

Conferences

THE NEWBERRY LIBRARY RENAISSANCE CONFERENCE will meet April 27, 1963. Those wishing to submit papers (not to exceed thirty minutes in length) in a particular field of study represented by the conference's membership are asked to send them to Marvin Becker, History Dept., Western Reserve University, Cleveland 6, Ohio.

THE NORTHERN CALIFORNIA RENAISSANCE CONFERENCE met October 13, 1962, at San Jose State College. After the welcome by Aldo Scaglione (U of California, Berkeley), president of the conference, the following papers were read: Douglas L. Peterson (Alameda SC), '“Wisdom consumed in confidence”: A Study of Shakespeare's Portrayal of Julius Caesar'; Francis Carmody (U of California, Berkeley), 'Pico della Mirandola and the *Zohar*'; Charles W. Lovy (Contra-costa C), 'The *Epistolae Obscurorum Virorum* and German Humanism'; William J. Bouwsma (U of California, Berkeley), 'Fra Paolo Sarpi and the Renaissance Historians'; Elie Vidal (San Francisco SC), 'Critical Excesses in the Interpretation of Montaigne's Style'; Nicolas Perella (U of California, Berkeley), 'The Soul in the Kiss: The Renaissance Phase of a Philosophico-Literary Commonplace'. Officers elected for 1962-63 were president, Desmond J. FitzGerald (U of SF); first vice-president, Richard Tansey (San José SC); second vice-president, Louis Spitz (Stanford); and secretary-treasurer, Robert McNulty (U of California, Berkeley).

THE MIDDLE ATLANTIC RENAISSANCE CONFERENCE held its annual meeting at Temple University on October 27 [for program, see *RN* xv, 254]. Representatives to the RSA Council are E. B. Benjamin (Temple U) and Rudolf Hirsch (U of Pennsylvania).

News and Notes

THE RENEWAL OF MAN was the theme of an academic festival held at Southern Methodist University in September to mark the first public exhibit of the newly presented Bridwell-DeBellis collection of 200

volumes of fifteenth-century printing. Dr. Curt F. Bühler (president, RSA) gave an address entitled 'Incunabula—Rare Books and Scholarly Books'; at a dinner honoring the donors, J. S. Bridwell and Frank V. DeBellis, Professor Myron Gilmore spoke on 'The Renaissance Dialogue with the Past'.

THE CORREGGIO FRESCOES in the cupola of San Giovanni Evangelista, Parma, can be seen for the first time in many generations in something like their pristine glory following a two-year period of restoration. In addition to the usual difficulties of smoke staining and cracked and flaked paint, the restorers were faced with a novel problem: the dome itself had been twisted as the result of an earthquake of unknown date to the point where the figures in the paintings were out of line. This necessitated detaching sections of the frescoes and lowering them to their original position.

NATALINO SAPEGNO (U of Rome) has been awarded the five-million lire President of the Republic Prize by the Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei. Acclaimed for his happy fusion of philological expertness and fine critical judgment, Professor Sapegno is well known to students of the Renaissance through his *Il Trecento* and his fine edition of the *Divine Comedy*.

THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART during the fall scheduled several series of art courses which were open to the public by subscription. A course on composition focused on the works of Titian, El Greco, Rubens, and Velasquez; another was devoted to the recently acquired Rembrandt painting, 'Aristotle Contemplating the Bust of Homer', and related works; 'The Glories of the Medici' dealt with the political and cultural achievements of the noted Florentine family, and a series entitled 'Art and the Theatre' included lectures on the medieval mystery plays and the *Commedia dell' Arte*.

AN EXHIBIT of rare books of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries was arranged in Venice by the Cini Foundation for members of the Grolier Club who spent two weeks during the summer visiting important Italian libraries and book collections. The exhibit, drawn in large part from the private collection of Count Vittorio Cini and Tammaro de Marinis, was highlighted by the beautifully illustrated *Fasciculus Medi-*

cinae of Johannes de Ketham (Venice, 1491) and the *Hypnerotomachia Poliphili* (Aldus, 1499).

THE FOUNDATION FOR REFORMATION RESEARCH, which is filming a vast quantity of source materials relating to the Reformation (see *RN* xiv, 133–134), has deposited 660 reels of master negatives for safe keeping in the Carey Salt Mines in Hutchinson, Kansas. This vault, carved out of solid rock salt at a depth of 650 feet, provides a number of rooms, each the length of a football field, separated by twenty-foot walls; the catalytic properties of the salt serve to control the temperature at 68 degrees F and the humidity at 58 per cent. A file of working negatives is housed in the Foundation Library and a file of positives is accessible to students and scholars near the campus of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.

A FAMED MANUSCRIPT OF THE DECAMERON from Marburg, Germany, which has occasioned a good deal of scholarly debate over whether it is a holograph or not, has been on loan to the Marciana in Venice to permit Italian scholars to work on the problem. Although experts have felt that the handwriting could be that of Boccaccio in his old age, it seemed unbelievable that the author of the *Decameron* would have been guilty of the numerous errors which the manuscript contains. By using X rays, Vittore Branca and Pier Giorgio Ricci discovered that the pages with errors had been inked over by some later owner of the manuscript, possibly in the sixteenth century. The ink Boccaccio used was of unequal quality so that the later owner, either unable to decipher the original or wishing to improve on it, put in the changes. The rough drawings of the characters sketched in the manuscript apparently are Boccaccio's.

THE WALTERS ART GALLERY, Baltimore, is continuing its active program of exhibits and lectures designed to bring its treasures closer to the public. 'The International Style—European Art Around 1400', one of the most important exhibits at the gallery in many years, was enriched by loans from more than twenty museums and collections, including the Louvre, the Kunsthistorisches Museum, Vienna, and the Metropolitan Museum, New York. The exhibit closed December 2.

Built around the exhibit were the following lectures: Julian Held (Columbia U), 'The Iconography of the International Style'; Francis W. Robinson (Detroit Institute of Fine Arts), 'The International Style

in Sculpture'; Dorothy E. Miner (Walters Gallery), 'The International Style in Manuscripts'; Edgar P. Richardson (Winterthur Museum), 'The European World Around 1400'; and among the popular lecture-lunches were two by Theodore L. Low (Walters Gallery), 'The International Style' and 'Renaissance Painting in Italy'.

THE BENEDICTINE MONKS, subsidized by the Cini Foundation, have started a regular center for the study of Gregorian music on the island of San Giorgio in Venice. Under the direction of Padre Pellegrino Ermetti, the San Giorgio monks are deciphering and revising manuscripts found at the abbey of Aquileia on the Venetian coast, where during the Middle Ages a singular style of the Gregorian chant developed — *lo stile aquileiense*. The manuscripts include a regular liturgical drama of the *Pianto della Madonna*.

AN INTERDISCIPLINARY SEMINAR ON THE RENAISSANCE is being conducted at Tufts University. Designed as part of the new Tufts Program in Humanistic Studies supported by the Ford Foundation for the purpose of providing competent teachers in the humanities, the course is open to first-year graduate students who have a reading competence in two foreign languages, one ancient and one modern. The participating departments include Classics, Drama, English, Fine Arts, German, History, Philosophy, and Romance Languages. The primary aim is to give both students and teachers the stimulation of a joint academic effort, one in which specialists in related disciplines pool their efforts for a clearer understanding of an area of study. The secondary aim is to provide students who are planning to become teachers with a unique experience in method. The consensus of students and teachers after the first year was that the 'intellectual cross fertilization' had proved invaluable and that the boldness in choosing the whole of the Renaissance for study had proved justified: it had provided the students with a reasonably good picture of the period while at the same time it had permitted them to specialize in the writing of their seminar reports.
[George A. Hoar]

FELIX GILBERT (formerly Bryn Mawr C) has been appointed a permanent professor in the School of Historical Studies, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton.

JUAN B. AVALLE-ARCE (Smith C) has been awarded the Bonsoms Prize by the Diputación Provincial of Barcelona for his volume *Deslindes cervantinos* (Madrid, 1961).

HOWARD B. ADELMANN (Cornell U) is at work on an edition of all letters written by and to Marcello Malpighi (1628–94). He would be grateful for information concerning such letters still in private hands or in libraries (excluding those of Bologna and the Royal Society). Any material sent to him at Cornell will be photographed and returned promptly.

RENSSELAER W. LEE (Princeton U) has been elected President of the Union Académique International.

P. O. KRISTELLER (Columbia U) and B. L. ULLMAN (U of North Carolina) were awarded the degrees respectively of doctor of philosophy and doctor of letters *honoris causa* by the University of Padua on November 22. At a subsequent ceremony Professor Kristeller was presented with a copy of his lecture *La Tradizione Aristotelica nel Rinascimento*, which is available as the second issue of the series *Saggi e Testi* published jointly by the Centro per la Storia della Tradizione Aristotelica nel Veneto of the University of Padua and the Columbia University Seminar on the Renaissance; and Professor Ullman was presented with proofs of his important forthcoming volume on Coluccio Salutati.

N.B. The date for the voyage of Giovanni da Verrazzano [RN xv, 261] should have read 1524.

Visitors

DENYS HAY (History, Old College, Edinburgh) will be at Cornell University February 1–June 1, 1963.

ROBERT ASHTON (Economic and Social History, Nottingham) will be visiting professor at the University of California, Berkeley, during the academic year 1962–63.