe. Christian cathedrals were compared with Hindu temples. A special section was devoted to the historical connection between North-West Indian and Graeco-Roman sculpture at the beginning of our era.

The Exhibition linked up well with the problems of the Institute in general, and enlarged its field. The photographs were of unusual beauty, and the spectator received, through careful use of headlines and captions, aesthetic impressions and instruction at the same time. An Exhibition which appealed both to the emotional and to the intellectual side was obviously well suited to war-time. Although it was open during weeks of intensive bombing, more visitors came to this Exhibition than to the Greek and Roman one.

We are greatly indebted to Dr. Kramrisch for the arrangement of the Exhibition, to which she devoted four months of uninterrupted work, without remuneration. That it was technically possible to hold it was due to the fact that Miss Kramrisch had brought some of her own photographs from India, and that she had access not only to the Courtauld Institute photographs (evacuated to Devon) but also to those of the India Office Library and of the Royal Asiatic Society. Everywhere we found the greatest readiness to co-operate.

The organization and the cost of the Indian Exhibition were shared equally by the India Society and the Warburg Institute. The Secretary of the India Society, Mr. F. Richter, made the arrangements with the press, and we owe it to him that the Exhibition received a fair amount of press publicity.

The Secretary of State for India, Mr. L.S. Amery, kindly consented to open the Exhibition on 13th November, 1940, and it was on view at the Warburg Institute until 31st December. It was then circulated to the provinces, and shown at Manchester, Darlington, Wakefield, Cambridge, Brighton, Eton, and Sunderland. Sir Eric Maclagan was kind enough to introduce us by letter to the Directors of several provincial museums and at his suggestion the Circulation Department of the Victoria and Albert Museum took charge of the despatch of the Exhibition from London. We are greatly obliged to Sir Eric Maclagan and to Mr. R.P. Bedford, the head of the Department, who gave us every assistance.

I may quote from a letter from the Director of Brighton Public Art Gallery who recently applied for the loan of the Exhibition for a second time:

"We are most grateful for the loan of this important Exhibition, which appears to me the finest and most well planned exposition of the thought and emotion underlying Indian art and philosophy that has ever been made. It really is a most significant collection of photographs, which I feel should be preserved as a whole for the use of a museum or university."

The Director of the Public Art Gallery in Sunderland informs us that there were 14,645 visitors in 24 days.

We are gratified to have received an invitation to show the Exhibition at the Royal Ontario Museum of Archaeology, Toronto, and to circulate it to American Museums. If at all feasible we shall gladly comply with this request.

It is to be hoped that as one of the permanent consequences of the Exhibition the lectureship on Indian Art at the Courtauld Institute will be renewed. The funds for it which up to now were provided from India will be exhausted in 1941. - Mr. Amery, Sir Percival David, and Mr. S. Warburg have taken an active interest in this matter.

Greek and
Roman Art.

The circulation of the Greek and Roman Exhibition which was interrupted at the beginning of the war has now been resumed, and after having been at Eton College and the Institut Français, it is now on view at Brighton.

Architect-
ural
Drawings.

The Exhibition of Architectural Drawings at the Courtauld Institute in February and March, 1941, was a joint enterprise by Mr. Blunt and Dr. Wittkower. The public enjoyed the opportunity of being shown original drawings in war-time. Collectors who lent them in spite of obvious danger must be warmly thanked. The material, some of which was of great interest for the history of English and Italian architecture, was almost entirely unknown. Mr. Blunt and Dr. Wittkower produced a printed catalogue, with some illustrations, which gives a critical account of the results of their investigations.

English
Art

During the last months we have begun work on a new exhibition which will be opened in the autumn of this year and circulated later on. Its subject is English art and its relations to the arts of the Mediterranean. The aim is to show English art in connection with the artistic movement of the continent, and by doing so to define the character and the permanent features of English art.

LECTURES
AND TEACHING

At The
Warburg
Institute

A series of lectures and courses dealing with the problem of Cultural Relations between East and West was given during and after the Indian Exhibition. They were on the whole well attended. It is a common experience that activities which were not concerned with the issues of the day best relieved the mind during the bombing period.

At The
Courtauld
Institute.

Mr. Blunt arranged a series on Classicism at the Courtauld Institute in which Dr. Wittkower lectured twice, on Alberti and Raphael, and Dr. Saxl on Rembrandt and Italy. In a second series on 'Paris and London', Dr. Wittkower lectured on the Louvre, and in a third series Dr. Buchthal spoke on Christian Art and the origins of Islamic Painting.

Dr. Wittkower and Dr. Saxl held regular classes, and Dr. Wittkower took part in the examination of students at the Courtauld Institute.

RELATIONS
WITH
AMERICA

Dr. Wind.

Dr. Wind has done eminent service to the Institute in America, which resulted in an invitation being addressed to Lord Lee, through the late Lord Lothian, by the National Gallery of Art in Washington (the former Mellon Collection), the Library of Congress, and other distinguished Americans, to send the Warburg Library to Washington for the duration of the war. A guarantee of an annual income was added to this invitation, which for various reasons it was decided to decline. But it would not have been extended to the Warburg Institute if the researches and teaching of its representative in America were not so highly appreciated.

Dr. Wind appeared at a Philosophical Congress as main speaker together with M. J. Maritain, and he gave two full courses of 15 sessions each at the Institute of Fine Arts of New York University. A general course dealt with English Art of the 18th century, the advanced seminar course with English Art Theories of the same period. He has also established excellent relations with American scholars. The forthcoming issue of the Journal of the Warburg and Courtauld Institutes will contain American contributions only, which Dr. Wind has succeeded in soliciting for this purpose. As a further sign of recognition of his scholarship in the United States, he was able to obtain a contribution of £150 to our Journal Fund.

We had informed Dr. Wind that our Publication Fund was almost exhausted. (In 1939 a friend of the Institute promised a substantial contribution towards this fund but was later obliged to withdraw his offer for reasons connected with the war.) Dr. Wind therefore approached the Rockefeller Foundation in New York with a view to obtaining the funds necessary to carry on our publishing activities. The discussion was continued here with the Rockefeller representative, Dr. O'Brien. Scientific and economic publications are supported by the Rockefeller Foundation; the subsidy of humanist publications in war-time, obviously a question which concerns not only the Warburg Institute but humanist studies in this country in general, should be regarded as a matter of urgency. This view is endorsed by the Secretary of the British Academy, the Provost of Oriel College, the President of Corpus Christi College, Professor Powicke, and other distinguished scholars, and it is hoped that the project of a war-time printing fund will receive further encouragement although the Rockefeller Foundation has meanwhile declared itself unable to enter into new commitments at present.

PERIODICALS.

Owing to the circumstances of the war, Dr. Wittkower remained the only editor on the spot of the Journal of the Warburg and Courtauld Institutes, Mr. Blunt joining him whenever his time permitted. In spite of these difficulties, and the technical obstacles in production, we have been able to publish two double issues.

Whereas the Journal is mainly concerned with the classical tradition in the creative arts, our new periodical, Mediaeval and Renaissance Studies, is concerned with the classical tradition in pure thought and religion. Its publication was suggested to us by its present editors, Dr. R.W. Hunt and Dr. R. Klibansky, who also found the additional funds without which the project could not have materialized, in the shape of grants from Liverpool University and the Jowett Copyright Fund Trustees. The first issue, which was being printed in Belgium when war broke out, had to be re-printed in this country and was published in April.

Through the kind mediation of the Principal, estimates for future volumes of the two periodicals have now been submitted to the University of London Publications Fund Committee.

PUBLICATIONS.

We published Professor Panofsky's Codex Huygens and Leonardo da Vinci's Art Theory, and Mr. Blunt's book, Francois Mansart and the Origins of French Classical Architecture, the material for which he collected in recent years and even while on active service in France. At the moment we are re-printing the Hand-list of Illuminated Eastern Christian Manuscripts by Dr. Buchthal and Dr. Kurz which we had started to print in Belgium just before the invasion last year. As regards the progress of the Corpus Platonicum, a report specially written by Dr. Klibansky is attached. The second volume of The Drawings of Nicolas Poussin is ready for the press.

The sale of publications was less unfavourable than we had anticipated. In fifteen months, for instance, we sold 144 copies of such a highly specialized publication as the Continuity of the Platonic Tradition.

RESEARCH.

Research has suffered, a) through the death of three of our collaborators, Dr. Meier, Dr. Lanyi, and Monsieur Hackin, b) through temporary internment - Dr. Demus and Dr. Heckscher are still interned in Canada, and Dr. Kitzinger has only recently returned from Australia.

Under the debris of Dr. Meier's house we found parts of the third volume of the Bibliography of the Survival of the Classics which was nearly ready for printing, but we did not retrieve enough of it to enable us to publish the book. We found parts of his work on Tritemius' Liber de Scriptoribus Ecclesiasticis the most important catalogue of scholars of the Renaissance period, on which he had been engaged for fifteen years. Dr. Liebeschütz is preparing an article which will contain the results of Dr. Meier's researches. The rest of his learned papers - e.g. a brilliant paper written for the Journal of the National Library of Wales - have perished, some of them the painstaking work of many years' labour.

Unfortunately, we were also unable to recover the astronomical section of Mrs. Dorothea W. Singer's Index-by-Subjects of Scientific Manuscripts in English Libraries, on which Dr. Meier was working at the time of his death. Mrs. Singer, with un-failing liberality, has sent us her Index-by-Libraries from which it will be possible to reconstruct the lost part. We are now starting on this work, at the same time taking copies of the relevant slips for the use of Professor E.W. Talbot of the University of Texas.

Dr. Lanyi was drowned in the City of Benares disaster, but his papers survived - he had been working on a Donatello monograph for more than ten years. We offered our help in editing it, provided that his widow can raise funds in America for its publication.

Monsieur Hackin lost his life while on active service as a Commandant in General de Gaulle's forces. During the first year of the war Monsieur Hackin carried out, very successfully, archaeological excavations in Begram (Afghanistan). After the French collapse he came to this country to join the Free French Forces. He gave a lecture at the Warburg Institute on the results of his excavations, and it was agreed that we should finish the Catalogue raisonné of the finds, prepare an introduction, and undertake the publication. The finds being a mixture of Western, Indian and some Chinese objects, the work fits well into our studies as it will show the contacts between Greek and Asiatic civilizations. It was arranged that Dr. Kurz should undertake the necessary research on behalf of the Institute, and Monsieur Hackin suggested that his name should appear as joint author. Before leaving on a political mission overseas, Monsieur Hackin handed the material over to the Director, and his farewell words showed that he was fully aware of the danger that threatened him. Monsieur Carl, his assistant in this country, committed suicide when the tragic fate of Monsieur and Madame Hackin (who was her husband's collaborator) became known, so that no European eye-witness of the excavations is now alive.

Dr. Kurz's work on the Catalogue is not yet complete but about half of it has been successfully concluded. Sir John Marshall, late Director-General of Archaeology in India, kindly promised to go through the manuscript. We might start printing now but for the lack of funds at our disposal.

Miss Yates has finished her book on the French Academies of the 16th Century, a copious work of 14 chapters which Dr. Wind is at present revising for the press. No funds for its publication are yet available.

Dr. Buchthal has begun work on the collection of Gandhara photographs which we procured from India last year through Miss Kramrisch's good offices, a collection which was considerably enlarged with the help of the authorities of the British Museum and the Victoria and Albert Museum. At the latter museum, Mrs. Saxl took photographs of all the Gandhara objects, most of which had not yet been photographed. By starting from the European side Dr. Buchthal hopes to be able to establish the much discussed chronology of these Graeco-Indian works of art. Dr. Buchthal also continued his studies in Islamic art in three articles, two of which were published in *Ars Islamica* in 1940, and one in the November issue 1940 of the *Burlington Magazine*.

Mrs. Kurth's Handlist of Textiles representing classical subjects (15th and 16th centuries) can be printed as soon as funds are available.

Dr. Pächt had to suspend his work on the Handlist of Illuminated Manuscripts in the British Museum as the manuscripts were inaccessible. He started some months ago on a similar handlist at the Bodleian Library, helped and encouraged by the Keeper of the Manuscripts and by Miss Beryl Smalley, an old friend of the Institute, who had recently been appointed to the Department. Only a small number of the Bodleian manuscripts have up to now been examined from the standpoint of the history of art, and in the first weeks Dr. Pächt made a number of discoveries. He published a report on an unknown Foucquet manuscript in the Bodleian Quarterly. We hope to publish, in instalments, his lists of the various collections included amongst the Bodleian Manuscripts.

Dr. Jaffé's latest work on the Chichester Cathedral archives is a Calendar of Leases, the earliest of these dating from the 15th century. The leases thus made accessible afford a picture of the conditions of land tenancy in the diocese, and are also of interest in their bearing on topography and the history of architecture. Miss Jaffé's invitation at Girton College has been extended to last until October 1942.

Dr. Demus continues his work on the mosaics of Monreale in a Canadian internment camp. Through Professor D.V. Thompson's kind intervention Harvard University will, it is hoped, provide him with the necessary books. We also provided some books, a large number of photographs, etc. Unfortunately, all our efforts to obtain Dr. Demus's release have so far been unsuccessful.

Dr. Kitzinger who had been employed by the Institute before he was interned last year could not do any research in the Australian camp, which lies in a desert stretch of land. But he learned to read Russian, which is important for the study of Early Christian Art to which Kondakoff, Rostovzeff, Smirnoff and other eminent Russian scholars have contributed so much.

Dr. Hess continues work on the edition of Baglione's Vite, the Vatican authorities having agreed to extend his grant for a further period. It will take two more years to complete the work.

PHOTOGRAPHIC WORK.

When the National Buildings Record was called into existence we were invited to collaborate. We offered to lend the services of our photographer and to direct his work from the art historical side. Pending the official acceptance of this offer, we started work in close contact with the National Buildings Record, and have up to now made a photographic survey of three buildings: the Courtauld Institute, the Athenaeum Club, and Mr. Courtauld's house in North Audley Street. We are now asked to photograph the Soane Museum.

ADMINISTRA-
TION.

After the death of Dr. Meier and the destruction of the only complete duplicate copy in existence of the alphabetical Catalogue (which we had lent to the National Central Library), certain re-organization of the Institute became necessary. We had to evacuate the Catalogue, and the new Librarian, Dr. Buchthal, and an assistant had to go with it lest work on the library should cease entirely. We tried, therefore, to find a place near London, preferably big enough for all the members of the Institute to live in. Suitable accommodation was found in Denham, whence the Imperial Institute can be reached in about an hour. For the books of the Institute - which have been dispersed during the past year, and are now partly in Guildford, partly in Aberystwyth, and partly in Henley - there is no space in the house; but the combined libraries of the members of the staff, plus Mr. Blunt's library and a number of books and periodicals from the Courtauld Institute, form a collection which is a great help, and we have the satisfaction to see some of our friends who are doing war work come out to Denham as often as they can to make use of this opportunity. From the point of view of the Institute's work, there are certain disadvantages: precious time is lost in travelling to and from the Imperial Institute (where at least four members are on duty every day), and work in house and garden that has to be done in turns by the members of the household takes up some more of their time. On the other hand, this war experiment offers more opportunities for collaboration in work and life, and this factor will be of great value for our team-work in the future.

Dr. Wittkower was the driving power behind the project, and it was his energy which carried it through. We are greatly obliged to Sir Robert Witt for legal help in the matter of the lease.

About 1,000 books were bought during the current year. In connection with the Exhibition the section on Indian art and religious life was the first to be enlarged. We bought a number of handbooks and works on specialized subjects second-hand at very favourable prices, and among books recently published we acquired the monumental work by Marshall and Foucher on the Sculptures of Sanchi. Two complete series, the "Sacred Books of the East" and the "Survey of Persian Art", were other notable acquisitions.

Between June 1940 and May 1941, 878 books were bound, and over 3,000 books classified and evacuated to the country. Among these books is a very considerable number of works acquired years ago which have now found their definite place in the press marking system of the library.

This is another of the benefits due to the restrictions otherwise imposed on our activities through the war. The library when re-assembled one day will be more accurate, as an instrument of learning, than it has ever been before.

Our thanks are due to Mr. Courtauld, whose generosity has again made it possible for us to carry on.

F. Saxl.

REPORT ON THE PROGRESS OF THE CORPUS PLATONICUM MEDII Aevi

The progress of the edition has suffered from the fact that the General Editor as well as most other collaborators in this country are now doing full-time Government work. Nevertheless some definite headway has been made.

A. Plato Latinus.

(1) Platonis Parmenides. - Procli Commentarium in Parmenidem. Pars adhuc inedita. - The preparation of this volume was considerably held up, as one collaborator, an Italian refugee scholar living in this country, was first interned and subsequently called up for Government work; during the greater part of this time the materials in his possession were not available to us. Although the work had to be done all over again, it is now progressing satisfactorily.

The preparation of this edition involved a study of the survival of the Parmenides - next to the Timaeus the most influential Platonic dialogue - from the time of late Antiquity to the early Renaissance. The results of this research have been laid down in an essay on A Chapter in the History of Platonism. This shows the part played by William of Moerbeke's translation which acted as a ferment in the process of development from indirect and fragmentary Platonic tradition to a direct approach to Plato's work as a whole. The essay is to be published in Mediaeval and Renaissance Studies. The periodical comes into the compass of the Corpus Platonicum Medii Aevi, for, besides its wider purposes, it is intended to serve as a repository for discoveries made and results obtained in the course of research connected with the editions. It is hoped to publish here all that information which would unduly burden the prefaces to the texts.

(2) The edition of the Latin translation of Plato's Phaedo had been entrusted to an Italian scholar living in Padua whose work was supervised from this country. She managed to send us her completed typescript shortly before Italy's entry into the war. Thorough revision and correction of the text is necessary to make it comply with the standards of the Corpus Platonicum.

(3) The section Platon in Latin Antiquity has grown considerably. A card index which contains all passages referring to Plato - quotations from, and allusions to, the dialogues, biographical statements, criticisms of his doctrines, etc. - is being formed.

(4) The edition of Chalcidius' translation of, and Commentary to, the Timaeus. This edition is being prepared by a Danish and a Swedish scholar who are now cut off from us. It was, however, possible to indicate to them in time the great number of manuscripts found as a result of our research and to supply them with a large number of MSS photographs from British, Italian, and French libraries. Among these were complete photostats of the two oldest manu-

scripts of the Latin Timaeus (one from Lyons and one from Valenciennes) which had not been used by former editors.

(5) A Norwegian collaborator has undertaken the edition, with full Latin-Greek, and Greek-Latin indices, of Cicero's translation of the Timaeus.

According to news received immediately before the invasion of Denmark and Norway work on both these editions was in progress.

B. Plato Arabus.

(1) Galenus, Compendium Timaei, aliorumque dialogorum quae extant fragmenta. This edition gives the Arabic text (and Latin translation) of a work the Greek original of which is lost. The completion of this first volume, printed at the Imprimerie Catholique at Beirut, has suffered severely from the vicissitudes of the war in the Middle East. Immediately after the termination of hostilities in Syria attempts have been made to get into touch again with the printers. It is to be hoped that they will meet with success and that the printing which, except for the index and a final revision, is well advanced, can be brought to a conclusion.

(2) The edition of the newly found Arabic text of Al-Farabi, On Plato's Philosophy, its Parts, and the Order of its Parts from the first to the last, is ready for print. It is possible to reconstruct the Hellenistic work on Plato's philosophy which the Arab author followed.

The following volumes are making satisfactory progress:

- (3) Al-Farabi, Paraphrasis of the Laws.
- (4) Averroes, Paraphrasis of the Republic.
- (5) Collection of Quotations from Plato.

R. Klibansky.