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COMMENT

THIS number of the *Journal of the Faculty of Arts* is the first to appear in an Independent Malta. The advent of independence brings with it not only a new and well-earned freedom, it brings new responsibilities and the need for a concerted effort to guarantee that Malta shall have as prosperous and distinctive a future as it has had a glorious and distinctive past. In this future the paramount importance of education should be obvious to everyone. Malta's natural resources are slender and to survive not merely as an independent nation but as a distinctive representative of Western European civilisation, Malta will have to live by the intelligence, industry and skill of its people. The most urgent need is therefore to create a dynamic and progressive educational policy which will develop to the full the native capacity of her people, and in this the University must play a central role. Scientists, technologists, and skilled workers Malta will need to produce in abundance and every effort should be made to make sure that the appropriate skills are made available to whoever has the ability to use them. But to develop an efficient economy is only half the problem, though an essential half. Just as important is to make sure that this economic progress is the basis of the civilized way of life that has been built up over the centuries in Malta. For this we must be aware of our past (which means understanding what is bad in it as well as what is good), we must be able to resist the encroachments of some of the more facile aspects of Western Civilization by fostering respect for, and participation in, the Arts, by an awareness both of the literature in our own language and the potentiality of our own language, and the literatures of the other European languages which are also part of our heritage.

In this determination to remain civilized as well as prosperous the study of the Arts is a central concern, and in this the *Journal of the Faculty of Arts* of the Royal University of Malta will strive to be a forum where our best endeavours in the artistic field can be recorded and discussed. Already our University is encouraging the development of a re-

'San Thommaso d'Aquino e Sant'Alberto Magno', in: *Angelicum*, xxxvii (1960), pp. 133-161.

'The Function of the Philosopher in Thirteenth-Century Oxford', Paper read at the XI *Mediavistentagung*, Thomas Institut, University of Cologne, 7-10 September 1960. Abstract in: *Rdvue Philosophique de Louvain*, lviii (1960), pp. 604-607.

'The Origins of the Problem of the Unity of Form', in: *The Dignity of Science*. The Thomist, U.S.A., 1961, pp. 121-149.

'The Biblical and Patristic Background of the *Summa Theologiae* of St. Thomas Aquinas', abstract in: *Proceedings of the Oxford Society of Historical Theology for the academic year 1960-1961*. Oxford, pp. 23-25.

Albert the Great, St. in: *A Catholic Dictionary of Theology*. London, 1962, vol. i, pp. 52-54.

Nicolaus Trivet, in: *Lexikon für Theologie und Kirche*. Freiburg i. Br., 1962, vol. vii, 999-1000.

Oxford, The University of, in: *Lexikon... 1320-1323* (in collaboration with F. Pelster).

Robert de Colletorto, *ibid.*, vol. viii.

Robert Grosseteste, *ibid.*

Robert Kilwardby, *ibid.*

Robert Cricklade, *ibid.*

Roger Compotista, *ibid.*

The Subject of Metaphysics according to some Oxford Masters. Paper read at II *International Congress of Medieval Philosophy*, Cologne, 31 August - 6 September 1961, in: *Miscellanea Mediaevalia*, Berlin, 1963, vol. ii.

'The Function of the Philosopher in Thirteenth-Century Oxford', in: *Miscellanea Mediaevalia*, vol. iii.

1. 'Le Père Sertillanges', in: *The Tablet* (London), vol. 192 (1948), (No. 5646, August 7th) p. 92.

Lexikon für Theologie und Kirche, (Verlag Huder Freiburg), Vol. 8, 1963.

2. Robert v. Colletorto, 1337.

3. Robert v. Cricklade, 1338.

4. Robert Grosseteste, 1339.

5. Robert Kilwardby, 1340.

6. Roger Compotista, 1357.

7. 'The Subject-Matter of Metaphysics according to some Thirteenth Century Oxford Masters', in: *Miscellanea Mediaevalia*, vol. 2: *Die Metaphysik im Mittelalter. Ihr Ursprung und ihre Bedeutung*. Berlin, 1963, pp. 393-399.

search degree in the Faculty of Arts and this, it will be hoped, will provide an increasing number of people who will be able to contribute to the *Journal* at a level of scholarships that will bear comparison with any institution of higher learning elsewhere. At the same time it is hoped to continue to encourage foreign scholars to contribute articles especially in those fields of interest to Malta. Where possible in the future the editors will endeavour to devote each number of the *Journal* to one particular aspect of artistic studies. Our job, as we see it, is to reflect all aspects of interest in artistic subjects in our island, but at the same time we will try to give homogeneity to each particular number by focussing our attention on a particular discipline each time. It is hoped to apply this policy to the next issue where we hope that a number of papers of a historical nature will be published on matters affecting the history of the Maltese islands.

The advent of Independence also coincides with a change at the head of our University. This October saw the inauguration of Professor Borg Costanzi as our new Vice-Chancellor. In wishing him a long and successful tenure of his high and responsible office we would also like to express our thanks and appreciation for the work of his predecessor, Professor Manché, who has just retired. Under Professor Manché the University continued that expansion and modernization which began under his predecessor and without which it cannot hope to fulfil its proper function as the hub of Malta's prosperity in the future. We are convinced that under our new Vice-Chancellor this policy will be continued and accelerated.

The new Vice-Chancellor, in his public address, which he gave after he was installed Vice-Chancellor of the University on October 5th, said that "we must give our Staff sufficient time to carry out essential research". That is an important statement of policy because, as pointed out by Herbert Butterfield, ex-Vice-Chancellor of the University College on page 19 of his book *The Universities and Education Today* "It is best of all if teaching is combined with live research, with original work that is still in progress. Only those who are continually probing into the body of their knowledge, and trying to unthink last year's thoughts, can convey, along with the information, the thrill of the real quest for the truth".

We pledge our full energies in supporting him and pray that those whom high office gives them the right and duty to aid him in this work will view the question with the same determination and sense of urgency that he has already evinced.

THE TWO VOICES OF HISTORY

By P. SERRACINO INGLOTT

THE past is dead; by definition it no longer exists, yet sometimes it comes back to us so vividly that we feel we are its prisoners. But if the past strikes us at times by its elusiveness and at others by its ineluctability, the paradox does not lie perhaps in the past itself, but rather in men's own attitudes towards it. Sometimes they wish to preserve it, to keep it intact forever: their closets are filled with bottles, old clothes, concealed mementoes; their houses with old clocks, medallions, portraits, shells; their churches with tombs, tablets, brasses, regimental flags; their cities with monuments, museums, and arches. Then other times come when they wish to destroy these remembrances, to forget the past and wash the slate of memory clean. They tear up their old letters and burn the faded photographs; the statues of the Stalins, till lately the objects of near idolatrous cults, topple down. But both attempts, to capture the past as if with a butterfly net or to slip out of its grasp, are obviously doomed to failure; however hard one tries to shut out the noise from one's ears, at one's back one will 'always hear Time's winged chariot hurrying near', and however hard one tries to recover the past, one will always find, as Professor Ryle has said in a different context, that one fails to catch more than the flying coat-tails of that which one is pursuing, for the quarry is itself the hunter.

Still more strikingly, this dual attitude to the past betrays itself at the level of political history, in the sempiternal clashes between the radical and the conservative tempers. The former, from Mirabeau to Bevan, urge us to look at reality with the naked eye instead of through the smoked glasses inherited from our grandparents, the latter from Burke to Lord Hailsham warn us perennially that what saves us from chaos is habit, what creates order amid the flux of facts is tradition. However, there is only a seeming paradox if one says that those ages when the conservative and stabilizing spirit predominates have a less intense historical consciousness than the radical and revolutionizing ones. The conservative is anxious to discount the importance of historical changes. 'Burke', Professor Butterfield himself tells us, 'tended to confirm the nation in its belief that the liberties of this country went back to times immemorial'. While for conservatives, the past has this flavour of indefiniteness, radicals feel enclosed within a vast but essentially limited historical horizon. Staunch