A group of French portrait drawings -- Addendum

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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 percent 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 11:00 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 BERLEEN

A Group of French Portrait Drawings — Addendum

JEAN ADHEMAR, Conser\-vateur-Adjoint, Cabinet des Estampes, Biblio\-thèque 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 la quale vi sono 551 ritratti di diversi principi, principesce, 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-
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ter of Charles II, Duke of Lorraine, and Claude of France, daughter of Henri II and Catherine de' Medici. Within a year from the time he succeeded his brother Francis in 1587, Ferdinand I, de' Medici, Grand Duke of Tuscany, had arranged with Catherine de' Medici to marry Christine of Lorraine, Catherine's favorite granddaughter and one who resembled her more than a little. The troubles in France, the Armada attack, and the illness and death of Catherine delayed Christine's departure for Italy for two years. She left Blois early in 1589. She had remained with her grandmother to the last, and received from her before her death and from Henri III as dowry not only 600,000 crowns, all Catherine's property rights in Florence, and her claims to the Duchi of Urbino, but also several painted portraits of Henri III, François I, and others, in addition to the portrait drawings mentioned above.

Christine survived Ferdinand by twenty-seven years and her son Cosimo II by sixteen years, and was regent during the minority of her grandson, Ferdinand II. As Colonel Young points out (The Medici, London, 1909, II, 344), she was the leading social influence in Florence for about half a century.

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