

Substantial progress has been reported by several other contributors. It is hoped that the impending publication of the first volume may prompt other contributors to complete their articles.

Professor A. H. McDonald (Clare College, Cambridge) has joined the International Advisory Committee, to fill the vacancy left some time ago by the resignation of Professor R. A. B. Mynors (Corpus Christi College, Oxford).

The Executive Committee met in May and October, 1957, and in February 1958. It may meet again in April or May.

The project has received secretarial help from the Columbia University Seminar on the Renaissance, and a grant of \$150 for running expenses from the American Council of Learned Societies.

News and Notes

The Society is now ready to consider manuscripts for a Monograph Series and wishes to be informed of book-length manuscripts now available. Monographs should be of moderate length and on a subject which is of interest to scholars in more than one academic discipline. Wherever possible the Society hopes to help the scholar toward publication, if not in its own monograph series (where funds are very limited), then by negotiation with other publishers.

At the annual meeting of the Advisory Council it was decided to offer two new classes of membership: Husband and Wife Membership for \$8, both to be listed in the directory, but only one copy of the publications will be sent. The Council also decided to offer a Life Membership for \$250 paid in a single payment for that purpose. The decision came after part of the dues statements for this year were in the mails. The additional classes were noted, therefore, on only part of the dues statements, but four members have already become Life Members.

A member of the Society, Professor Germán Arciniegas of Columbia University, has been appointed Ambassador of the Republic of Colombia to Italy. He plans, while resident in Rome, to write a second volume of his study of the Vespucci family.

The Holz knecht Memorial Volume of *Studies in Elizabethan Drama* was published on February 3 by the New York University Press. The occasion was commemorated by a tea in the English Department Common Room of New York University at which a copy was presented to Mrs. Eleanore Holz knecht Dreibelbies. The *Studies* were collected and edited by Oscar Cargill, Head of the Department of English, Josephine Waters Bennett, and Vernon Hall of Dartmouth College.

The American Council of Learned Societies has awarded \$10,000 prizes for distinguished scholarship to two members of the Renaissance Society: William Haller, Professor Emeritus of English at Columbia University and Fellow of the Folger Shakespeare Library, and Bertrand H. Bronson, Professor of English, University of California at Berkeley. Eight other prizes went to distinguished scholars in History, Canon Law, Greek, Philosophy, French, Hebrew, Archaeology, and Slavic and Comparative Literature.

Cornell University's Graduate School has announced an interdepartmental Program of Medieval and Renaissance Studies. The aim of the program is to understand the character and development of the civilizations of these periods as a whole, to introduce the student to the several relevant disciplines, and to develop sufficient competence in a single discipline to launch the student on independent research. Several scholarships and fellowships for both M.A. and PH.D candidates are available. Inquiries should be addressed to the Chairman of the Interdepartmental Committee on Medieval and Renaissance Studies, 226 Boardman Hall, Ithaca, New York.

An account of the Folger Library Conference of historians which met last November 17 to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the accession of Queen Elizabeth has been published and is available to anyone interested in reading this appraisal of research opportunities in the Tudor and Stuart fields. The conference was led by Sir John Neale, who presented a stimulating account of the importance of the biographical approach to history, of the individuals and events which shape the course of human affairs. He re-emphasized the importance of the accession of Elizabeth to all Americans by pointing out that if

her sister, Queen Mary, had produced an heir, the whole history of North America would have been different, the English colonizations would not have taken place, and the United States would never have come into being. North as well as South and Central America would have been Spanish speaking.

Building has begun on a new wing of the Folger Library, to provide underground stacks, a story for offices, conferences, and storage, and a sundeck where readers and staff can meet and talk or just sit and think.

Diana Poulton, President of the Lute Society of London, is publishing this year (*Musica Rara*, London) her edition of the lute music of John Dowland, England's greatest composer for the lute. This will be the first collected edition of his lute music. It will contain the original tablature, a transcription into modern staff notation, a full critical apparatus, and biographical notes on the persons for whom the pieces are named. Mrs. Poulton has been collecting for many years from the Dowland manuscripts scattered over Britain, Ireland, and America. She has had also to correct the frequent misprints in the *Varietie of Lute Lessons* (1610) published by his son Robert Dowland. Her labors will make a very important contribution to our knowledge of English music and of one of the great composers.

On March 5, 6, and 7, the Experimental Theatre at Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, New York, presented John Milton's *The Masque of Comus*. This production was a special theater offering for Vassar's *The Age of the Baroque*, a seminar on the seventeenth century. The entire college participated in the event. Contributing departments included Art, Music, Drama, Science, and the Dance. The English Department arranged the text. Mr. Arthur Satz played the original music of Henry Lawes on the harpsichord. The music was composed for the first performance of the play at Ludlow Castle in 1634. *Comus* was directed by George Brendan Dowell and designs were by John L. Kurten.

The Vassar production presented the poem in the Masque tradition of Inigo Jones.

The Pierpont Morgan Library had an exhibition (December 16 to February 21) commemorating the accession and coronation of Queen Elizabeth I. Such treasures as the portrait of the Queen presented by J. Pierpont Morgan to the Metropolitan Museum and contemporary manuscript copies of *Astrophel and Stella*, lent by Arthur A. Houghton, Jr., were shown, as well as Sidney's *Defense of the Earl of Leicester* in autograph, and many other autographs of the period. A section was devoted to Mary, Queen of Scots. Copies of the first four folios of Shakespeare's works, and of eight quartos, as well as copies of works used by Shakespeare and of the works of his contemporaries, fill other cases. There was an effort to present the variety of interests and the vigor of the age in science, travel, translation, law, and religion.

Among the exhibits was a copy, shown for the first time, of the first edition of the *Essays* of Francis Bacon, loaned by the Carl H. Pforzheimer Library. A distinguished group of fine, gilt-tooled bindings included two books bound for the Queen, three for the Earl of Leicester, one on Ascham's *Toxophilus* bound for Prince Edward in 1545, and the author's own copy of Bacon's *Instauratio Magna* (1620), with Bacon's boar crest stamped in gold.

ACLS Annual Meeting

The forty-second meeting of the American Council of Learned Societies (this being the fortieth annual meeting as well as the thirty-eighth meeting of the Corporation) was held at Rochester, New York, on January 21-23, 1959. This was, of course, the first time since its election in January of the previous year that the RSA was represented. Both the Society's Secretary and its Delegate were able to attend.

The first day of the meeting was, as usual, devoted to the Conference of Secretaries, including a joint meeting with the Board of Directors. At the invitation of the University, a discussion meeting of the entire body of the delegates and secretaries was held there on Thursday, January 22. This centered on the possibilities for closer relationships between the Board and Staff of the ACLS and the several