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The Modern Language Center

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The Modern Language Center

THE Modern Language Center was opened during the Fall Term of 1946, and continues during 1947-48 its program of extra-curricular activities related to the study and appreciation of modern European languages and the cultures they represent in Europe and in the Americas. The Center is located at 5 Divinity Avenue, in the home of the late Professor Cannon, which has in recent years housed a number of University enterprises of different types. Cannon House was completely renovated during the summer of 1946, in preparation for the establishment of a center which might afford students of Harvard and Radcliffe and their friends an opportunity to continue beyond the limits of the classroom their efforts to understand and appreciate foreign cultures. In an informal and comfortable atmosphere and through a series of individual and group activities, students were to be encouraged to explore the meaning and significance of these cultures on their own initiative and in accordance with their varying interests.

The Center is equipped with facilities for group meetings, illustrated lectures, record recitals, and informal gatherings devoted to public readings of plays and poetry, as well as round-table discussions of problems related to the interpretation of the various cultures represented by the Center's holdings in books, periodicals, records, slides, reproductions, and realia. Books of general interest, and especially works profusely illustrated or fine edi-

tions, are housed in the reading lounge on the first floor—the spacious library of Professor Cannon's home—which likewise serves as a meeting-place for various language clubs and as a lecture room for the presentation of distinguished guests or public readings and discussion of selected works in the various European literatures. During 1946-47 the Center provided facilities for the meetings of the following Harvard-Radcliffe groups: the Club Hispánico, the Circolo Italiano, the French Club, the Luso-Brazilian Club, the Linguistics Club, the German Conference Group, and the Russian Club. Informal parties and receptions, as well as special lectures presented under the auspices of these organizations and open to the public, were held at regular intervals throughout the year; this program was supplemented by periodic art and book exhibits and the presentation of brief plays in various languages. It is anticipated that the Center's program will expand notably during 1947-48, now that the different rooms and the recording-studio have been completely furnished, with a view to conducting periodic workshop programs and conferences in the rooms assigned to the various language-groups, on the second floor of Cannon House. Each of the rooms on the second floor is equipped to house small special libraries containing a cross-section of works in different disciplines and of general interest written in the several languages represented, as well as copies of the most representative texts at dif-

ferent levels for the study of those languages and their respective literatures in schools and colleges. Some idea of the variety represented in these text collections is reflected in the number of different texts already acquired for the study of various languages; French is represented by over 400 different titles, whereas the numbers for both German and Spanish exceed 375.

The number of volumes belonging to the Center or housed there on permanent loan will have reached 3,000 before the beginning of the Fall Term of 1947; the number of pamphlets and periodicals is in excess of 400. These holdings, as well as the 700-odd records housed in the Center's recording-studio, in well over ninety per cent of the cases represent gifts to the Center from friends of its program: professors, student organizations, publishing houses in the United States and abroad, university presses, institutions national and international whose programs emphasize the furtherance of intellectual cooperation, alumni of the

University and other individuals who, having visited the Center, become interested in its work and seek through donations to increase the facilities which it offers to the public and especially to the students and their friends. The Center is open daily except Sunday from 1:00 to 6:00 and frequently during the evenings for regular meetings of the various language clubs and for special lectures or receptions honoring representative intellectuals and leaders from abroad during their sojourn in the Cambridge vicinity. A considerable proportion of these lectures, exhibits, and meetings are open to the public, as announced in advance in the *Crimson* and the *Gazette*, as well as on the bulletin-boards of the Center. It is hoped that during 1947-48 an increasing number of alumni and other friends of the University will avail themselves of the facilities offered by the Modern Language Center to its visitors and that they will consider themselves invited to participate actively in the Center's program.

WILLIAM BERRIEN

A Group of French Portrait Drawings — Addendum

M JEAN ADHEMAR, Conservateur-Adjoint, Cabinet des Estampes, Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris, has in a recent letter to the author of the article on French portrait drawings which appeared in the preceding issue of the *Bulletin* (I, 1947, 155-175) added interesting and pertinent information concerning the transfer of Catherine de' Medici's drawings from France to Florence. In

the inventory, preserved in the Archivio Mediceo, in Florence, of the possessions of Christine of Lorraine there is listed: 'Una cassetta quadra dentro laquale vi sono 551 ritratti di diversi principi, principesse, signori e dame' (Guarda roba 152, p. 40). This information M. Adhémar found among the papers of the French Archivist Lebel.

Christine of Lorraine was the daugh-

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