

operation among learned societies and of preventing overlapping. The only control it exercises is through the budget, and then only in requiring that those who receive grants follow certain administrative procedures.

New membership is a carefully guarded privilege. One of the most active debates at the meeting concerned the application for affiliation of the International Congress of Prehistoric and Protohistoric Sciences, whose claims were ably urged by its president, who attended as an observer. There was however a strong opinion that the multiplication of affiliated bodies would unduly enlarge and thereby weaken the Council; and that unless a completely distinct area of studies was involved, new organizations should adhere to one of the existing international bodies already affiliated with the Council, to whose area of work their own is related.

Otherwise, most of the Council's time was devoted to consideration of professional work in the international field, including such matters as congresses, bibliographies, and publications of all types.

W. G. Constable

## *News & Notes*

### REPORT ON THE MEETING

#### IN FLORENCE ON THE MEDICI CORRESPONDENCE

At the initiative of the Istituto Nazionale di Studi sul Rinascimento a meeting of representatives of interested societies was held in Florence at the Palazzo Strozzi on September 2, 1955, to discuss means of collaboration on the long-desired edition of the correspondence of Lorenzo de' Medici. There were present for the Istituto Nazionale: Mario Salmi (President), Delio Cantimori, Comm. Enrico Barfucci and Dr. Pier Giorgio Ricci; for the Warburg Institute: Gertrude Bing (Director), Dr. E. H. Gombrich; for the Renaissance Society of America: Felix Gilbert and Myron P. Gilmore; and Dr. N. Rubinstein (Westfield College, University of London). A report was received from Dr. Ricci on information so far available about relevant material in Italian archives and libraries. After discussion it was decided that the project should be organized in two distinct stages: first, an exploratory stage; then, the actual edition and publication.

At the end of the exploratory stage there should be available a full and detailed report which should consist of

- 1 a hand list of all letters of Lorenzo de' Medici
- 2 surveys of
  - a. the letters addressed to Lorenzo de' Medici
  - b. and of other contemporary material relevant to the edition
  - c. a limited number of special studies necessary to the preparation of the edition such as an analysis of the organization of Lorenzo's chancery and a collection of biographical information on individual citizens prominent in the contemporary life of Florence. Such studies would be of independent usefulness to Renaissance studies.

The main purpose of the work done during the exploratory stage will be to produce a detailed plan for an edition of the letters of Lorenzo il Magnifico and to propose principles on which such an edition will be based.

Those present at the meeting considered that no satisfactory progress could be made in the exploratory stage unless two specialists could devote themselves freely to it. These full-time workers will have occasionally to enlist the assistance of other experts and would have to be provided with the means for securing such assistance as they may require. It was hoped that under these circumstances the preliminary work could be finished by December, 1957. The participants at the meeting agreed unanimously that the scholars most qualified to undertake this preliminary work were Dr. Pier Giorgio Ricci and Dr. Nicolai Rubinstein. The meeting was gratified to hear that they are willing to undertake the task.

To support an application for funds for this work a committee was constituted. This committee is composed of Mario Salmi, President of the Istituto Nazionale (Chairman), Delio Cantimori (University of Florence) and Alessandro Perosa (University of Cagliari) for the Istituto Nazionale; of G. Bing (University of London) and Dr. E. H. Gombrich (University of London), for the Warburg Institute; and of two representatives of the Renaissance Society of America, to be named at their annual meeting in January, 1956, if the Renaissance Society adheres to the project. If financial support is forthcoming, the Committee will be kept informed, at regular intervals, of the progress of the editorial work during the exploratory stage, will be at the

disposal of the editors for advice on any questions of policy that may arise, and will receive their final report.

The hope was expressed that in the second part of the project some work could be done by young scholars, e.g. from the United States, going to Florence with research grants. Considering the technical difficulties involved in research in Italian archives, this would give them much-needed training and an admirable opportunity of combining their own work with research for an important project under the guidance of experienced scholars.

Felix Gilbert

Myron P. Gilmore

THE PIERPONT MORGAN LIBRARY, New York, will offer an exhibit on 'Astronomy, Astrology and Geography in the Middle Ages' from January 16 to March 3.

Paul Oskar Kristeller spent his sabbatical leave at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton and subsequently in Europe, working on his projected list of uncatalogued Renaissance manuscripts in Italian and some other European libraries. He was able to visit a great number of manuscript collections, some of them for the first time, and to locate a large number of additional manuscripts which will be described in his list. The most interesting manuscripts which will require further study include works of the school of Salerno, treatises related to the controversy on Plato and Aristotle, writings by Marsilio Ficino, Giovanni Pico, Francesco da Diacceto, Demetrius Chalcondylas, Leone Ebreo and others, as well as the unknown correspondence of an obscure German humanist, Rutgerus Sycamber.

## *Renaissance Books*

This Renaissance bibliography, compiled by Robert E. Taylor of New York University, notes publications listed in the various national bibliographies from January, 1955, to varying terminal dates, depending upon the country. As a general rule, school texts, translations, and simple reprints of classical texts have not been listed, unless notes or commentary seemed to warrant. Books mentioned in pre-