

UNDERWORLD COURIER

Vol. II

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No. 2

(Last week's Courier was not written as most of our sparse summer news was already reported in a personal letter to California)

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Visitors and Personnel Notes. A welcome visitor last week was Mr. Russell. He looked brown and, as usual, thin. A genuine warmth is evident in the mutual pleasure felt. And that several of us had had recent letters from California added to the glow of the encounters. B.S. writes that she has taken a cottage in Maine for August where her sister Mrs. Sayre will join her. From our other vacationers we have no recent word.

National Gallery. A preview was given on Thursday of the Great Fire of London, 1940. Paintings, Woodcuts, Photographs by the volunteer firemen of London, who also happened to be, or became, artists. It had been sent over from England and with it came several live firemen in their brilliant uniforms. All Washington - all who were in town and who had received invitations - was there. We noted Mrs. Beale, Mr. Finley, the Magill James, Garretts, Randolphs and many, many other familiar faces. Among the newly-come Washingtonians was La Guardia, holding court.

Russian Orthodox Chapel. An oil painting of this chapel in Maryland - perhaps the only one in the state? - was brought to us to see by the master builder and architect². It is surely unique as church edifices go. An octagonal log cabin, on stilts: a bright blue roof with rose-red eaves, surmounted by an onion-shaped dome of tin, silvered, from which rises a gold cross. The master builder asks us to say that the St. George presented by Mr. and Mrs. Bliss is installed as the patron saint. This same craftsman is now doing the frescoes of the inner walls on Saturdays and Sundays. The little building is fast becoming a pilgrimage shrine

² Our Mrs. Scheffer.

BYZANTINE SEMINARY

Directions

A. Character of the Reports

1. The subjects treated in the Reports should, wherever possible, involve a special problem the solution of which is at least indicated in the Report.
2. While the subject thus presented will, in most cases, be minute, there should be in the background a larger field of research with which it is integrally connected. For an example, see the title of Report XI.
3. In some cases this larger field may be the subject of the Report. In that case, indication should be made of some minor problem, or series of problems, still awaiting solution. For an example, see the titles of Reports VI and VII. These seminary papers are intended to be scientific contributions, not general essays.
4. At the same time the Reports should be stimulating in spirit and finished in style. Omne tulit punctum, qui miscuit utile dulci.

B. Conduct of the Meetings

1. Each session lasts one hour -- no more, no less. It will begin promptly at the hour set.
2. The Director will begin in each case with a few words about the scholar presenting the Report and about his subject. Not more than five minutes will be devoted to this introduction.

3. Each Report will be read. A finished paper is expected, not a talk from notes.
4. During the reading of the paper, there will be no interruptions. Members are expected to take notes on statements that arouse their interest or call for criticism.
5. In the 25 minutes remaining, the Director will call for remarks from any of the members especially interested. In general, not more than five minutes will be given to the discussion of any question. Non multa sed multum. Naturally no rigid rule can be observed, except that in each session every member will be asked for comment, however, brief, on the Report. No waivers will be allowed.

It follows that no member should go to sleep during the reading of a Report and that no Report should be primarily soporific.

6. Besides the members of the Seminary, any of the Staff or the Fellows of Dumbarton Oaks or scholars using its facilities for research will of course be welcome at the sessions. So far as time allows, remarks from these visitors will be altogether in order.

C. Publication

It is hoped, though it cannot be positively stated, that the papers contributed to this Seminary may be published either in a special volume or as separate contributions to the "Dumbarton Oaks Papers." Therefore the finished papers may be longer than those read at the sessions. The appropriate length for a published

paper will be 20 pages of the size of those in Dumbarton Oaks Papers. If extracts from such a paper are read before the Seminary, these extracts should be so conjoined that the text as read flows on harmoniously.

D.

Each member of the Seminary will send to the Director a copy of his paper to reach him before the end of September. With it should go a brief "Vita" of the writer, stating date and place of birth, Preparatory Schools, Colleges and Graduate Schools attended, dates of academic degrees received, and academic positions held.

E. K. Rand

107, Lake View Ave.
Cambridge, June 10, 1941

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THE DUMBARTON OAKS RESEARCH LIBRARY AND COLLECTION OF HARVARD UNIVERSITY

Conferences of the Byzantine Seminary, Oct. 9-11, 1941

directed by Dr. E. K. RAND, Pope Professor of Latin and
Honorary Curator of Manuscripts in the
University Library at Harvard University*

- I. Thursday, 10.00-11.00. The DIRECTOR, "A Classical Approach to
Oct. 9 Byzantine Studies."
- II. 11.15-12.15. DR. D. M. ROBINSON, W. H. Collins-Vickers
Professor of Archaeology and Epigraphy and Lecturer on
Greek Literature at the Johns Hopkins University. "The
Transition from Roman to Byzantine at Pisidian Antioch:
An Early (the Earliest?) Christian Basilica." (Illus-
trated)
- III. 2.00-3.00. DR. B. M. PEEBLES, Assistant Professor of
Classics at Fordham University. "St. Peter's Cruci-
fixion at Rome inter duas metas" (Illustrated).
- IV. 3.15-4.15. DR. P. J. ALEXANDER, Assistant in History
at Harvard University, "The Philosophical Background
of the Iconoclastic Controversy."
- V. Friday, 9.00-10.00. DR. GEORGE LA PIANA, John H. Morison
Oct. 10 Professor of Church History at Harvard University,
"Diabolus in Byzantine History and Art."
- VI. 10.15-11.15. DR. R. P. BLAKE, Professor of History
and Honorary Curator of the J. P. Morgan Collection
of Manuscripts at Harvard University, "Infiltration
of Byzantine Culture into Neighboring Regions, ex-
cluding the West."

* At some time early in the Conference DR. HELEN F. WOODRUFF, Director of the Index of Christian Art at Princeton University, will explain the use of the Index, of which there is a copy at Dumbarton Oaks, to any of the members of the Seminary.

- VII. Friday,
Oct. 10 11.30-12.30. DR. S. H. CROSS, Professor of Slavic
Languages and Literatures at Harvard University, "The
Results of the Conversion of the Slavs from Byzantium."
- VIII. 2.00-3.00. DOM ANSELM STRITTMATTER, O.S.B., Sub-Prior
of St. Anselm's Priory, Brookland, D.C., "Two Documents
-- One Liturgical and One Monastic -- Connecting Byzan-
tium and the West in the Tenth and Eleventh Centuries."
- IX. 3.15-4.15. DR. H. BLOCH, Junior Fellow of Dumbarton
Oaks, "Byzantium and Monte Cassino."
- X. Saturday,
Oct. 11 9.00-10.00. DR. S. E. LUCE, Editor-in-Charge, Archae-
ological News and Discussions, American Journal of
Archaeology, "Coron -- a Venetian Outpost in Mediaeval
Greece."
- XI. 10.15-11.15. DR. D. P. LOCKWOOD, Professor of Latin
and Librarian at Haverford College, "The Seville Manu-
script of Simon, Archbishop of Thebes; a Byzantine
Contribution to Italian Humanism."
- XII. 11.30-12.30. DR. M. V. ANASTOS, Junior Fellow of
Dumbarton Oaks, "Pletho, Strabo and Columbus."
A word in conclusion by the DIRECTOR.

Book Notes. The following book arrived at D.O., addressed to the Hon. Robert Woods Bliss, with a notation on the wrapper to this effect; "will the Director acknowledge arrival to Mrs. William Phillips, Highover, North Beverly, Mass." : La Tovaglia Longobarda del Sancta Sanctorum, Milan, MCMXXI-XIX [this is exactly what appears as a date on the title page...probably you will understand its significance, though we do not]. The book is dedicated to Pio XII; it has many detailed illustrations and on the covers is stamped the Keys of St. Peter, the dove and Papal Tiara. The book has been acknowledged by your Keeper of the Rare Books. Shall it be sent out?

Defense Bibliography. It was with surprise and a faintly gratified feeling of:- well, we're not so fast asleep after all :- that we noted in a recent trade journal the following item. Air Raid Shelters. Bibliography. Defense Bibliography, No. 1. We sent for it and found an annotated list of nearly 150 titles, all of which are to be found in four Los Angeles libraries:- The Municipal Reference Library (which compiled the list), Los Angeles Public Library, University of California Library and University of Southern California Library. All of the titles dates from 1939, 1940, 1941, except three. Two of these are of Nov. 11, 1938 and one from 1935. We received three copies of this bibliography. Would it interest you to have one?

Dumbarton Oaks Park. The attached clipping came from This Week. The Acorn dweller had anticipated strolling to the entrance and joining the walkers so as to be able to report to you on how it was done and what the reactions were. But, alas, on that particular Sunday the heavens opened - and staid open - so we have no more than the clipping to report.

France, a word from. A copy of a letter received from Jean Malye is submitted. It came through quickly, in less than two weeks, par avion, opened by British censor at Bermuda. We send it because we believe you will be glad to read its news and to know that this cultural enterprize "vit et travaille malgré tout". The financial part is a matter for Harvard now, as they took over all unfinished foreign orders and commitment.

THE National Capital Parks will sponsor a nature walk through Dumbarton Oaks Park on Sunday morning, July 13, from 9:30 to 11:30 o'clock. Offering an unusual combination of native wildflowers and cultivated plants grown in a setting of miniature waterfalls, ponds, and shaded walks, Dumbarton Oaks Park, formerly part of the estate of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Woods Bliss, is unique among municipal park areas.

Louis C. Wheeler, ranger-naturalist, National Capital Parks, will be the leader of the walk, which will organize at the Lover's Lane entrance to the Park, R St. near 31st St. N.W.

(Addressed to
Mrs. Sessions)

(Postmarked Lyon)

le 8/7/41

Chère Madame,

Je profite d'un court séjour en zone libre pour vous écrire.

Notre Société vit et travaille malgré tant de difficultés. Dès que nous le pourrons nous mettrons à l'impression le tome I de l'Alexiade qui est prêt. La bibliothèque nous doit encore 2,219. fr. Si vous le voulez, vous pouvez m'envoyer cet argent, à mon nom par exemple, ce qui est facile (le cas s'est déjà produit) ou si vous le préférez versez-le à Mlle. Marguerite Dumont, ma secrétaire, actuellement à New-York.*

Mon devoir actuel à qui je donne tout pouvoir pour encaisser toute somme due à la Société les Belles Lettres avec l'Association.

Nous attendons avec confiance la fin de la guerre.

J'espère que vous allez bien. Merci de tout ce que vous pourrez faire pour nous, et avec mon fidèle souvenir, veuillez toujours agréer, chère Madame, l'hommage de mes sentiments respectueux.

Jean Malye.

Président-directeur de la Société
les Belles Lettres.
Délégué Général de l'Association
Guillaume Budé

* 654 Madison Avenue.