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THE BRITISH SCHOOL AT ROME

FACULTY OF ARCHAEOLOGY, HISTORY AND LETTERS

Appeal for Wider Support

THE Faculty of Archaeology, History and Letters of the British School at Rome ventures to call attention in the following Appeal to the need for wider support for the School. Like the sister institution in Athens, the School at Rome forms an essential element in the scheme of higher education, and its purpose is to continue the work of the Universities whose students it receives.

The Faculty has thought it desirable, before setting out its needs in detail, to give some description of its work for the information of those to whom it is not already familiar.

Organization

The British School at Rome was established in the year 1901, on the initiative of Professor Henry Pelham, Camden Professor of Ancient History in the University of Oxford, for the pursuit of those archaeological, historical, and literary studies which can only be conducted in Rome. In 1912, when the School was reorganized with a view to introducing the study and practice of the Fine Arts, the original foundation was reconstructed as the Faculty of Archaeology, History and Letters in the new chartered institute, and subsequently moved its quarters from the Odescalchi Palace to the new School building in the Valle Giulia, where working and residential accommodation was also provided for students of the Faculties of Art. Funds

for the erection of this building, as well as for the establishment of the Rome Scholarships in the Fine Arts, were provided mainly by the Royal Commission for the Exhibition of 1851, which also makes a substantial annual grant in aid of the general expenses of administration and maintenance.

The Work of the Faculty of Archaeology, History and Letters

The present work of the Faculty is based on the firm foundations laid by the School's early Directors, Mr. McNeil Rushforth, Sir Henry Stuart Jones, and Dr. Thomas Ashby, who was so ably seconded for many years by Mrs. Arthur Strong. The School is able to offer facilities for residence in Rome and for research in a wide field of studies, including the pre-historic, classical, and medieval archaeology of Italy, and the history and literature of Italy in classical, medieval, and Renaissance times.

For many years the School was reluctantly compelled to provide only for those students who could find their way to Rome at their own expense, with or without help from endowments derived from their Universities, but more recently the Faculty has been able to establish two scholarships, the Rome Scholarship in Archaeology (including all classical studies) and the Rome Scholarship in Medieval Studies, which are awarded in alternate years. These are open scholarships and are tenable for two years, but it is hoped as a result of the Faculty's appeal both to raise their value from £150 p.a. to £200 p.a. and to make them annual awards. A further scholarship of £132 for one year has lately been founded under the will of Mrs. E. E. Rivoira for the study of medieval archaeology. This award is, under the terms of the bequest, offered every second year to a distinguished male graduate of Oxford or Cambridge.

The *Papers of the British School at Rome*, which are published by the Faculty, provide a medium through which the more important archaeological and historical researches of the School and its members are made known to the public. But lack of funds has caused their appearance to become rare and irregular, and it is one of the most urgent needs that the *Papers* should be issued annually and so take the place among learned periodicals to which the organ of the British School is entitled. The *Papers* are exchanged with many of the leading British and foreign journals, and their regular issue would enable this system to be extended, providing a valuable source of accessions to the library.

Library

The School possesses an important library of some 25,000 books, containing Greek and Latin Classics, with works on Epigraphy and Palaeography, Ancient History and Archaeology; Roman and Italian Topography; Hagiography, Church History, and Medieval and Modern History; Architecture and Art of all periods; books of general reference, valuable sets of periodical publications, and a large collection of lantern slides. It has owed much to generous friends: among its more important acquisitions are the library of Medieval and Renaissance History of the late Dr. Thomas Hodgkin, the late Mr. H. C. Churchill's collection of works on the medieval goldsmiths of Italy, housed at the expense of the Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths, and the valuable Ashby Library of Italian Topography, acquired in 1931 through the generosity of the late Mr. William Russell, who had earlier given £3,000 for the endowment of the School library.

The library is open for the use of all persons who offer suitable credentials.

The Hostel

In addition to providing residential accommodation for the holders of its own or attached scholarships in Archaeology, History and Art, the School is ready to place any vacant rooms at the disposal of senior members of the British Universities and recommended students who are visiting Rome for shorter periods of study. Additional accommodation is now being provided by the Executive Committee, principally for the convenience of university teachers and students whose researches take them to Rome.

The Directorate

The immediate charge of the School is vested in the Director (Mr. C. A. Ralegh Radford, M.A., F.S.A.), who, together with the Librarian (Mr. A. D. Trendall, M.A., D.Litt.) is always glad to give advice and assistance to all *bona fide* students and to admit them to the Sessional lectures given in the School.

Finance

The finances of the School are administered under the general supervision of the Council by two bodies: (a) the Executive Committee, which is

responsible for the maintenance of the fabric and services of the School in Rome and for the Faculties of Art; and (b) the Faculty of Archaeology, History and Letters, which collects and administers its own special funds.

The income of the Faculty in the year 1936/7, which included a non-recurring grant of £100 for a special publication, amounted to £1,121 and was derived as follows:

(a) From interest on endowments for the Library and for the Medieval Scholarship	£ 287
(b) From the sale of publications	71
(c) From subscriptions and donations	663
(d) Grant for special publication	100
	<hr style="width: 100%; border: 0.5px solid black;"/> <u>£1,121</u> <hr style="width: 100%; border: 0.5px solid black;"/>

Of the subscriptions and donations, the Universities and Colleges contributed £337, Societies and Libraries £99, and individuals £227.

Since the entire cost of the upkeep and administration of the School in Rome is borne by the Executive Committee, practically the whole of this income has been devoted to productive purposes, as will be seen from the following statement of the Faculty's expenditure for the same year:

(a) On Rome Scholarships	£ 350
(b) On the purchase and binding of Library Books and on Lantern Slides	449
(c) Transferred to reserve for publications (actual expenditure from reserve £431)	200
(d) On the Faculty's administrative expenses in London	113
	<hr style="width: 100%; border: 0.5px solid black;"/> <u>£1,112</u> <hr style="width: 100%; border: 0.5px solid black;"/>

Objects of the Appeal

The object of the appeal is to raise the income of the Faculty by £950 p.a. with a view to:

- (1) Increasing the value of the Rome Scholarships in Classical and

Medieval Studies from £150 to £200 p.a. and making them annual awards (cost £500 p.a.).

At present students still benefit by the alinement of the lira, and the consequent fall of prices in relation to sterling, and by the special tourist rate of exchange. Even so, the value of the Scholarships is insufficient to cover the whole cost of residence in Rome during the entire session. For the majority of students, whose work entails much travelling, the difficulties are enhanced. An annual award of £200 p.a. would place the Faculty's Scholars on the same financial basis as the Rome Scholars in the Fine Arts, when account is taken of the different needs of the two groups of students. It is also most desirable to offer both awards annually, in order not only to increase the number of those who may benefit by the opportunities which the School affords and to avoid the present isolation of each Scholar from his contemporaries, but also to secure that Scholarships may be available every year for the competition of those whose University courses are about to end. The biennial system of award, besides limiting the field from which the Faculty's Scholars can be selected, bears hardly on those who graduate in the year when no award is made. In putting this object in the forefront of its programme the Faculty is encouraged by the indisputable proof, furnished by the distinction of former holders, that its scholarships have in the past served learning well.

(2) Increasing the annual expenditure on the Library to £450 (cost £120 p.a.).

Although expenditure in 1936/7 amounted to £449, the average annual sum which it has been possible to make available for the library is £330 p.a. The library covers an unusually wide field, in many branches of which publications are tending to become more numerous and increasingly richly produced. Apart, therefore, from arrears still to be made up in respect of binding, &c., the Faculty has to contemplate a rising average of expenditure if the library is to meet its existing obligations in adequate measure and to keep pace with the growth of knowledge and research in the various branches of the humanities and the Fine Arts. In addition there are certain directions, especially in the sphere of archaeology, in which the present scope of the library should be extended.

In particular it is desirable that the library should possess a comprehensive collection of works dealing with British Art and Archaeology, in order that the School may make its proper contribution to the arrangement by which all students are able to use the libraries of the various Italian and foreign institutes, each of which should contain a specialist collection dealing with its own country.

(3) Increasing the present yearly allocation for publication expenses to £325 p.a. (cost £100 p.a.)

The present average expenditure of some £225 p.a. is sufficient only for an irregular and inadequate publication. The Faculty has determined that in future, if funds permit, the *Papers* of the School shall be published annually. It will thereby be able not only to ensure the publication, without undue delay, of researches carried out by its own students, but also to find room, as do the *Mélanges* of the French School, for articles by senior scholars in its special fields of ancient and medieval history, archaeology and letters. It is hoped that the *Papers* will thus have a wider appeal than hitherto, and that more librarians will regard them as essential acquisitions. The first volume under the new scheme will be issued to subscribers in 1938.

(4) Making an annual contribution towards the overhead expenses of the Faculty's students at the School (cost £200 p.a.).

The Faculty cannot but be conscious that, alone of all the five Faculties of the School, it makes no contribution towards these expenses. These have hitherto been borne entirely by the Executive Committee out of funds contributed for general purposes and for the Faculties of Art. It should also be noted that included in the administration expenses which the Executive Committee has to meet are the salaries of the Archaeological Director and the Librarian, and it is believed that, should the Faculty be able to make its contribution towards general maintenance, these salaries may be raised to a figure more in keeping with the status and responsibilities of the posts to which they are attached.

(5) A further item of expenditure will arise as soon as the Faculty can implement its scheme for making the School more useful as an element in the nation's system of education. A principal feature of this scheme would be to offer the services of the School and its staff to organized parties

of teachers and students to whom a first-hand knowledge of the central setting of Roman History would provide a stimulus of incomparable value. Such a project has already been put into successful operation by the Swedish Government for teachers of the Classics, and also by the Faculty of Architecture of the School for groups of students selected by the Royal Institute of British Architects.

The cost to the Faculty of Archaeology of a scheme on these lines, involving the provision of lectures and brochures and special travelling on the part of the staff, should not exceed £30 to £50 p.a., since the travelling and maintenance expenses of the students would be met by the educational authority responsible for the organization of the visits.

Conclusion

The appeal is endorsed by the Council and Executive Committee of the School, who have asked the Faculty to say that H. M. Treasury, in granting earlier in the year the application for an increase in the Parliamentary Grant towards the general expenses of the School, emphasized the importance of widening the basis of its support especially among the Universities and Colleges which derive such important benefits from its activities.

Even without this encouragement from the State the Faculty would have been moved by its achievement in the past and the plain opportunities for still greater usefulness in the future to make an appeal for increased support. And that appeal it would address both to individuals who care for Roman and Italian Studies and to the Universities of this country and the Dominions to whose teachers and students the School is open impartially.

The Faculty, therefore, hopes that this brief record of its work and needs will be read with sympathy, and will result in a considerable widening of the circle of its subscribers and in increased support from such of its present benefactors as are able to afford it.

BERNARD ASHMOLE

Chairman

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1938

THE FACULTY OF ARCHAEOLOGY HISTORY AND LETTERS

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