NEWSLETTER, 1989/3

Jane Rosenthal, Editor

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE ANNUAL MEETING

The 1990 Annual Meeting of the ICMA will be held in New York on Thursday, 15 February, in the Beekman Parlor on the 2nd floor of the New York Hilton Hotel, from 4:45-7:00 P.M. A cash bar and hors d'oeuvres will be provided. The business meeting will begin at 5:30, followed at 6:00 by a panel discussion, The Role of Historic Photography in the Study of Medieval Art, organized by William Clark. Panelists include Clark, "Introduction"; M. Cuthren, "News of Old Pictures from Old Pictures"; M. Dean, "The Goodyear Collection Newly Rediscovered at the Brooklyn Museum"; J. and J. Horsman, "The Mission Héloïsiographique of 1851"; R. Sundt, "The Roofing Systems of Medieval Churches in Toulouse"; K. Horst, "The Getty Collection." Notice of the Meeting and a proxy for those unable to attend are being mailed to all members together with the 1990 renewal notice.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The last ICMA Newsletter printed the text of a letter sent by this organization to the Secretary General of the United Nations and other pertinent parties concerning the plundering of artistic monuments in the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. It was prompted by the attempt of an art dealer in Indianapolis to sell four early Byzantine mosaic panels from the church of the Panagia Kanakaria at Lythrakomi in Northern Cyprus. As I reported in the Newsletter, a Federal judge ordered the dealer to return the panels to the Federal Republic of Cyprus and the Autocephalous Greek Orthodox Church of Cyprus. The dealer appealed the decision. Until the appeal is heard (possibly next spring), the mosaics remain safeguarded in an Indiana bank vault.

The Director General of the European Parliament, who was sent a copy of our letter about the Cypriot situation, wrote me that his organization has been seriously concerned with this problem for some time. It sent a study team (including Professor Robin Cormack of the Courtauld Institute in London—a noted Byzantine art historian) to Northern Cyprus last June.

A full written report of this visit was presented in public to the Assembly Standing Committee of that organization the following month. It stressed the importance of getting the necessary experience and financial help to those responsible for preserving the cultural heritage in both northern and southern Cyprus. And it called for progress to be made in stemming the illegal international trade in works of art.

More recently, President Rauf R. Denktas of Northern Cyprus informed our organization of his personal appeal to the Director General of UNESCO for support and funds for projects involving the preservation of three important historical and cultural monuments in his country: the citadel of Famagusta (the Hethio Tower), the pavement mosaics in the Christian basilica at Soli, and the Gothic chapel of the monastery of Apostolos Andreas at the eastern tip of the Karpaz peninsula. Prepared by the staff of the Department of Antiquities of Northern Cyprus, these three projects, in the words of President Denktas, "illustrate only a small fraction of the nature and magnitude of the technical and financial problems we are facing in our determination to preserve, safeguard and protect the cultural heritage of Northern Cyprus."

The appeal to UNESCO was fully documented and illustrated. For each project President Denktas offered a brief history of the monument, its architecture, present situation, and remedial actions with their estimated costs. Although I have not been able to inspect these sites to verify the details of each project, the previously mentioned report, which includes Professor Cormack's observations, seems to bear out the accuracy of President Denktas' proposal. Thus I have decided to support this proposal by writing to UNESCO, lending the endorsement of the International Center of Medieval Art to it. This has been done with the recommendation that all restoration work should be carried out by competent personnel, including an expert designated by UNESCO. I applaud President Denktas for his genuine concern for the historic preservation of all monuments in his Republic. I have written him, urging that he do everything in his power to "preserve, safeguard and protect the cultural heritage of Northern Cyprus."

The problems of the preservation and restoration of Cypriot monuments are enormous, not only in the north but also in south Cyprus. Guards to protect the historic sites are in short supply, and both countries lack adequate personnel to undertake proper restoration work. Restorers in Northern Cyprus may be highly competent in restoring ancient and especially Islamic monuments, but they are not necessarily familiar enough with Christian monuments to work on their restoration. A massive infusion of assistance from the international community is desperately needed, and now!

Our last Newsletter also reproduced the text of a letter sent to President Ceausescu of Romania about the preservation of monuments in his country. It should come as no surprise that he has not responded to our appeal. Copies of that letter were sent to a number of international organizations and individuals. One positive result of this letter was the invitation the International Center of Medieval Art received from the Council of Europe's Committee on Culture and Education to designate an official representative to attend an information meeting in Paris on 13 November. The aim of the meeting was to inform parliamentary members on conservation policy in Romania in the context of urban and rural planning. Representatives of the Romanian authorities were invited to make preliminary statements, and representatives of organizations such as ours who are interested in the question were also invited to attend and participate. I asked one of our Advisors who is living in Paris this year to officially represent us, and I am awaiting her report.

Finally, we congratulate Professor Meredith Lillich of Syracuse University on her successful grant application to the Samuel H. Kress Foundation for funds to bring eight scholars (including one from the People's Republic of China) to Kalamazoo next May for the ICMA-sponsored sessions on Cistercian art which she has been organizing together with Professor Terry Kinde. This $7000 grant will count as part of the $1.5 million goal of our current Capital Fund Campaign. Steven Scher, our Finance Chairman, is reporting below on our important campaign.

W. Eugene Kleinbauer, President

EDITOR'S NOTE

The deadlines for the submission of materials to the Newsletter are 1 April for the Spring issue, 1 September for the Fall issue and 1 December for the Winter issue. Please send materials to the editor, Jane Rosenthal, Department of Art History and Archaeology, Schermerhorn Hall, Columbia University, New York NY 10027.


The foreign speakers have asked that their presence in the United States be announced so that they may have maximum communication with colleagues here. They may be reached at the following addresses: (1) Dr. Glen Coppack; Properties in Care, English Heritage, Historic Buildings & Monuments Commission for England, Fortress House, 23 Savile Row, London W1X 2HE, England; (2) Prof. Raff Hatfield, Syracuse University, Syracuse-in-Italy Program, Piazza Savonarola 15, 50132 Firenze, Italy; (3) Dr. Sun Jin, Lu Xun Literature College, Shilupu, Chaoyang District, 100025, Beijing, People’s Republic of China; (4) Dr. Terry Kinder, 17, rue Rabé, Pontigny (Yonne), France; (5) Michel Miguet, 24, rue Nationale, 75013 Paris, France; (6) Jean-Michel Musso, Architect-en-Chef des Monuments Historiques, Direction du Patrimoine, 9, rue Joseph Bara, 75006 Paris, France; (7) Dr. Walter Simons, Rijksarchief, Bampsalaan 4, B-3500 Hasselt, Belgium.

VOILET-LEDUC AND SAINT-SEGRIN THREATENED BY IMPENDING DE-RESTORATION

Report from Thomas Lyman

The controversy over the recent version of the plan approved by the Monuments historiques in 1979— and challenged by art historians— to restore the Romanesque basilica of Saint-Sevin in Toulouse recently reached a critical phase. Following the recent reworking of the chevet, a crane has been set up to proceed with the far more radical removal of the entire upper parts of the transept and nave walls restored by Viollet-le-Duc between 1860 and 1874. In their place, the Architect-en-Chef des Monuments historiques, Yves Boiret, would build a sheet brick wall with round-headed arches opening into a chemin-de-ronde somewhat as it appeared in pre-restoration photos. Because of changes in grade of the height and slope of the roof, the new upper wall would be several meters taller than before and the upper apse, which formerly exceeded the height of the roof, would be tailored to harmonize with the revised elevation.

The deterioration of the 19th-century stonework and estimates that its replacement would far exceed the cost of the proposed brick wall prompted the original decision. These estimates have recently been challenged as has the contention that Viollet-le-Duc did not have the information he claimed to have in his Dictionnaire raisonné for the reestablishment of the Romanesque roof lines.

Despite a unanimous vote by the Conseil Municipal de Toulouse, the Conseil General de la Haute Garonne, and the Académie de Sciences, Inscriptions et Belles Lettres de Toulouse against the action, the French Government has announced its intentions to use the current exhibition, Saint-Sevin: Trésors et Métamorphoses at the Musée Saint-Raymond, as the occasion to proceed with the decision. The President of the ICMA, Eugene Kleinbauer, has formally urged M. Jack Lang, Ministre de la Culture, to heed official requests to suspend action until recent discoveries can be investigated. Recommendations may be addressed to M. Lang c/o M. Jacques Renard, Secrétaire du Cabinet du Ministre de la Culture, 7 rue du Valois, 75001 Paris.

CONFERENCES AND SYMPOSIA

17-21 September 1990. CLAUS SLUTER ET SON EPOQUE. 600EME ANNIVERSAIRE 1389-1899, a symposium to commemorate Sluter’s succession to Jean de Marvyle as imagier to Philippe le Hardi in 1389, to be held in Dijon, France. Visits and lectures on the history, architecture, sculpture, painting and "minor arts" of the period 1369-1467 in the Netherlands and Burgundy. A session will be devoted to the Chartreuse de Champmol and the restoration of the Puits de Moise. Speakers include: Bichler, Blockmans, van Buren, Caron, Cockshaw, Heinrichs, Joubert, Lapaire, de Merindol, Morand, A. Morganstern, Scher, Schmidt, Schwarz, Sosson, J. Stratford, Tummers, de Vaivre, Vanderjagt, de Winter, Zaluska. For details, write to M. Maurice, Prie, Association Claus Sluter, Consultat des Pays-bas, 6 rue du Docteur Maret, 21000 Dijon, France.

CALL FOR PAPERS
A research conference under the working title THE INSULAR TRADITION: 400-1200 is being planned for the International Conference on Medieval Studies at Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, Michigan, 10-12 May 1991. Those interested in obtaining further information should contact Robert Farrell, Department of English, Rockefeller Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853.

By 10 January 1990 for WORDS AND MUSIC, Acta Conference 17, sponsored by the Center for Medieval and Early Renaissance Studies at SUNY-Binghamton, to be held 30-31 March 1990. Papers on any aspect of the relationship between text and music, and studies that involve this relationship, cultural connections and aspects of other arts are welcome. The conference is open to all medievalists from the state of New York and the surrounding region. Complete papers or abstracts should be sent to Paul R. Laird, Center for Medieval and Early Renaissance Studies, SUNY-Binghamton, Binghamton, NY 13901. Tel: (607) 777-2730.

By 2 March 1990 from abroad and 16 March within the USA for THE 16TH ANNUAL BYZANTINE STUDIES CONFERENCE, to be hosted by the Walter’s Art Gallery, Baltimore, MD, from 25-28 October 1990. The Conference is an annual forum for the presentation and discussion of papers on every aspect of Byzantine history and culture. Abstracts must be postmarked by the dates given above and sent to the Program Committee Chair, Nancy Patterson Sevenceko, 6 Follen Street, Cambridge, MA 02138. Tel: (617) 492-0643.

15 September 1990 for NUMBERS, PROPORTIONS, WEIGHTS AND MEASURES, Avista Sessions at Kalamazoo, May 1991. Papers, limited to 20 minutes, are invited on the designated topics in the fields of architecture, technology, numerology and mathematics, among others. Graduate students are encouraged to participate. Send one-page abstracts, indicating your audio-visual needs, to Dr. Ronald E. Zupko, Department of History, Charles L. Coughlin Hall, Marquette University, Milwaukee, WI 53213. Tel: (414) 288-7217.

SAUERLANDER LECTURE SERIES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
Professor Willibald Sauerlander of the Zentral-Institut für Kunstgeschichte in Munich, will hold the Visiting Lectureship for Distinguished Scholars in the field of Medieval Art at the University of Michigan for January 1990. His lecture and seminar topics will include "Santiago, Rome and Jerusalem: A new look at the Pilgrimage Churches" (22 January), "From Saint-Denis and Aachen to Westminster and Reims: Royal Iconography in the Twelfth and Thirteenth Centuries" (24 January), "Memoria at Naumburg" (26 January), and "A Neglected Field: English Sculpture in the Thirteenth Century—Example Westminster Abbey" (29 January).

NEH SUMMER SEMINAR FOR COLLEGE TEACHERS AT CORNELL UNIVERSITY
A seminar on NARRATIVE AND SYNTHESIS IN MEDIEVAL BOOK ILLUMINATION, scheduled for 18 June - 10 August 1990, will investigate various modes of medieval illumination and their relationship to the text and to the aesthetic and programmatic presentation of the manuscript as a whole. Emphasis will be primarily on the nature of narrative cycles in miniatures, borders and historiated initials, but some attention will be given to the function of non-pictorial decorations, such as carpet pages, ornamental lettering, framing devices and borders and their cumulative effect in the book. Some reading knowledge of Latin, French or German would be helpful, but is not required. Applications are welcome from college teachers interested in medieval studies, medieval art or literature, or the history of the book. The deadline for applications is 1 March 1990. For additional information, contact Professor Robert C. Calkins, Director, Department of History of Art, 35 Goldwin Smith, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853.

EXHIBITIONS
THE CROWN OF ALL WISDOM: HEBREW PRINTING IN ITALY FROM THE FIFTEENTH TO THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURIES, 11 December 1989 - 30 April 1990, The Library of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, New York City. An exhibition of books including many incunabula, the earliest examples of illustrated Hebrew codices and many luxury editions issued on vellum and colored paper. The various types of books produced, the printing houses that issued them, and the historical milieu in which they were published are explored.

THE GOLDEN AGE OF DUTCH MANUSCRIPT PAINTING, 1 March - 6 May 1990, The Pierpont Morgan Library, New York City. This landmark exhibition, co-organized by
Morgan Library and the Rijksmuseum Het Catharijneconvent in Utrecht, brings together some of the most important and lavishly illustrated Dutch manuscripts from over 50 collections worldwide. In all, approximately 100 manuscripts will chart the history of Dutch book illumination from the 15th through the early 16th centuries. The exhibition will be accompanied by a fully illustrated catalogue, which incorporates over ten years of new scholarship on the individual works and the historical and artistic context in which they were produced.

THE RAVENNA WOODCUTS, 22 May - 5 August 1990, The Pierpont Morgan Library, New York City. A group of nearly 50 handcolored woodcuts collected by a minor notary and lawyer, Jacopo Rubieri (ca. 1430-after 1500), who pasted them into his manuscript copies of law reports. His law books ended up in the Biblioteca Classense, Ravenna, thus preserving what is almost the sole record of the countless thousands of woodcut images of saints printed in Italy in the 15th century and widely distributed as aids to devotion, as talismans against plague and other misfortunes and as souvenirs of pilgrimage sites. This is the first time the woodcuts have been exhibited outside Italy.

CALENDAR MINIATURES: THE GENTLE SEASON, 22 May - 5 August 1990, The Pierpont Morgan Library, New York City. A small exhibition devoted to a display of Calendar miniatures for the spring and summer months found in Morgan manuscripts including the famed Da Costa Hours (about 1515) with illustrations by Simon Bening.

PUBLICATIONS INFORMATION
MIT Press and the Architectural History Foundation announce the first English language publication of Robert Bramer’s THE CATHEDRAL OF BOURGES, edited and annotated by Shirley Prager Bramer, $15.00 paperback, $30.00 hardcover. To order write or call Debora Hoard or Alix Cooper, MIT Press, 55 Hayward Street, Cambridge MA 02142 tel. (617) 253-5643.

The proceedings of the conference on the Issenheim altar held at the Musée d’Unterlinden in Colmar in November 1987 have been published. Le retable d’Issenheim et la sculpture au nord des Alpes à la fin du Moyen Age, edited by Christian Heck, contains 184 pages, 220 black and white and color illustrations, and costs 150FF. To order write the Musée d’Unterlinden, 68000 Colmar, France.

The English language version of Pamela Berger’s film Sorceress is now available in video at $29.95 for individuals and $49.95 for institutions, plus $2.45 postage and 5% Mass. sales tax where applicable. Checks should be made out to Lara Classics Inc. and sent to 9 Merrill Street, Cambridge MA 02139.

The catalogue of the recent exhibition Les bâtisseurs des cathédrales gothiques at the Musée de la Ville de Strasbourg, with more than 500 pages and many essays, is available but in short supply for 540 FF hardbound. There is also a paperback edition. Send orders to the Musée de la Ville, 5 Place du Château, 67000 Strasbourg, France.

SECRETARY’S NOTE
Notices of the Annual Meeting and renewal of dues for 1990 will be mailed shortly. Due for the coming year will be Students $15.00; Active (US) $30.00; Active (foreign) $35.00; Institutions $50.00; Contrib $100.00; Sustaining $500.00; Benefactor $1000.00; Members may send payment to the ICMA office. Please make foreign checks in US dollars, payable at a bank with an American branch.