

A memorial service

for

PROFESSOR MILLARD MEISS

will be held on

Saturday, November 8

at 11:30 a.m.

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY CHAPEL

UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI FIRENZE

Facoltà di Lettere e Filosofia

Giovedì 16 Maggio 1968, alle ore 17, presso la Facoltà di Lettere e Filosofia - piazza Brunelleschi, 3 - sarà conferita la laurea honoris causa in Lettere al professor

MILLARD MEISS

Direttore del Dipartimento di Storia dell'Arte presso lo
Institute for Advanced Studies a Princeton (U.S.A.)

La S. V. è invitata a intervenire alla cerimonia.

Firenze, 9 maggio 1968

IL PRESIDE
Ernesto Sestan

IL RETTORE
Giacomo Devoto

July 25, 1968

Dear Millard:

Thanks very much for Blunt
returned herewith, and the letter to
Monsieur DuPont. I am sure we will
profit from our improved education.

Cordially,

Carl Kaysen

Professor Millard Meiss
School of Historical Studies
Institute for Advanced Study

July 10, 1968

Memorandum to Mr. Morgan:

This will authorize the payment of \$132.50, charged to the Publications Fund, to Marion Anderson, 721 Brunswick Pike, Princeton, New Jersey, for 26-1/2 hours of proof reading for Professor Meiss at \$5.00 per hour.

Ruth E. Bortell

Bill attached

BRUSSELS
HILTON

June 2 '68

Dear Carl -

Thank you for the sheaf
on the problem of the letters. So far
so good.

We still plan to return around
July 7. My Italian festa, which lasted
for days, was delightful, and now
we are hovering around Paris.

all wishes

Millard

Account of the Scholarly Record of

Millard Meiss

delivered by Professor Roberto Salvini of
the University of Florence at the convoca-
tion held for the award of Honorary Litt. D.

May 16, 1968

Nato a Cincinnati (Ohio) nel 1904, Millard Meiss, dopo avere studiato fino al conseguimento del B.A. all'Università di Princeton, ottenne nel 1933 il titolo di Ph.D. dall'Università di New York. Già nel 1935 fu assunto come Assistant Professor alla Columbia University, dove successivamente tenne per molti anni la cattedra di Professore Ordinario di Belle Arti e Archeologia. Dal 1954 al 1958 fu Professore di Belle Arti e nel contempo Conservatore del Fogg Art Museum presso la Harvard University. Dal 1958 è Professore Ordinario e Capo del Dipartimento di Belle Arti nello Institute for Advanced Study a Princeton. La sua assunzione a capo della sezione di storia dell'arte di questo Istituto - destinato, com'è noto, alla specializzazione e al perfezionamento di studiosi provetti ed anziani - equivale al più alto riconoscimento possibile da parte del mondo accademico degli Stati Uniti del valore scientifico della sua opera..

La sua attività di studioso ebbe inizio intorno al 1930 con una serie di importanti saggi su problemi di filologia figurativa e di attribuzione nell'ambito della pittura toscana del Duecento e del Trecento. Tali studi culminarono in un fondamentale saggio su Francesco Traini e sul famoso affresco del Trionfo della Morte nel Camposanto di Pisa, che pose su nuove basi quell'intricato problema: l'autore perveniva infatti a distinguere con molto acume e con persuasive argomentazioni fra le due opere attribuite al Traini dal Vasari e dietro di lui da tutta la critica antica e moderna - il trittico di S. Domenico e la Gloria di Tommaso d'Aquino - , accogliendo come autografa solo la prima, firmata. Da questa importante precisazione discendevano notevoli approfondimenti sulla pittura pisana e sulla miniatura, fondamento a successive ricognizioni sulla pittura libraria pisana (ad opera anche di altri studiosi come Mario Salmi e Gigetta Dalli Regoli) e sui suoi aspetti più originali. Piace ricordare fin da ora che un altro interessante contributo al medesimo tema è stato di recente recato dal Meiss - nel 1965 - attraverso l'esame delle miniature di carattere trainesco ^(di un ms.) e pisano dell'Inferno di Dante col commento di frate Guido da Pisa, l'unico commento trecentesco tuttora inedito, che il nostro Mazzone si accinge a pubblicare.

Si tratta, per quanto riguarda gli studi del primo periodo, di lavori basati su di un rigoroso metodo formalistico sulla scia degli orientamenti sottilmente filologici di Richard Offner. Ma al di là di tale impostazione, nel Meiss tali ricerche si animano di una viva sensibilità per la qualità artistica e per il significato estetico delle forme, e già si inquadrano in una visione storica di grande ampiezza e di raggio europeo: tanto che questi studi trovano subito complemento in una serie di ricerche sulla diffusione e sull'influenza dell'arte italiana, e segnatamente toscana, del Trecento in Austria e in Spagna. Inoltre proprio da queste ricerche volte in gran parte a precisazioni attributive nascono quei vivi interessi iconografici e iconologici che rappresenteranno di qui innanzi uno dei filoni più marcati e più continuativi dell'opera critica del Meiss. Così in un saggio del 1946 sui Primitivi italiani nella collezione di Konopište, lo studio del maestro senese della Pietà si allarga ad un riesame, ricco di nuovi chiarimenti, del problema della genesi della Pietà isolata, in quadri e quadretti di pittura devozionale, tema che avrà larga diffusione nella pittura e nella miniatura del tardo Gotico europeo: nasce tale soggetto, secondo i ritrovamenti dell'autore, dall'isolarsi a scopo devozionale delle figure principali dalle scene di carattere storico della Deposizione e del Lamento sul Gesù morto, in un significativo parallelismo con le origini del tema della Madonna col Bambino. Ma ben presto - certo sotto la spinta delle implicazioni culturali, filosofiche e sociologiche inerenti al suo primo importante tema di lavoro, il Trionfo della Morte di Pisa - si va facendo viva nel nostro studioso l'esigenza di approfondire le origini e le irradiazioni dell'opera d'arte figurativa oltre che nel campo delle forme in quello delle premesse e delle conseguenze culturali nel senso più lato. Nasce di qui, o meglio si rafforza, il già apparso impegno nelle ricerche di iconografia e di iconologia, e va soprattutto maturando una concezione della storia dell'arte come disciplina strettamente legata alla storia del pensiero, alla storia della cultura e della civiltà, alla storia della società e ove occorra degli eventi politici: con una misura tuttavia, e con una complessità di articolazioni e finezza di sfumature, che portano ad evitare quegli schematismi nei quali erano talvolta incorsi

studiosi, anche grandi come, poniamo,, un Jakob Burckhardt e un Max Dvořák, e più ancora studiosi, pure assai seri e rispettabili, ~~come~~ di orientamento sociologico come Frederick Antal. Rappresentano la maturazione di queste esigenze metodologiche specialmente il saggio del 1945 sulla "Storia dell' arte come disciplina umanistica" e il volume del 1951, anche di recente ristampato, su "La Pittura a Firenze e a Siena dopo la grande peste", il quale reca come sottotitolo "Le arti, la religione e la società sulla metà del ~~Se~~ Trecento". In questa opera di vasto respiro, che forse più di ogni altra ha consacrato la fama internazionale del suo autore, è una attenta e sensibile descrizione del passaggio della pittura fiorentina e senese, nell' iconografia e nello stile, da un atteggiamento "narrativo" ad un atteggiamento "rituale", che porta sempre di più, sulla metà del secolo, ad un' esaltazione della Chiesa ed inverte il cammino dell' arte da quello intrapreso con Giotto e con i grandi senesi del primo Trecento verso una visione sempre più umana e drammatica a quello, culminante nella pittura e nella scultura di Andrea Orcagna, verso un recupero di motivi rituali e soprannaturali: una sosta insomma, ~~ne~~ ed un' inversione di rotta, rispetto al processo di laicizzazione dell' arte e della cultura avviato dalla generazione di Giotto. Ma *al* quadro così bene delineato di tale profondo mutamento di intenti nel campo della pittura e delle altre arti figurative fa séguito un' indagine dotta ed accuratissima di tutte quelle tendenze del pensiero, della religione e della cultura, di tutte quelle condizioni della vita pubblica e privata, di tutti quei mutamenti sociali che possono contribuire alla spiegazione o comunque al chiarimento del fenomeno. Così l' attenzione dell' autore si sposta ~~sa~~ sulle crisi economiche che turbano Firenze e Siena a partire dal 1340 e si aggravano in séguito alla peste, sulle mutazioni politiche e sociali che ne conseguono, sullo shock anche psicologico causato dalla grande moria del '48, sulle sue conseguenze sulla struttura sociale dei due comuni, sui loro effetti sulla cultura e sul pensiero, sul rinnovarsi del sentimento religioso in senso mistico e penitenziale. Questo libro è un esempio eminente di ricerca interdisciplinare, nella quale le analisi portate sulla situazione nei diversi campi non sono né semplicemente

giustapposte né subordinate le une alle altre in modo deterministico, ma si illuminano invece a vicenda, talché se le condizioni politiche e socio-economiche sono offerte ad illuminazione dei mutamenti artistici, i fenomeni figurativi sono d'altra parte presentati in modo da contribuire a loro volta ad una più profonda comprensione della sostanza delle situazioni storiche e culturali. Donde l'utilità del libro non soltanto per gli storici dell'arte, ma anche per i cultori di quelle diverse storie la cui sintesi ha nome da più di un secolo "Kulturgeschichte". Approfondite indagini iconografico-stilistiche sugli affreschi di Andrea Bonajuti nel Cappellone degli Spagnoli, sul nuovo mondo di immagini pittoriche suscitate dalle visioni e dalle prediche di S. Caterina da Siena, una storia del tema iconografico della Madonna dell'Umiltà in rapporto con i suoi significati ideologici, nonché un agile saggio sulle opere tarde del Boccaccio e sui loro possibili rapporti con l'arte figurativa forniscono, ~~una~~ a conclusione del libro, una serie di riprove della tesi generale.

L'originalità del metodo critico del Meiss anche nelle ricerche di carattere più specificamente iconologico nei confronti della meritamente illustre scuola iconologica di Londra - anch'essa così feconda di alti risultati scientifici - consiste nel fatto che mentre questa si serve dell'opera d'arte, studiata nella sua iconografia, come di un documento di tendenze culturali e ideologiche, il Meiss cerca costantemente di far concorrere la vasta messe dei risultati delle sue indagini iconologiche anche al chiarimento dei valori espressivi dell'opera d'arte : talché vengono a cadere quelle riserve che la critica italiana, espressamente o più spesso e silenzio, suole nutrire nei confronti dei pur tanto utili studi di orientamento iconologico. Cospicui esempi di questa originalità di metodo sono, fra l'altro, il volumetto su "Giotto ed Assisi" (1960), il saggio su "La luce come forma e come simbolo in alcuni dipinti del Quattrocento", il saggio e il volume sul "S. Francesco di Giovanni Bellini", la serie dei saggi, scalati fra il 1941 e il 1966 sulla pala d'altare dipinta da Piero della Francesca per Federico di Montefeltro, lo studio del 1963 sulla "composizione circolare" del Tributo di Masaccio. In tutti questi studi il significato indagato sottilmente, del tema iconogra-

fico con tutte le sue implicazioni culturali e ideologiche è messo in significativo rapporto con i risultati di una rinnovata ed approfondita lettura dell'opera nei suoi aspetti formali, e proprio da tali approfondimenti critici discendono talvolta - come nel caso della pala di Piero della Francesca - precisazioni sulla originaria destinazione e quindi sulla datazione dell'opera, nonché sulla sua collocazione storica in rapporto anche con l'arte fiamminga.

A questo punto è necessario rilevare come la spiccata attitudine del Meiss a cogliere l'opera d'arte per così dire in tutte le sue "dimensioni" lo abbia più d'una volta portato a concentrare l'attenzione sugli aspetti tecnici: ne è esempio eminente il volume, composto in collaborazione con un maestro del restauro come Leonello Tintori, sugli affreschi della Leggenda di S. Francesco nella basilica superiore di Assisi, dove l'accuratissimo esame della superficie dipinta e delle suture dell'intonaco ha portato a notevoli chiarimenti e scoperte sulla tecnica usata da quei pittori e ad importanti conclusioni sulla cronologia interna del ciclo.

Piace tuttavia di rilevare come le pronunziatissime capacità del Meiss per le indagini "erudite" non siano mai riuscite a deviarlo verso ricerche troppo particolari⁵ fine a se stesse e, appunto, di stretta erudizione, e come al contrario i suoi interessi di studioso si siano di preferenza appuntati verso alcuni grandi temi della storia dell'arte: Giotto, il Trecento toscano, il Quattrocento fiorentino e veneto, la pittura francese del tardo Medioevo, la pittura fiamminga del Quattrocento. Su quest'ultimo tema appaiono particolarmente degni di menzione il saggio sul cardinale Albergati e la cronologia dei ritratti di Jan van Eyck e la relazione congressuale su "Jan van Eyck e il Rinascimento italiano". Abbiamo ommesso di accennare a molti altri saggi, pubblicati in volume (come "Andrea Mantegna miniatore: unanesimo e diplomazia") o in forma di articolo (come quello giovanile che identifica il cosiddetto Ugolino Lorenzetti con Bartolomeo Bulgarini, quello su alcuni affreschi cavalliniani in Francia, su un Duccio inedito, su quattro nuovi pannelli di Lorenzo Monaco, su una nuova Madonna del Traini) di carattere più tradizionalmente filologico o più strettamente iconologico come i due recenti e importanti saggi sulle modifiche apportate al primitivo programma del trittico di Maso-

lino per S. Maria Maggiore e quello dal titolo "Sleep in Venice : ancient Myths and Renaissance proclivities", per soffermarci più a lungo sui lavori di più ampio respiro e di più alta originalità di metodo. Ma è pure indispensabile ricordare, per l'importanza della sua nuova prospettiva storica, il saggio nel quale un gruppo di tavolette di cultura senese-martiniana è convincentemente accostato alle miniature della mirabile Bible moralisée della Biblioteca Nazionale di Prigi, che appartenne a Luigi II d'Angiò : col che il Meiss ha mostrato l'esistenza ad Napoli di una cultura artistica alla corte angioina, analoga a quella francese, ed ha gettato nuova luce sull'ambiente napoletano come centro d'incontro di cultura figurativa senese e francese..

Alla pittura francese del tardo medioevo il Meiss va dedicando un'opera di grande respiro, prevista in ben quattro nutritissimi volumi accompagnati da altrettanti volumi di illustrazioni. E' uscito l'anno scorso, per Natale, il primo di questi volumi e l'autore sta in questi giorni correggendo le bozze del secondo. L'opera intera si accentra sulla personalità di un mecenate d'eccezione, il Duca Jean de Berry : non solo perché questi fu il committente di tutti i maggiori codici miniati del tempo, ma anche perché l'arte tutta di quel periodo fu arte di corte e la sua sostanza non può essere storicamente intesa se non tenendo nel dovuto conto la personalità del Duca e le vicende e gli aspetti della vita alla sua corte. Già questo primo volume domina un materiale vastissimo (basti dire che il corpus delle tavole contiene ben 845 illustrazioni) e discute e risolve una quantità di problemi filologici e di attribuzione in un campo quanto altri mai irto di difficoltà. La miniatura, e quanto sussiste della pittura su tavola, è indagata, per questo periodo e questo ambiente, sotto il profilo iconografico ed artistico : pregiudiziale allo studio dell'opera dei singoli miniatori e pittori è infatti l'indagine - di solito trascurata nei nostri studi - delle difficoltà che a questi si presentavano nell'affrontare i nuovi temi richiesti dall'illustrazione dei testi profani prediletti da quella civiltà cortese, temi che difettavano di tradizione iconografica. E l'autore ricostruisce anche da questo punto di vista illustrativo, tanto connesso alla cultura letteraria, con molta pazienza e con molto acume la genesi stessa di alcuni dei

più famosi capolavori della pittura libraria. Al tempo stesso egli è attentissimo alle vicende stilistiche e reca validi contributi allo studio delle relazioni artistiche della Francia con le Fiandre, la Boemia, l'Italia. Si tratta insomma di un'indagine profonda e di amplissimo respiro su uno dei temi più problematici di tutta la storia dell'arte, affrontato con novità di impostazione, mettendo magistralmente a frutto i risultati di ricerche storiche e sociologiche, iconografiche e stilistiche nel quadro di una acutissima ricostruzione del clima culturale, in vista della definizione dei valori più propriamente artistici delle opere d'arte. Questo studio non mancherà di suscitare importanti chiarimenti su tutta la storia, ancora da scrivere, del "Gotico cosmopolitano" negli altri paesi d'Europa, Italia compresa. Ma con la sua vastissima documentazione sulla biblioteca del Duca di Berry, della quale riesce a ricostruire l'intero catalogo, e su tutte le opere d'arte da lui commesse, e con le finissime ed approfondite osservazioni sugli orientamenti culturali e sul gusto di quel mecenate porta un contributo eccezionale alla storia della cultura e della civiltà dell'ambiente e dell'epoca.

Non si può chiudere questa cursoria e largamente incompleta rassegna della produzione scientifica del Meiss senza accennare almeno all'opera che egli va compiendo, in due volumi, in collaborazione col dantista Singleton, sui manoscritti miniati della Divina Commedia.

Concludendo, la Facoltà di Lettere e Filosofia dell'Università di Firenze è particolarmente lieta di ~~insignire della laurea honoris causa~~ ^{onorare} uno studioso che, pur versato come pochi altri nelle ricerche della più strenua filologia, pur si collega per l'ampiezza, la profondità dei suoi interessi e lo spirito di sintesi culturale delle sue opere maggiori alla grande storiografia artistica di indirizzo storico-culturale dell'Ottocento e del primo Novecento, evitando le secche di quel sofisticato ed anche raffinato, ma alla fine arido filologismo che caratterizza larga parte degli studi storico-artistici del nostro tempo.

Al di là dell'attività scientifica, che pure insufficientemente si è cercato di delineare, non possiamo, qui a Firenze, non sottolineare che l'Italia e la nostra città hanno particolari debiti di riconoscenza verso Millard Meiss

per l'opera generosa da lui svolta in due diverse drammatiche occasioni per il salvataggio del patrimonio artistico italiano. Già insignito della "Stella della Solidarietà" nel 1948 per l'opera da lui svolta in guerra e nel dopoguerra immediato, egli ha dato or ora un contributo essenziale al soccorso dei beni culturali e delle opere d'arte danneggiate dall'alluvione. Giunto a Firenze nell'ottobre del 1966 per un periodo di tranquillo studio nell'Istituto harvardiano dei Tatti, egli non esitò dopo il 4 novembre a rinunciare totalmente alla tranquillità degli studi e del ~~quieto~~^{certo} soggiorno sui colli di Settignano per darsi anima e corpo all'organizzazione dei soccorsi, quale Presidente del ^{in Italia,} CRIA, dimostrando sul piano dell'azione quello stesso attaccamento ai valori dell'arte e della civiltà del nostro paese e della nostra città che avevano ispirato ed ispirano la sua opera di studioso.

May 8, 1968

Dear Millard:

I trust this finds you and Miggie rested and relaxed in the familiar setting of I Tatti.

I had a long talk with Gerda this week about a variety of matters, mostly centering on the question of the volume of letters. She volunteered to do the editorial job herself and asked me whether I thought this would raise any problems. In what I hope was a tactful way, I pointed out first the question of detachment; second, and more important, the risk that she might get into a long run relationship with the Institute which would be difficult on both sides. It would not be a proper job for her, and it might put us in a position where we would find it embarrassing to terminate it. She recognized the merit of this and quoted Pan on the virtue of the Institute rule of not appointing anyone who did not have some place to go back to and a finite term to his appointment. We agreed that, if she did not do it, whoever was selected for the editorial responsibility would have to be a person of wide learning who had known Pan well and who knew some of his circle of friends and correspondents and who was personally perceptive with respect to the relationships involved. Gerda showed some continuing anxiety about her own ability to control just what would be done.

In the end we agreed that we should talk about this matter again when you return.

Annette joins me in greetings to both of you.

Cordially,

Carl Kaysen

Professor Millard Meiss
Villa I Tatti
Florence, Italy

cc: Panofsky File

April 29, 1968

Dear Millard:

I am pleased to inform you that the Trustees approved my recommendation that you be granted two months' leave without pay in the spring of next year to allow you to go to I Tatti.

Cordially,

Carl Kaysen

Professor Millard Meiss
Institute for Advanced Study

cc: Mr. Morgan

Note to Mr. Morgan: Let's continue paying
all the benefits.

C.K.

January 18, 1968

Dear Millard:

What we agreed on in our conversation Monday was that you would request two months' leave without pay in the spring of 1968-69 with the expectation that Harvard would be compensating you for four months' stay at I Tatti. This I think I described as splitting the difference.

Cordially,

Carl Kaysen

Professor Millard Meiss
Institute for Advanced Study

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY 08540

SCHOOL OF HISTORICAL STUDIES

1/14/68

Dear Carl -

Before I make a
suggestion to Nate about my
salary at Tatti would you
please send me a note on
what we agreed was right.
My recollection is imperfect.

Thanks

Millard

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY

PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY 08540

Telephone-609-924-4400

THE DIRECTOR

Memorandum for File:

Conversation of Professor Meiss with Dr. Kaysen in
the Director's Office 3:30 p.m. Monday, January 15, 1968

Professor Meiss asked for an appropriate leave of absence for part of next year in order to accept an offer from Harvard to spend a period as Acting Director at I Tatti. Harvard would like Professor Meiss to be there from March through June, 1969, and would pay him accordingly. We agreed that an appropriate leave would be two months, splitting the difference, so to speak, on the additional income.

I agreed that I would recommend to the Board at their April meeting that Professor Meiss be granted leave without pay for two months in order to accept this appointment, and I assured Professor Meiss that he could count on the Board's so doing.

Carl Kaysen

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY 08540

SCHOOL OF HISTORICAL STUDIES

January 26, 1968

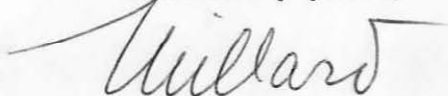
Professor Carl Kaysen, Director
Institute for Advanced Study

Dear Carl,

Yes, as I thought. Very generous.

Thank you.

Faithfully yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Millard". The signature is written in dark ink and has a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Millard Meiss

MM:le

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY 08540

SCHOOL OF HISTORICAL STUDIES

August 30, 1967

Mrs. Barnett,

This is just to say that Mlle. Marie-Thérèse
d'Alverny will wish to occupy a room in the
village from September 7 through September 12.

I suggest that an order from Toto to provide
breakfast for her would be very welcome.

Thank you for making the arrangements.

Millard Meiss

cc:Kaysen

MM:le

August 23, 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR FILE

Conversation with Professor Meiss, 10:00 a.m. August 23, 1967,
in the Director's Office

I agreed that Professor Meiss might be absent for approximately two weeks in term time, 25 September to 7 October, to attend the International Congress on Giotto, and to visit with art historians in connection with that Congress.

Professor Meiss also raised the question of inviting Senor Procaccio, the Director of Museums of Florence, as a visitor. I said this was entirely a matter for the School to decide, and that there was ample money in the budget in the Visitors Fund.

Carl Kaysen

April 4, 1967

Dear Millard,

This was just a routine meeting but I thought you would like to have the minutes of it. The Hofstadter matter should come to a head within a couple of weeks. If he is at all interested in coming I shall let you know.

There is little chance of our arriving in Florence prior to your departure, although I think things are a little better at home.

My best to Miggy,

As ever,

Professor Millard Meiss
Villa I Tatti
Via di Vincigliata
Firenze, Italia

enclosure

VILLA I TATTI

THE HARVARD UNIVERSITY CENTER
FOR ITALIAN RENAISSANCE STUDIES

Via di Vincigliata
Florence, Italy
tel. 603.251

20 March 1967

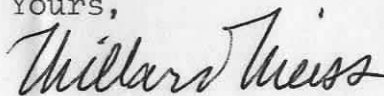
Miss Elizabeth Horton
Institute for Advanced Study
Princeton, New Jersey

Dear Betty:

You are quite right: I prefer not to send application forms to senior art historians unless I can foresee that there is a place for them. Neither of the men you mention are quite in that category, so that the tangle is not major. I do hope, therefore, you will withdraw your resignation. If you don't I won't come home.

In answer to your question about future procedure I can say simply that I would like to see, wherever I am, all inquiries of art historians about membership.

Yours,



Millard Meiss

MM:gr

March 9, 1967

Dear Millard:

In the weeks since I wrote, a great deal has happened here as you know. Robert's death was really rather sudden in the sense that a month ago one would not have thought things were so near the end. On the other hand, he was at a Natural Sciences Faculty meeting the week before he died, and it was frightening to see him. In all this his courage, grace, and ability - when he desired - to refrain from showing his wounds to the world showed up at their best. We had a Memorial Service for him in Alexander Hall. Hans Bethe, Harry Smyth, and George Kennan spoke very movingly. I was especially pleased that Bethe spoke of Robert as a physicist, so that the world was not left with a picture of him as purely a public man and a public victim, but got some reflection of the great contribution he had made to his science.

The rains and flood waters seem to be receding here as they have already receded in Florence, and life goes on calmly. Sometime we might gossip about my great confrontation with your distinguished colleague (emeritus) on the issue of Foltiny, but that is a tale for telling and not writing.

I hope Mrs. Kirsch has arrived safely and is proving a powerful help to you.

Annette joins in regards to you and Miggia.

Cordially,

Carl Kaysen

Professor Millard Maiss
Villa I Tatti
Florence, Italy

*Setty
For your files
mc/g*

VILLA I TATTI

THE HARVARD UNIVERSITY CENTER
FOR ITALIAN RENAISSANCE STUDIES

Via di Vincigliata
Florence, Italy
tel. 603.251

1 March 1967

Professor Marshall Clagett
School of Historical Studies
The Institute for Advanced Study
Princeton, New Jersey

Dear Marshall:

my
Thank you for the minutes of the meeting and for your friendly note. I do appreciate your readiness to keep in mind [^]thoughts about assistants. I am wholly in accord with all the decisions reached at the meeting.

Being both administrator for Florence and chairman of the Committee that selects projects I shall soon have to go to Montecatini and rehabilitate myself. I do hope that your family worries diminish, and that you feel in a position to make the plans that you want for next year.

Warmest thanks.

Faithfully yours,

Millard
Millard Meiss

MM:gr

VILLA I TATTI

THE HARVARD UNIVERSITY CENTER
FOR ITALIAN RENAISSANCE STUDIES

Via di Vincigliata
Florence, Italy
tel. 603.251

15 February 1967

Professor Carl Kaysen
Director
Institute for Advanced Study
Princeton, New Jersey

Dear Carl:

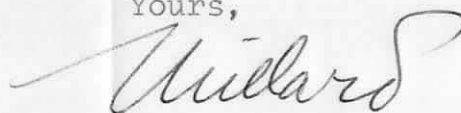
I have been rather dejected by Kitzinger's decision. I agree that his choice implies little about our attractiveness. When we go after the very best man the risks are bound to be considerable.

Thank you very much for your statement about research assistants. I appreciate the allowance for exceptional cases. I am very sympathetic to the establishment of rules but I hope we can always preserve the freedom that is possible only in a small institution, and that is I think so precious.

We have already become used to the discomforts of European life, but we do not have to contend with snow. Plenty of other things, though. *But the library is wonderful!*

Best to both of you from both of us.

Yours,



Millard Meiss

MM:gr

February 10, 1967

Dear Millard:

Ernst Kitzinger made the decision you predicted as you know and will go to Harvard. I regret very much that he did so but do not feel that his choice reflects on us in any way.

By way of showing you what you are missing, I attach an effusion on Foltiny and related matters. If you find anything in this raises questions in your mind, I would certainly appreciate hearing from you. It seems to me that the kind of problem you and I discussed in relation to Mrs. Kirsch could perfectly well be fitted within the formula I suggest.

Aside from two feet of snow, Princeton has provided no surprises since you left. I trust I Tatti is being similarly agreeable and that you are finding Florence returning to something near its normal state.

Annette joins me in warmest greetings to you and Miggle.

Cordially,

Carl Kayser

Professor Millard Meiss
Villa I Tatti
via di Vincigliata
Florence, Italy

Enclosures

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY, Princeton, New Jersey
Office of the Director

C O P Y

cc: Professor Meiss
Mrs. Barnett
Mr. Morgan
Miss Horton

January 9, 1967

Dear Mrs. Kirsch:

On the recommendation of Professor Meiss, I am pleased formally to offer you an extension of your appointment in the School of Historical Studies of the Institute for Advanced Study, as Research Assistant to Professor Meiss from July 1, 1967 to June 30, 1968. We can make available to you a salary of \$7,500 for the year.

With all good wishes,

Sincerely yours,

Carl Kaysen

Mrs. Edith Kirsch
The Institute for Advanced Study

December 23, 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR FILE

Conversation with Professor Meiss in the Director's Office on
December 22 at 10:30 a. m.

Professor Meiss raised with me several questions about the status of Mrs. Edith W. Kirsch, his present Research Assistant. Mrs. Kirsch has been here for five and a half years. When she started working for Meiss she was the wife of a Princeton professor; she is now divorced and, being childless, is very much a full time member of the labor market. She had originally started out in English Literature, and Meiss praised her ability and accomplishments both in this field and in Art History. Her contribution to Meiss's present book is so great that Meiss thinks seriously of putting her name on the title page.

Mrs. Kirsch would like to get a Ph. D. in Art History at Princeton, but some difficulty has arisen concerning their willingness to accept her as a part-time graduate student. The present level of work she does for Meiss would not be consistent with her being a full time student. The difficulty apparently lies in the Graduate School office rather than in the Department of Art which would be perfectly happy to have Mrs. Kirsch on a part-time basis. I suggested to Meiss that perhaps some proposal made jointly by Coffin (the head of the Art Department) and him to the Graduate School with the following elements might be acceptable:

- (1) Mrs. Kirsch should get the equivalent of one course credit per term for her work with Meiss.
- (2) In this coming academic year she should take two courses (including her work with Meiss) and in the year or years following, three courses, i. e. full time.

If this failed, I promised to be helpful in whatever way I could (n. b. , I did not indicate to Meiss that I had had a conversation

with Prof. Benacerraf on this subject and responded sympathetically to their difficulties in dealing with part-time graduate students. It was in the light of that conversation that I made my suggestion).

Meiss then raised the question of increasing Mrs. Kirsch's pay to \$8,000. I flatly refused to consider this, making the point that there was a fixed level for an Assistant, and it was better to stay with it. The few exceptional cases, such as Foltiny's involved more senior people who all had Ph. D. s and an independent scholarly output. I further made the point that keeping Mrs. Kirsch as a part-time student, part-time assistant over a long period was simply not fair to her, and here again emphasized the Foltiny precedent and my own determination to prevent this situation from recurring, mentioning the suggestion I had made to Professor Clagett that the History Faculty express its being in favor of a three year term for assistants with at most one renewal barring highly exceptional circumstances. In general, I made it clear that I saw no gains and many losses from creating new non-professional permanent members of the Institute, with a variety of stipend as a means of accommodating the understandable desires of the faculty to keep assistants around as convenient.

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

20 October 1966

MEMORANDUM TO FILE

In a conversation with Professor Meiss, I agreed that Mrs. Kirsch may go to I Tatti with him this spring, and continue to be paid out of Institute funds, as his assistant. Professor Meiss will be responsible for her travel expenses.


Carl Kaysen

Copy to: Mr. Morgan
Mrs. Barnett
Miss Horton

Fac Meiss

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY 08540

SCHOOL OF HISTORICAL STUDIES

May 19, 1966

Dr. Robert Oppenheimer
The Institute for Advanced Study

Dear Robert,

The Harvard Corporation has approved
the appointment and I shall therefore be
at I Tatti from February through June 1967.

With best wishes,

Millard
Millard Meiss

MM:ek

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY, Princeton, New Jersey
Office of the Director

C O P Y

11 May 1966

Dear Millard:

Thank you for your letter of May 5th asking for a leave of absence for the spring term of 1967, to enable you to serve as Acting Director at I Tatti. As we let you know, I recommended this to the Board, and they have now approved your leave of absence.

I hope that it will be a fruitful and pleasant sojourn.

With good wishes,

Robert Oppenheimer

Professor Millard Meiss
The Institute for Advanced Study

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY 08540

SCHOOL OF HISTORICAL STUDIES

May 5, 1966

Dr. Robert Oppenheimer
The Institute for Advanced Study

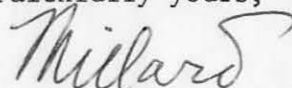
Dear Robert,

Harvard has asked me to serve as Acting Director of the Center for Italian Renaissance Studies at Villa I Tatti during the spring term of the coming academic year. I have just received a formal but not yet definitive letter from President Pusey; the appointment requires the usual approval of the Overseers. I hope that the Institute for Advanced Study will find it possible to grant me a leave of absence, because I should like to accept this invitation and I have informed President Pusey that I would request a leave.

I should expect of course to relinquish my salary for the second half of the academic year; Harvard will take that on. I have also made clear that I would remain in Princeton to welcome the historians of art who arrive for the second semester. I shall not in other words leave before early February and possibly even a little later.

I naturally would regret absence during the latter part of the first year of a new Director. Except for a couple of weeks in Europe, however, I shall be in continuous residence in Princeton from now until February '67, and back again in Princeton in the summer of that year. The months at I Tatti would not only be extremely useful for my work, which is now centered on Florence, but would serve to strengthen links between the Institute for Advanced Study and myself with European scholars and with Harvard, whose centers at the Fogg and in I Tatti compose an important segment of my discipline. You will recall that I expressed my interest in the new Harvard institute at I Tatti, and of the possibility that I might want to go there for limited periods of time, in my letter of acceptance of a professorship at the Institute.

Faithfully yours,



Millard Meiss

MM: ek

On the leave of absence for Professor Meiss
for the second term of the academic year
1966-1967, I

approve ✓

disapprove

Signed W. S. Lewis

Date 8 May 66

Please return to
Director's Office
Institute for Advanced Study
Princeton, New Jersey

VOTE SHEET

On the leave of absence for Professor Meiss
for the second term of the academic year
1966-1967, I

approve ✓

disapprove

Signed

Date

W. S. Lumber
Aug 9/66

Please return to
Director's Office
Institute for Advanced Study
Princeton, New Jersey

VOTE SHEET

On the leave of absence for Professor Meiss
for the second term of the academic year
1966-1967, I

approve X

disapprove

Signed 

Date May 7, 1966

Please return to
Director's Office
Institute for Advanced Study
Princeton, New Jersey

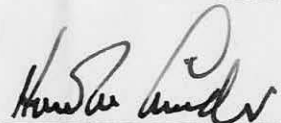
VOTE SHEET

On the leave of absence for Professor Meiss
for the second term of the academic year
1966-1967, I

approve ✓

disapprove

Signed



Harold F. Linder

Date

May 9, 1966

Please return to
Director's Office
Institute for Advanced Study
Princeton, New Jersey

VOTE SHEET

On the leave of absence for Professor Meiss
for the second term of the academic year
1966-1967, I

approve ✓

disapprove

Signed Heinrich Strauss

Date May 10 '66

Please return to
Director's Office
Institute for Advanced Study
Princeton, New Jersey

VOTE SHEET

On the leave of absence for Professor Meiss
for the second term of the academic year
1966-1967, I

approve ✓

disapprove

Signed

M. Rudinoff

Date

5/10/66

Please return to
Director's Office
Institute for Advanced Study
Princeton, New Jersey

VOTE SHEET

On the leave of absence for Professor Meiss
for the second term of the academic year
1966-1967, I

approve ✓

disapprove

Signed Barbara Deke Henry

Date 5/9/66

Please return to
Director's Office
Institute for Advanced Study
Princeton, New Jersey

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

6 May 1966

Memorandum to the Members of
the Board of Trustees:

I recommend your approval of Professor Meiss' request
for a leave of absence without pay for the second term of
the academic year 1966-1967. A copy of his letter is
enclosed. May I have your vote?

Robert Oppenheimer

Robert Oppenheimer

VOTE SHEET

On the leave of absence for Professor Meiss
for the second term of the academic year
1966-1967, I

approve _____

disapprove _____

Signed _____

Date _____

Please return to
Director's Office
Institute for Advanced Study
Princeton, New Jersey

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

6 May 1966

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enclosed. May I have your vote?

Robert Oppenheimer

Robert Oppenheimer

VOTE SHEET

On the leave of absence for Professor Meiss
for the second term of the academic year
1966-1967, I

approve X

disapprove

Signed *Julian P. Boyd*
Date May 9, 1966

Please return to
Director's Office
Institute for Advanced Study
Princeton, New Jersey

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

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the academic year 1966-1967. A copy of his letter is
enclosed. May I have your vote?

Robert Oppenheimer

Robert Oppenheimer

VOTE SHEET

On the leave of absence for Professor Meiss
for the second term of the academic year
1966-1967, I

approve

disapprove

Signed *J. Adams*

Date May 10 1966

Please return to
Director's Office
Institute for Advanced Study
Princeton, New Jersey

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

6 May 1966

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the Board of Trustees:

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the academic year 1966-1967. A copy of his letter is
enclosed. May I have your vote?

Robert Oppenheimer

Robert Oppenheimer

VOTE SHEET

On the leave of absence for Professor Meiss
for the second term of the academic year
1966-1967, I

approve

disapprove

Signed

Date

Robert C. Salganik
May 9, 1966

Please return to
Director's Office
Institute for Advanced Study
Princeton, New Jersey

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

6 May 1966

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the Board of Trustees:

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for a leave of absence without pay for the second term of
the academic year 1966-1967. A copy of his letter is
enclosed. May I have your vote?

Robert Oppenheimer

Robert Oppenheimer

VOTE SHEET

On the leave of absence for Professor Meiss
for the second term of the academic year
1966-1967, I

approve

disapprove

Signed

Carol M. Shanks

Date

May 9 - 1966

Please return to
Director's Office
Institute for Advanced Study
Princeton, New Jersey

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

6 May 1966

Memorandum to the Members of
the Board of Trustees:

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for a leave of absence without pay for the second term of
the academic year 1966-1967. A copy of his letter is
enclosed. May I have your vote?

Robert Oppenheimer

Robert Oppenheimer

VOTE SHEET

On the leave of absence for Professor Meiss
for the second term of the academic year
1966-1967, I

approve

disapprove

Signed *Jessie Rosenthal*

Date *5/7/66*

Please return to
Director's Office
Institute for Advanced Study
Princeton, New Jersey

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

6 May 1966

Memorandum to the Members of
the Board of Trustees:

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for a leave of absence without pay for the second term of
the academic year 1966-1967. A copy of his letter is
enclosed. May I have your vote?

Robert Oppenheimer

Robert Oppenheimer

VOTE SHEET

On the leave of absence for Professor Meiss
for the second term of the academic year
1966-1967, I

approve *J. A. Hochschild*

disapprove _____

Signed _____

Date _____

Please return to
Director's Office
Institute for Advanced Study
Princeton, New Jersey

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

6 May 1966

Memorandum to the Members of
the Board of Trustees:

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the academic year 1966-1967. A copy of his letter is
enclosed. May I have your vote?

Robert Oppenheimer

Robert Oppenheimer

VOTE SHEET

On the leave of absence for Professor Meiss
for the second term of the academic year
1966-1967, I

approve

disapprove

Signed *LK Garrison*

Date *May 9 '66*

Please return to
Director's Office
Institute for Advanced Study
Princeton, New Jersey

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY 08540

SCHOOL OF HISTORICAL STUDIES

May 5, 1966

Dr. Robert Oppenheimer
The Institute for Advanced Study

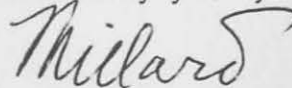
Dear Robert,

Harvard has asked me to serve as Acting Director of the Center for Italian Renaissance Studies at Villa I Tatti during the spring term of the coming academic year. I have just received a formal but not yet definitive letter from President Pusey; the appointment requires the usual approval of the Overseers. I hope that the Institute for Advanced Study will find it possible to grant me a leave of absence, because I should like to accept this invitation and I have informed President Pusey that I would request a leave.

I should expect of course to relinquish my salary for the second half of the academic year; Harvard will take that on. I have also made clear that I would remain in Princeton to welcome the historians of art who arrive for the second semester. I shall not in other words leave before early February and possibly even a little later.

I naturally would regret absence during the latter part of the first year of a new Director. Except for a couple of weeks in Europe, however, I shall be in continuous residence in Princeton from now until February '67, and back again in Princeton in the summer of that year. The months at I Tatti would not only be extremely useful for my work, which is now centered on Florence, but would serve to strengthen links between the Institute for Advanced Study and myself with European scholars and with Harvard, whose centers at the Fogg and in I Tatti compose an important segment of my discipline. You will recall that I expressed my interest in the new Harvard institute at I Tatti, and of the possibility that I might want to go there for limited periods of time, in my letter of acceptance of a professorship at the Institute.

Faithfully yours,



Millard Meiss

MM: ek

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY 08540

SCHOOL OF HISTORICAL STUDIES

May 5, 1966

Dr. Robert Oppenheimer
The Institute for Advanced Study

Dear Robert,

Harvard has asked me to serve as Acting Director of the Center for Italian Renaissance Studies at Villa I Tatti during the spring term of the coming academic year. I have just received a formal but not yet definitive letter from President Pusey; the appointment requires the usual approval of the Overseers. I hope that the Institute for Advanced Study will find it possible to grant me a leave of absence, because I should like to accept this invitation and I have informed President Pusey that I would request a leave.

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Faithfully yours,



Millard Meiss

MM: ek

Fac Meiss

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY 08540

SCHOOL OF HISTORICAL STUDIES

*Miss Horton ✓
pls return*

April 19, 1965

Dr. Robert Oppenheimer
The Institute for Advanced Study

Dear Dr. Oppenheimer:

I am glad to accept the extension of my appointment as research assistant to Professor Meiss and look forward very much to continuing in this position.

Sincerely yours,

Edith W. Kirsch

Mrs. Edith W. Kirsch

cc: Professor Meiss
Mr. Morgan
Mrs. Barnett
Miss Horton

6 April 1966

Dear Mrs. Kirsch:

On the recommendation of Professor Meiss, I am pleased formally to offer you an extension of your appointment in the School of Historical Studies of the Institute for Advanced Study, as Research Assistant to Professor Meiss, from July 1, 1966 to June 30, 1967. We can make available to you a salary of \$7,500 for the year.

With all good wishes,

Robert Oppenheimer

Mrs. Edith Kirsch
The Institute for Advanced Study

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY 08540

MM
✓RB

Pls return DO

SCHOOL OF HISTORICAL STUDIES

March 23, 1966

Dr. Robert Oppenheimer
Institute for Advanced Study

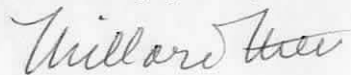
Dear Robert,

This is my final word about scholarly assistance for the next academic year, which you discussed with me twice three months ago. Edith W. Kirsch will become my research assistant. You fixed her salary in January and she will count on prerogatives, chiefly a room aboard ship if available.

7500

Gerda Soergel and I have made our own private arrangement for the work she will do for me next year. I am in the process of securing financial support outside the Institute for special assistance, and Minot Morgan has agreed to hold contributions in a Fund for French and Italian Painting. No official Institute appointment is involved, and no space in the project.

Faithfully yours,



Millard Meiss

MM:ek

fac Meiss

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

7 March 1966

Memorandum to File:

Professor Meiss came to see me on January 24th. It was agreed that the Institute would provide him, as all other professors, with an assistant of his choosing. It was also agreed that the Institute would see that his secretarial problems, of dictation and typing and so on, were met. Since, for the academic year 1966-1967, he had two assistants which he wished, I congratulated him on this, and we agreed that he would pay for the second himself.

Robert Oppenheimer

Robert Oppenheimer

Copy to: Professor Meiss
Mr. Morgan

Fac Meiss

cc Professor Meiss
Mr. Morgan
Mrs. Barnett
Miss Horton

6 July 1965

Dear Miss Schaefer:

On the recommendation of Professor Millard Meiss,
I am pleased formally to offer you an appointment as
research assistant to Professor Meiss for the month of
July, 1965, with a salary of \$500.

With all good wishes,

Robert Oppenheimer

Miss Mary Schaefer
The Institute for Advanced Study

Fac Meiss

cc Professor Meiss
Mr. Morgan
Mrs. Barnett
Miss Horton

12 January 1965

Dear Mrs. Kirsch:

On the recommendation of Professor Meiss, I am pleased formally to offer you an extension of your appointment in the School of Historical Studies of the Institute for Advanced Study, as Research Assistant to Professor Meiss, from July 1, 1965 to June 30, 1966. We can make available to you a salary of \$6,400 for the year.

With all good wishes,

Robert Oppenheimer

Mrs. Edith Kirsch
The Institute for Advanced Study

Meiss

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS
BERKELEY 4, CALIFORNIA

27 April 1964

Dr. W. McNeil Lowry, Director
The Ford Foundation
477 Madison Avenue
New York, New York 10022

Dear Dr. Lowry:

Thank you very much for your letter of April 23. I regret the reason for your delay; I am most deeply grateful for what you have done in consulting Burkhardt and Ray.

It does seem to me that we should not pursue these sources of money, since they would all involve intervention by Meiss himself, are somewhat uncertain, would be clouded by the still not quite certain behavior of Harvard, and at best would pay less than half the bill. My reason is that an appointment at the Institute implies a readiness on our part to grant a leave of absence with full salary, whenever a man's work makes that desirable.

Once again my thanks and my very warmest good wishes.

Sincerely yours,

Robert Oppenheimer

RO/oa

Fae Meiss

THE FORD FOUNDATION
477 MADISON AVENUE
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10022

PROGRAM IN HUMANITIES
AND THE ARTS

April 23, 1964

Dr. Robert Oppenheimer, Director
The Institute for Advanced Study
Princeton, New Jersey

Dear Dr. Oppenheimer:

I regret the delay in answering your letter of March 31, but the death of my father and unusual pressures in the office have disrupted my schedule.

I have, however, discussed Mr. Meiss' situation with both Frederick Burkhardt of the ACLS and Gordon Ray of the Guggenheim Foundation. I should report that all three of us feel very surprised and somewhat disconcerted by the fact that Harvard University is not undertaking any financial responsibility for Dr. Meiss' being in Florence and counseling the development of I Tatti. We hope that you yourself have pressed this matter sufficiently to be absolutely certain that this is indeed Harvard's position. It is, of course, Dr. Meiss' responsibility, and not ours, to decide whether he wants to undertake this consultation under those circumstances.

I wish there were some immediately available fund in our program activities to be of real assistance to the Institute and Dr. Meiss in this situation, but unfortunately this is not the case. So far as I have been able to get tentative commitments together, it might be possible for the Ford Foundation, through its travel and study grants to the Institute of International Education, to pay travel and other expenses to Dr. Meiss totaling between \$5,000 and \$6,000 for the period involved, for the ACLS from a discretionary fund to add \$2,000 perhaps, and for Guggenheim to entertain a grant under its March, 1965 fellowship allocations, which could be backdated to January 1, which would add another \$5,000 to \$6,000.

Each of these actions would have to be taken as grants to Dr. Meiss directly. If he and you are interested in their being put into the works, if you will let me know I shall also inform Mr. Ray and Mr. Burkhardt. Mr. Ray tells me that he would get in direct touch with Dr. Meiss and that it would of course be

THE FORD FOUNDATION

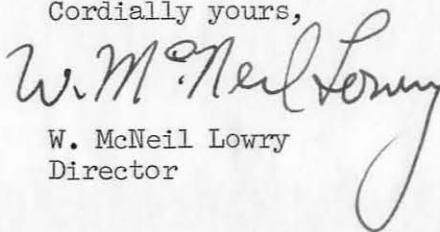
-2-

understood that only in March could the Selection Committee formalize any commitment.

I realize that these three things together do not solve the problem, but at any rate I would like to have your reaction to them.

With kindest personal regards, I am

Cordially yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "W. McNeil Lowry". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name and title.

W. McNeil Lowry
Director

copy sent to Ro

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY, Princeton, New Jersey
Office of the Director

Fac Meiss
C O P Y

31 March 1964

Dear Dr. Lowry:

As you suggested when we talked yesterday, I am writing you a brief note summarizing what I had to say. I shall be glad to supplement it.

Millard Meiss, Professor in the School of Historical Studies at this Institute, has requested a leave of absence for the next academic year, July 1, 1964 to June 30, 1965. He plans to spend this year at I Tatti. There are two separate reasons for his going.

1. He plans to complete his great work, now many years in the making, on the Quattrocento. It is clearly necessary that he be for a time close to his primary sources, and he regards it as desirable that he be there for the greater part of a year. On this ground alone, the Institute would feel itself obligated to grant him a leave of absence, and to pay his salary of \$30,000 a year if there were no alternative source of support.

2. Professor Meiss came to us from Harvard, where it had been presumed that after Berenson's death he might be asked to undertake the direction of I Tatti. When Meiss decided to come to this Institute, he decided in effect to devote his future years to his own studies, and not to the creation of a school at I Tatti. This winter, he was again asked by President Pusey to reconsider accepting the direction at I Tatti, and after some reflection again decided not to do this. The Director Designate of I Tatti is a scholar, but he is not a historian of art, and Meiss has undertaken to give him such counsel, advice and help as he can in developing I Tatti as a school. Meiss is of the opinion that Harvard will offer him the facilities of I Tatti, but will not, and perhaps properly could not, undertake to compensate him for his advisory role.

Under these circumstances, the Institute would be most grateful for any funds which could support, in whole or even in part, Professor Meiss' year abroad.

With warm good wishes,

Robert Oppenheimer

Dr. W. McNeil Lowry
Ford Foundation
477 Madison Avenue
New York City

20 April 1964

Dear Professor Meiss:

At a meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Institute for Advanced Study on April 17, 1964, the Board gave formal approval to your leave of absence, with full salary, for the academic year 1964-1965.

With good wishes,

Robert Oppenheimer

Professor Millard Meiss
The Institute for Advanced Study

Meiss

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

April 15, 1964

Dear Dr. Oppenheimer:

Thank you very much for your letter of April 9th. I am happy to accept your offer of an appointment as Research Assistant to Professor Meiss from July 1, 1964 to June 30, 1965.

Sincerely yours,

Edith Kirsch

(Mrs. Arthur Kirsch)

Dr. Robert Oppenheimer
The Institute for Advanced Study

cc: Professor Meiss
Mr. Morgan
Mrs. Barnett
Miss Horton

9 April 1964

Dear Mrs. Kirsch:

On the recommendation of Professor Meiss, I am pleased formally to offer you an appointment in the School of Historical Studies of the Institute for Advanced Study, as Research Assistant to Professor Meiss from July 1, 1964 to June 30, 1965. We can make available to you a salary of \$6,400 for the year.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

Robert Oppenheimer

Mrs. Arthur Kirsch
The Institute for Advanced Study

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

SCHOOL OF HISTORICAL STUDIES

April 8, 1964

Dr. Robert Oppenheimer
The Institute for Advanced Study

Dear Robert,

I have talked with Mrs. Kirsch several times during the past weeks about her work next year, and I hope that the following proposals, similar to those I presented to you earlier, will seem right to you. The period in question extends only from October 15th to the following June 15th, when I shall return from Europe. Mrs. Kirsch has offered to postpone her month's holiday and remain at work during the period of intensive preparation of the French corpus during the summer. The earliest date at which her holiday would thus begin would be September 15th. During this period, furthermore, from October to June I shall be in residence in Princeton for about six weeks.

During my absence her work will consist of:

1. Correspondence, much of it about photographs for either the French or the Italian book. Because of her experience she can conduct much of this herself.
2. Recording and acknowledging incoming reprints, as well as mailing out reprints of my own publications.
3. Reading galleys of the French books. Because of the intricacy of studies of manuscripts, only a specialist, which she has become, can successfully read these galleys.
4. Typing, either from a disc or manuscript, text of the book on Italian painting that I shall be writing in Florence.
5. Preparing the bibliography for this book. Following indications that I shall give her Mrs. Kirsch will work for this purpose in my study and in the Marquand Library. She has typed in exemplary fashion the bibliography for the French book* and has acquired a special competence.
6. Preparing a table of what I call vital statistics for the book.

* Around 600 items

Dr. Robert Oppenheimer

2.

April 8, 1964

As you see Mrs. Kirsch will continue to act as my secretary and research assistant while I am in Florence, and in certain respects her presence is more important than when I am here too.

Millard Meiss

Millard Meiss

Fae *Meiss*
6 April 1964

Memorandum to Mr. Morgan:

Professor Meiss will have an assistant, Miss Sharon Off, working for him for the months of June, July and August of this year, and perhaps the last week in May and the first week in September. This will authorize you to charge the Publications Fund and pay Miss Off at the rate of \$500 a month.

Robert Oppenheimer

cc: Professor Meiss
Mrs. Barnett

NOTE TO MRS. BARNETT * Miss Off will probably want to rent an apartment in the project.

4/2/64

Professor Meiss called, about the matter you discussed of a summer assistant for him, to be charged to the Publications Fund.

He has found the right person, a young woman in New York who almost has her doctorate, and is in the same field as the book. He would like to engage her, for the months of June, July and August, with the possibility also of the last week in May and the first week in September--he plans to leave about Sept. 10th.

He would suggest a salary of \$500 a month; and would hope that she could rent an apartment in the project for that time. I checked the latter with Ruth, who says it can be done.

222

left message with Edith -

Ro approves.

Fac Meiss

2 May 1963

Dear Professor and Mrs. Meiss:

This morning I spoke with Dr. Oppenheimer by telephone to Copenhagen. He asked me to send you this message from him and Mrs. Oppenheimer:

We want you to know of our staunch sympathy in this dreadful tragedy.

Very sincerely,

Verna Hobson

Professor and Mrs. Millard Meiss
Maxwell Lane
Princeton, New Jersey

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

SCHOOL OF HISTORICAL STUDIES

October 29, 1962

Dr. Robert Oppenheimer
at the Institute

Dear Robert,

While the use of the annex of the proposed library is under discussion I think I should say about the problem of my own office that I feel the same as when we last talked a couple of years ago, and that I continue to aspire to the periodical reading room of our school. This would of course accommodate a secretarial office on the north as well as my own on the south. I shall need a larger office in any event because of our move to a smaller house. I would appreciate your thought while both the arrangements in the Institute and my own in the house are still fluid.

Millard

Millard Meiss

MM;ek

RO hand note: Dear Millard, Thank you for your note. I see no reason not to have things as you suggest. Yours, Robert. 10/30/62

June 13, 1962

Professor Millard Meiss
The Institute for Advanced Study

Dear Professor Meiss:

Dr. Oppenheimer has asked me to write you about your pension arrangements. At the meeting of the Board of Trustees held in Princeton on April 6 and 7, the Board voted to increase faculty salaries to \$25,000 and increase the minimum guaranteed pension through TIAA-CREF to \$15,000.

The standard 5% contribution by the professor matched by a 5% contribution by the Institute for the balance of your tenure as an active professor will not produce the minimum guarantee, and the Institute is therefore adding \$292.57 to the monthly payments in your behalf to TIAA-CREF. Previous additional payments on your policy were \$38.40 per month.

You should know also that the Major Medical contract with TIAA has been modified to reduce the deductible after Blue Cross from \$200 to \$100.

Cordially yours,

Minot C. Morgan, Jr.
General Manager

MCM: lw

Fac Meiss

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

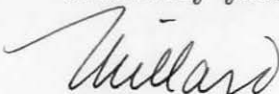
April 18, 1962

Dr. Robert Oppenheimer
at the Institute

Dear Robert,

The enclosed letter gives you a better sense of my reason for troubling you yesterday.

Sincerely yours,



Millard Meiss

MM:ek

Enclosure

*Meiss invited to lecture in
Oxford - thinks of
accepting for
summer - early fall 63
which would mean his
late return for
acad 63-64*

Prof. Meiss,

I have reviewed and filed in office
under Shapley.

March 14, 1962

Mrs. Fern Rusk Shapley
National Gallery of Art
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mrs. Shapley,

Only a very busy schedule has kept me from writing to
thank you for your hospitality in the Gallery, and especially
for the opportunity of seeing the Kress paintings before they
disappeared.

On a separate sheet I'm sending you some thoughts about
paintings in the Gallery. I hope you will find them useful.

Again many thanks and greetings.

Faithfully yours,

Millard Meiss
Professor of the History of Art

MM:ek

Enclosure

P. S. I am sorry that the pressure of other obligations prevented the
completion of the list begun on March 14. Now I must apologize for my
brevity, caused by my departure for Europe in a few days. If you should
have any questions about this list I shall be at I Tatti during the month
of May. Would you be so kind as to send me photographs (including any
available details) of No. 371, Entombment; No. 30, Madonna by Antonello;
No. 31, Portrait attributed to the same painter.

April 17, 1962

Comments on Some Paintings of the Kress Foundation
That Are Not Now in the National Gallery

The numbers are those that the paintings bore when reproduced in the
Book of Illustrations published in 1941.

Shapley Cat.

256. Follower of Fra Angelico.

241. Not Andrea but a follower of Daddi and Orcagna.

316. Follower of Giovanni Bellini.

181. Giovanni del Biondo.

520. A forgery.

250. Palmerucci.

453. Tegliacci (see my Painting in Florence and Siena).

32, 289, Not Mantegna himself, but his circle.
and 377.

259. A Pisan follower of Duccio. *cf. Cat., 1966, p. 19, where all opinions except this
are cited*

16. Not Cimabue, but a Tuscan master influenced by him and by Duccio

omitted

I agree with the attribution of the following paintings, and I have here
indicated my agreement because these attributions are somewhat controversial:

30, 223, 152-154, 325, 427, 388, 313, 328, 373, 128, 10, 429, 518, 33,
279, 338-339, 459

Annunciation attributed to Baldovinetti. Not by him.

Notes on Paintings in the National Gallery (Millard Meiss)

The following list does not include the paintings discussed in Painting in Florence and Siena; these are readily found through the index of the book.

2. Not Cimabue but a follower.

6. The St. Anthony by Nuzi was apparently added, or rather inserted to replace the original figure presumably by the Master of the Fabriano Altarpiece. The original figure seems to have been scraped out and new gold was laid for the figure by Nuzi.

1139. Not Cimabue but an attractive though minor Tuscan follower.

546. Reminiscent of Pietro Lorenzetti, but seriously repainted.

1629. Not by the Master of Badia a Isola, but a provincial though early Sienese. The painting seems to me thoroughly mediocre and not in good state.

814. This beautiful painting by Orcagna and Jacopo di Cione was copied by Masolino in his Munich painting.

23. French, and much influenced by the Limburgs.

14. The condition is not good but the painting is certainly not by Masaccio himself.

15. This portrait too is much repainted but originally it might have been by Domenico Veneziano himself.

521. By "Ugolino Lorenzetti," probably to be identified with Bulgarini.

327. Not Simone, but a follower.

371. Certainly not by Fra Angelico and not in very good condition.

714. By a follower of Verrocchio, possibly Botticini after Fra Filippo.

640. Benaglio?

1141. In very bad state.

536. By a follower of Fra Filippo.

289. Not Mantegna himself, but after him.

1150. Perhaps a very early Crivelli, under some Flemish influence.

1088. See my book on Andrea Mantegna as Illuminator, 1957.

- 226. Not Cossa but a Ferrarese follower of Piero della Francesca.
- 28. Not Bellini but the Circle of Carpaccio.
- 32. Perhaps Paduan, but certainly not Mantegna.
- 547. Bartolommeo degli Erri.
- 29. School of Giovanni Bellini.
- 448. Close to Alvise.
- 538. After Giovanni Bellini.
- 357 and 505-506 did not originally belong together as a triptych. The tooling, though similar, is not the same.
- 256. Follower of Fra Angelico.
- 348. Probably Lorenzo di Nicolò Gerini.
- 316. Not Giovanni Bellini but a follower.
- 538. " " " " " " .
- 448. More of Alvise than of Giovanni Bellini.
- 535. Follower of Botticelli.
- 311. Not Cimabue but Venetian, early 14th century.

Meiss

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

SCHOOL OF HISTORICAL STUDIES

December 21

Dear Robert -

We have seen the
Pais house and laid the
ghost. Many thanks for
your interest.

Millard

Fae Meiss having

21 November 1960

Dear Millard:

Last summer, in a long letter about other matters, Pais mentioned to me that he and his wife might in time wish to dispose of their house on Battle Road. What he wrote was neither urgent nor completely definite. As you know, he is now in California, and will return in January. It seems to me quite out of the question that we do anything until his return, and then only in response to his initiative.

Robert Oppenheimer

Professor Millard Meiss
The Institute for Advanced Study

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

November 16th, 1960

Dr. Robert Oppenheimer
at the Institute

Dear Robert,

I am uncertain whether we should be
restraining our curiosity about Pais' house
or whether it is now time to look at it.
If it is, would you please tell me how we
should go about making an appointment.

Sincerely yours,



Millard Meiss

CROSS REFERENCE

FILE: *Fac. Meiss*

RE:

LETTER DATED:

SEE: *Fac. Pausoley Kestschrift*

Annex to the Draft Minutes of
the Faculty Meeting, March 21, 1960

Professor Meiss has asked that the following reflections on the discussion on March 21, 1960, of the Institute's library be added as an annex to the minutes of the faculty meeting:

"In general I think we all prefer superterranean buildings for libraries as well as other purposes. Our relationship to our books at the Institute is however in one respect unusual, and it would be wrong I think to envisage the Institute's library as a conventional library or a monument. Unlike the libraries of other academic institutions, and indeed unlike every other library I have used except that of the Carthusians at Calci, the library of the Institute is used exclusively by readers who have an office nearby. While current periodicals are perused in the reading rooms, books are almost always read in the cells of the readers. Thus the chief activities of members in the library are finding books and consulting them more or less briefly.

Though I am rarely seated in the reading room I see it several times a day through the window next to my office and I know how very little prolonged reading is actually done there. If the accuracy of this observation is doubted a card asking each member how many hours a month he reads in the library would provide the facts. In our case the amount of reading done in the library is proportionate to the difficulty of getting books to the offices, and if the building is placed at the corner of the campus the reading room will be more heavily populated.

Kenneth Kassler's plan for the library is the outgrowth of a proposal to meet what is for users the main requirement of the Institute's distinctive library: the maximum possible convenience of access to the books including protection from the weather. It may be judged that in his project too many other things are sacrificed to accomplish this purpose, but in estimating their importance we should, I think, consider carefully their actual significance in our unusual circumstances and in our own proved way of scholarly life.

March 22, 1960

Millard Meiss"

Bengt Strömberg
Faculty Secretary

Fac Meiss

9 February 1960

Dear Millard:

Of course you should go to Warsaw, if that seems right to you. I have no plans now for a meeting of the Faculty in April. The Trustees will be meeting here, and I had hoped that you might meet them, and they you; but that will of course keep.

With good wishes,

Robert Oppenheimer

Professor Millard Meiss
The Institute for Advanced Study

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

SCHOOL OF HISTORICAL STUDIES

February 3, 1960

Dr. Robert Oppenheimer
Institute for Advanced Study
Princeton, New Jersey

Dear Robert:

I am mulling over an invitation to take part in a small colloquium at Warsaw as the guest of the Polish government. I am tempted to accept for a number of reasons, one or two not wholly relevant to scholarship, and I think I probably have an obligation to be present because there will be at the same time a meeting of the officers of our international society.

The colloquium will be on April 4-5, so that I should leave Princeton at the end of March, and I hope that a departure some ten days before the end of the term would not cause any difficulties.

Faithfully yours,

Millard

Millard Meiss

MM:vc

Meiss

THE MEDIAEVAL ACADEMY OF AMERICA

Telephone: TROWBRIDGE 6-5823

Constituent of The American Council of Learned Societies

Cable Address: 'SPECULUM, CAMBRIDGEMASS'

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MASSEY H. SHEPHERD, JR.

E. FAYE WILSON

29 July 1959

Dear Mrs Edgerton,

Thank you very much for your note of the 28th and the list of members in the School of Historical Studies for 1959-60. I am glad to note the names of several mediaevalists on the list.

Thank you also for the information that Professor Meiss is back in Princeton. I shall write to him there shortly.

Yours faithfully,

Charles R. D. Miller

Mrs Mills Edgerton
Office of the Director
The Institute for Advanced Study
Princeton, New Jersey

28 July 1959

Dear Mr. Miller:

Thank you for your letter of July 24th. We are herewith enclosing a list of members in the School of Historical Studies for the academic year 1959-1960.

Professor Millard Meiss is back in Princeton and can be reached at the Institute for Advanced Study.

Yours sincerely,

(Mrs. Mills Edgerton)
Office of the Director

Mr. Charles R. D. Miller
The Mediaeval Academy of America
1450 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge 38, Massachusetts

encl.

THE MEDIAEVAL ACADEMY OF AMERICA

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DOROTHY MINER

ROBERT A. PRATT

JOSIAH COX RUSSELL

MASSEY H. SHEPHERD, JR.

E. FAYE WILSON

24 July 1959

*Send copy H.S.
list*

Secretary

Institute for Advanced Study
Princeton, New Jersey

Dear Sir:

I would be pleased to receive a list of the foreign scholars who are to be at the Institute for Advanced Study during the year 1959-60. We would like to invite any mediaevalists among them to attend the Mediaeval Academy meetings in December or April. At our annual meeting in Toronto last April we had the pleasure of having Professor Bernhard Bischoff as a guest and speaker.

Can you tell me when Professor Millard Meiss is expected back in Princeton? If you have a foreign address for him, I would be glad to have it.

here now

Yours faithfully,

Charles R. D. Miller

Charles R. D. Miller

CRDM:ef

cc Mr. Morgan

20 April 1959

Dear Professor Meiss:

The Trustees of the Institute, meeting on April 18th, have fixed your salary, and that of your colleagues, at \$22,500 a year, starting July 1, 1959.

I am glad to tell you the good news.

Very sincerely,

Robert Oppenheimer

Professor Millard Meiss
The Institute for Advanced Study