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 extracurricular 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 roundtable 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 editions, 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-
ficient 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 num-
bers 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 pro-
grams 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 Sun-
day from 1:00 to 6:00 and frequently
during the evenings for regular meet-
ings of the various language clubs and
for special lectures or receptions hon-
oring representative intellectuals and
leaders from abroad during their so-
journ in the Cambridge vicinity. A
considerable proportion of these lec-
tures, 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 of-
tered by the Modern Language Cen-
ter to its visitors and that they will
consider themselves invited to partici-
pate actively in the Center's program.

WILLIAM BERRIEN

A Group of French Portrait Drawings — Addendum

JEAN ADHEMAR, Conser-
vateur-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 Ar-
chivio Mediceo, in Florence, of the
possessions of Christine of Lorraine
there is listed: 'Una cassetta quadra
dentro la quale vi sono 551 ritratti di
diversi principi, principesse, signori e
dame' (Guarda roba 152, p. 40). This
information M. Adhemar found among
the papers of the French Archivist
Lehel.

Christine of Lorraine was the daugh-

List of Contributors

†Maxwell E. Perkins, 1884-1947, late Vice-President and Director of Charles Scribner's Sons

Thomas Little, School of Library Service, Columbia University

Keyes D. Metcalf, Professor of Bibliography, Director of the Harvard University Library, and Librarian of Harvard College

William A. Jackson, Professor of Bibliography and Assistant Librarian of the Harvard College Library in charge of the Houghton Library

C. Leslie Craig, Minister of Cottenham Park Methodist Church, London, England

Arthur H. Cole, Professor of Business Economics and Librarian of the Baker Library, Harvard University

Hamilton Vaughan Bail, Deputy Treasurer of the Franklin Institute, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Francis P. Magoun, Jr, Professor of Comparative Philology, Harvard University

Otto Kinkeldey, Librarian and Professor of Musicology, Emeritus; Cornell University; Horatio Appleton Lamb Visiting Lecturer on Music, Harvard University

William Van Lennep, Curator of the Theatre Collection in the Harvard College Library

William H. Bond, Assistant to the Librarian of the Houghton Library, Harvard University

Natalie N. Nicholson, Librarian of the Graduate School of Engineering, Harvard University

Rupert B. Lillie, Theodore B. Pitman Studio, Cambridge, Massachusetts

Edwin G. Boring, Professor of Psychology, Chairman of the Department of Psychology, and Director of the Psychological Laboratory, Harvard University

William Bernien, Professor of Romance Languages and Literatures, Harvard University

Agnes Mongan, Keeper of Drawings in the William Hayes Fogg Museum of Art, Harvard University