THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY

MINUTES
Final Revision

Meeting of the Executive Committee
of the Board of Trustees
January 22, 1957

Present — Professor Veblen; Senator Lehman; Messrs. Fulton, Galpin, Garrison, Greenbaum, Hochschild, Leidesdorf, Lewis, Linder and Mitchell; Dr. Oppenheimer, Mr. Morgan.

Absent — Admiral Strauss; Messrs. Maass, Rosenwald, and Schaap.

Presiding Officer — Mr. Leidesdorf, being the senior officer present, took the Chair, and called the meeting to order at 2:20 p.m.

Professors Panofsky and Meiss

a. Director's Report on the Matter — The Director reported that, under date of December 17, 1956, he had circulated among the members of the Board a full statement (attached) of the situation involving the possible invitation to Professor Meiss to join the Institute Faculty and the concurrent offer of a University Professorship at Harvard to Professor Panofsky. On receipt of this document, members of the Board expressed the opinion that the Panofsky matter was too pressing to await action by the Executive Committee at its meeting on January 22, 1957, and the Assistant Secretary was therefore instructed to conduct a poll by telephone on the question: "Should the Board at this time assure Professor Panofsky of an annual pension of $10,000 to begin at the time of his retirement at age sixty-eight?" All members of the Board were polled, and the vote was unanimous for such an assurance. Mr. Leidesdorf subsequently phoned Professor Panofsky the Board's decidion, and Professor Panofsky stated in reply that this action removed any possibility that he would leave the Institute faculty.

b. Action on Panofsky — Mr. Leidesdorf reported that he had had a subsequent telephone conversation with Professor Panofsky on the subject of the latter's future real estate taxes, and that he had given Professor Panofsky further assurance that the Institute would assist him in the case of any major tax increase.

It was moved and unanimously passed that the Executive Committee confirm the action of assuring Professor Panofsky of a pension of $10,000 and of assistance with any future major real estate tax increase.

c. Action on Meiss — The Director presented the unanimous recommendation of the Faculty for the appointment of Professor Millard Meiss, (vita attached), to the Faculty of Historical Studies. There was a brief discussion of Professor Meiss' personal and professional qualifications and his position in his field of scholarship. The Director stated that Professor Meiss had visited Princeton recently and that there was some reason to believe that he might accept the appointment, if it was offered.

It was moved and unanimously carried that Professor Meiss be offered a Professorship in the School of Historical studies.

Announcements The Director stated that he had three announcements that would be of interest to the members of the Board:

1. The Institute received before Christmas an anonymous gift of $50,000, to be assigned to the School of Historical Studies.

2. Professor Yang, of the Physics Faculty, recently played a major role in an exciting new development in Physics, and this is just the beginning.

3. Through the good offices of Professor Veblen, the Institute will presently receive a very fine head of Professor Hermann Weyl, executed by Mrs. Weyl. Mrs. Weyl offered it to the Institute as a gift but said that, if the Institute wished to purchase it at the price of $750, she would much prefer that the money be used here for a purpose appropriate to her husband's life.

Pension Policy The Director stated that a necessary outcome of the pension arrangement with Professor Panofsky was a thorough reexamination of pension policy for the whole faculty. He presented the following facts as background for a general discussion of the problem.

a. Background (1) The Schedule (attached) of predicted T.I.A.A. annuity payments at age sixty-eight to members of the faculty shows a range of $1,917 to $11,790.

(2) In the past, special pension arrangements have been made with various individual faculty members, either at the time of their appointment or subsequent to retirement (Einstein, Lowe, Veblen, Weyl, and the Director).

(3) Special arrangements have also been made with faculty members who came to the Institute at an advanced age, and who had other pension sources (Alföldi and Woodward).

(4) With the exception of Professor Meritt, all Faculty predicted T.I.A.A. annuities are below the $10,000 mark.

(5) The Board has earlier taken two actions which bear on this problem: (a) The raising of the retirement age from sixty-five to sixty-eight. (b) The placing of a floor of $6,000 on all Faculty pensions.

b. Philosophy The Director stated that the principle behind all contributory pension arrangements is that it is the individual's responsibility, with the help of his employer, to provide for his own future after retirement, but that, in fact, the Institute has often recognized this as

its responsibility. The Director urged, in fact, that the Board should accept the view that it is to the Institute's interest that retired professors have adequate pensions and live comfortably.

c. Questions Certain questions were raised and observations made by members of the Board and by the Director, in order to provide a basis for further inquiry by a committee of the Board. The Director stated that there were four points that he would like the committee to consider:

(1) Harvard University has recently taken its Ford money to pay the professor's share of T.I.A.A. contributions, which in effect constitutes an almost tax-free salary increase.

(2) Is T.I.A.A. actually a good buy, with its relatively low return on the dollar, as compared with the Institute's financing its own pension plan?

(3) Faculty members who have spent the major part of their academic life at the Institute should have pension arrangements from us which give them an adequate pension. Men who come to us late in life can be cared for at reasonable expense only if they have other arrangements for retirement. In all cases, if a retired Professor continues to live in Princeton and work at the Institute, the problem of his support can not be evaded by us.

(4) Should the retirement age again be raised to seventy or seventy-two, with the resultant two-fold benefits of a longer time on full salary and increased T.I.A.A. payments.

Other questions and observations made by members of the Board were as follows:

(1) An annuity plan or an insured pension plan would not protect the beneficiaries against depreciation of the dollar, and in another ten, fifteen, or twenty years the Institute would probably have to dig into its pockets to help them. Continued wise investment of the Institute's own funds would help the Institute to meet such emergencies.

(2) The Institute could deal with the danger of depreciation of money by operating its own pension fund, investing in equities such a portion thereof as it saw fit.

(3) Should the plan be contributory?

(4) Should the plan have a direct relationship to term of service?

(5) The objective of the Board should be to bring all faculty pensions up to $10,000, and the question is simply how best this can be done.

(6) What provision is being made for non-faculty employees?

d. Pension Committee — The Chairman appointed Mr. Galpin as Chairman, and Messrs. Mitchell and Hochschild as a committee to investigate the whole matter of Institute pension policy, working with the Director and any outside consultant it sees fit.

e. New Appointments — The Director stated that while this matter was under study he would describe the current pension policy to any newly-appointed faculty members, with the further explanation that a revision was now under consideration by the Board but that if there were any revision it would not operate to the disadvantage of a faculty member.

Niebuhr — The Director reported that Dr. Reinhold Niebuhr would be a member of the Institute during the coming academic year.

Astrophysicist — The Director stated that the Faculty might recommend the appointment of an astrophysicist to the Faculty in the near future, and requested permission to have the appointment, if made, confirmed by the Board by mail ballot. The permission was granted unanimously.

New Library — After some discussion, it was the sense of the meeting that the setting-up of machinery for the resolution of the library problem should be a matter of prime consideration at the Annual Meeting in April.

Annual Meeting — The Board set Thursday, April 4, at luncheon at the Uptown Club in New York City as the time and place of the Annual Meeting of the Corporation and the Board.

Adjournment — There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Minot C. Morgan, Jr.
Assistant Secretary

Attachments: R. Oppenheimer Memorandum to Trustees, 17 December 1956
Professor Meiss Vita
Schedule of predicted T.I.A.A. annuity payments

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY

PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

17 December 1956

Memorandum to the Trustees of the Institute for Advanced Study:

This memorandum concerns two historians of art: Professor Millard Meiss of Harvard, who is unanimously recommended by the Faculty of the Institute for a professorship in the School of Historical Studies, and Professor Erwin Panofsky of the Institute, whose active professorship is scheduled, according to our rules for retirement, to terminate in 1960, when he will have reached his 68th birthday. Formally, the two matters are quite distinct; substantively, they are related.

1. The origin of the consideration of Professor Meiss for an appointment on our Faculty is described in the following minute from the meeting of the School of Historical Studies of November 12th, 1956:

> "In view of Professor Panofsky's retirement in the comparatively near future, the Director made a statement regarding the problem of continuity: 'In connection with the work of the Faculty-Trustee Committee, we had occasion to notice how often in the past work in the School of Humanistic Studies and in the School of Economics and Politics had been initiated and then terminated. We know that we cannot in all instances continue even the most successful work; but we have come to the conclusion that we should try. I was thus led to speak to Professor Panofsky about the possibility of finding a successor who would in some sense continue the tradition established by him and who was also in every way a proper candidate for a professorship here. It was my hope that this appointment could be made before Professor Panofsky's retirement. In general I think this a wise policy. Professor Panofsky suggested three possible candidates, all of whom seemed excellent. The first on his list has indicated a willingness to receive our invitation.'
>
> "Professor Panofsky then gave a brief recapitulation of his views on Professor Millard Meiss of Harvard University. Thereupon Professor Kantorowicz moved that the School recommend Professor Meiss to the Faculty as a professor in the School of Historical Studies. This motion, seconded by Professor Cherniss, was unanimously approved."

Prior to this meeting, there had been discussions not only between Professor Panofsky and me, but with all members of the School.

The School presented the nomination, together with the documentation appended to this memorandum, to a meeting of the Faculty of the Institute on November 29th. The relevant minute of that meeting follows:

> "The Director stressed the importance of continuity in branches of knowledge which had been developed by the School of Historical Studies, mentioning in this connection that Professor Panofsky was to retire three years from now. Thereupon the School of Historical Studies placed the name of Millard Meiss in nomination. Professor Montgomery suggested that the same procedure be followed in the School of Mathematics. The Director pointed out that the danger of a discipline disappearing from the Institute did not exist in mathematics or physics to the same extent as it did in the School of Historical Studies. After a brief discussion of analogies and differences in the two Schools, Professor Kantorowicz presented the report on Millard Meiss. According to custom this report, before approval by the Faculty, lies over for at least two weeks. Professor Cherniss recalled that the name of Professor Meiss had figured prominently on the list of possible appointments drafted by the School of Historical Studies in 1953, actually at a time when Professor Meiss had not yet accepted the appointment to Harvard. Professor Cherniss emphasized that the School of Historical Studies in nominating Professor Meiss had not made up its mind rapidly. At the suggestion of Professor Pais, Professor Panofsky briefly recapitulated the qualities of Professor Meiss."

On December 14th the Faculty convened again, and unanimously approved the recommendation of Professor Meiss. This question is therefore now before the Trustees. The Chairman of the Board has indicated his willingness to see this acted on by letter ballot. As a practical matter, however, it is so closely related to a consideration of Professor Panofsky's situation that it could well be considered along with that situation at a meeting of the Executive Committee which we are trying to call in January.

2. Immediately after the Faculty meeting of December 14th, Professor Panofsky called on me. Within the last few days, he had had a long talk with President Pusey of Harvard. President Pusey had invited

him to accept one of the few University Professorships at Harvard, asking him to take up the appointment next year, and urging him to respond to the invitation before the end of January. The Professorship, like ours, pays a salary of $18,000 a year; unlike ours, it terminates not at the ago of 68 but at the age of 72.

On retirement from the Institute Faculty, Professor Panofsky would receive a pension, based on his and our contributions to T.I.A.A., of just about $6,000--the minimum pension voted by the Institute Trustees for its professors. He will also receive Social Security benefits which, if his wife survives, aggregate $1,953 a year, but would be available to him only in those years in which he failed to earn income in excess of $1,200.

Professor Panofsky indicated to me that on grounds of loyalty to the Institute, and in the interests of his own work and well being, he would much prefer to remain at the Institute, and not to accept the Harvard invitation. On purely mercenary grounds, he found this involved a great sacrifice--something like $12,000 a year for four years. He asked whether the Institute could take steps in part to make this up to him, should he stay. He indicated that in the absence of such measures, mercenary considerations would probably lead him to leave. He also indicated that, in his view, were he to go to Harvard, Meiss would probably elect to stay there. He said that if he could look forward to a pension of $10,000 a year he would certainly stay at the Institute. I undertook to lay this matter before the Trustees, and to let Professor Panofsky know the outcome when they had reached a decision.

3. It seems to me that the Meiss-Panofsky gambit raises questions of some gravity. If we lose Meiss and Panofsky to Harvard it will be a real blow to the work of the Institute in one of the fields in which we have done most to promote high scholarship. I do not mean that it would be impossible to attract a suitable professor--there are certainly one or two candidates--but the prospects of success are far from sure. It would also, I think, be a blow to the Institute to lose one of its great scholars to another institution; and in academic circles it would clearly indicate the inadequacy of the provision that we make for our retiring professors. The provision does seem to me inadequate. For a man accustomed to living on a salary of $18,000 a year, $6,000 a year is an inadequate pension. I believe the figures which are regarded as acceptable lie between sixty and seventy percent. $10,000 as a pension, supplemented either by a man's earnings or by Social Security benefits, would seem to me an acceptable minimum.

The Trustees may not wish to adopt a uniform and binding policy in these matters. In fact, in the case of men coming to us very late in their careers, we cannot and do not assume any such responsibilities. In the case of men coming relatively early, the pensions accumulated through contributions to T.I.A.A. are adequate. Professor Panofsky's situation is intermediate. But it seems to me that the urgent predicament in which we now find ourselves indicates a broader decision than in the case of Panofsky alone.

Robert Oppenheimer

attachments

MILLARD MEISS

During the existence of the School of Historical Studies it has happened several times that after the "demise" (death or retirement) of a professor the branch of knowledge represented by him has been discontinued. Those occurrences were not the result of deliberate policy on the part of the School. A discipline went out of existence because no suitable successor was immediately available, or the tradition was interrupted because the remaining members of the School, lacking the counsel of the qualified representative of that field, found it difficult to come to a decision.

At the present time, there is general agreement among the members of the School of Historical Studies that the discipline of History of Art should not succumb to a similar fate. On the contrary, art history, owing to the great number of points of contact with practically all other branches of knowledge represented in the School of Historical Studies, should be continued under all circumstances after the retirement of the present incumbent of that professorship.

The Director, therefore, suggested to Professor Erwin Panofsky, who will reach the age of retirement in three years, that he himself compose a list of names of scholars suitable to replace him. Three names were mentioned--primo loco that of Professor MILLARD MEISS, of Harvard University, whom the School of Historical Studies herewith nominates for a professorship.

Professor Millard Meiss is not a stranger to the Institute; he was a member during the academic year of 1939-40. Born in Cincinnati in 1904, he worked for two years in an architect's studio before starting his studies at Princeton University from which he graduated in 1928. His graduate work

in the history of art was carried through at Harvard and later at New York University where he took his Ph.D. in 1933. From 1934 to 1954 he taught at Columbia University, where starting as an instructor he was duly promoted to the rank of full professor and elected a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

In 1953, he was simultaneously called to New York University and Harvard University. Harvard offered him a professorship with the understanding that his activities would be devoted to advanced instruction as well as to the supervision of the Department of Paintings of the Fogg Museum, and that he would be free to take a leave of absence for travel and research in every second semester. This is the position he accepted and now holds. He is married and has two children (a son and a daughter) both of whom hold doctor's degrees in medicine, his wife being a Ph.D. in psychology.

The principal academic teacher of Millard Meiss was Richard Offner, at New York University, of whom it has been said that "he developed connoisseurship in the field of Italian primitives into the closest possible approximation to an exact science." With him Millard Meiss shares that unfailing perceptiveness for style and quality which is the prerequisite of connoisseurship: it can be cultivated, but not acquired. Unlike his teacher, however, Dr. Meiss did not restrict his interests to Italy; throughout his career he devoted equal attention to the history of French, Spanish, and Early Netherlandish art (see the bibliography). His forthcoming book on French book-illumination will be the first comprehensive survey of a problem which, by its very nature, would be accessible only to a scholar whose horizon is not limited by the Alps: the problem of the interaction between Italian and Northern art in the 14th and 15th centuries. Nor does Millard Meiss consider connoisseurship--that is, the study of works of art with regard

to author, provenance, date, condition, and quality--as an end in itself. A historian and linguist as well as a critic, he is accustomed to interpreting works of art as documents of civilization in addition to attributing, analyzing, or even discovering them. His book Painting in Florence and Siena after the Black Death (Princeton University Press, 1951), for which the Mediaeval Academy of America awarded him the Haskins Medal in 1951, is one of the few successful attempts at establishing a tangible and demonstrable connection between a change of style (previously dismissed as a mere "decline") and antecedent developments in social, economic, literary, and religious life.

All the writings of Millard Meiss are characterized by a rare combination of precision and imaginativeness, reflected in an unusually concise yet vivid manner of presentation. One case may be singled out for the sake of illustrating his method. During the war years he had concluded--by skilfully co-ordinating stylistic, iconographic, and documentary evidence--that three hitherto unrelated pictures by the great Early Renaissance painter Piero della Francesca had originally formed part of a dismembered polyptych two panels of which were missing. As a result of this hypothesis, Millard Meiss predicted (a) that one of the panels preserved (in the National Gallery at London, but inaccessible at that time) would show, if X-rayed and cleaned, a segment of architecture, foreshortened at a certain angle, where only an indistinct surface was visible in the photograph; and (b) that one of the two missing panels, if rediscovered, would measure 53 1/2 x 23 inches, that its top would be semicircular in shape, and that it would show a portrait of St. Augustine in full length. Within a few years, the foreshortened segment of architecture in the London panel was made visible, and a portrait of St. Augustine exactly answering to the specifications of Dr. Meiss was found in a private collection in Portugal where it had been hidden, unrecognized, for many years.

In the report of the Faculty-Trustee Study Committee it was pointed out (p.8) that the history of European art maintains in some respects a central position similar to, though on a much smaller scale, Greek archaeology. Professor Millard Meiss, who happily combines Americanism with international reputation, would be eminently suitable to continue what in a modest sense might be called a "school" of art history; for he, too, would attract both American and foreign students of art and encourage them to seek membership at the Institute. It is true, his unassuming nature and his devotion to study have prevented him from seeking the limelight; but he has never refused to shoulder any professional task, however arduous, imposed upon him by the confidence of his colleagues or by his own scholarly conscience. After the war he served as chairman of the American Committee on the Restoration of Italian Monuments. He still is one of the United States representatives on the Comité International Permanent d'Histoire de l'Art. He very nearly sacrificed three years of his life (1940-1942) as editor-in-chief of the Art Bulletin, which at the time had reached an almost hopeless crisis and which was developed during his incumbency into the leading art-historical periodical in the world. While one could name several art historians and art critics more widely known to the general public, it would be hard to find one more deeply respected by the community of scholars at home and abroad. There is, in fact, about Millard Meiss' life and character the same fundamental rightness which is reflected in his scholarly work. Combining courage and rectitude with poise and kindness, he is what the French seventeenth century would have called an honnête homme.

The procedure of the School of Historical Studies in nominating Dr. Meiss at this juncture may require a comment. Customarily, it is true, the motto Le mort saisit le vif would be valid also for professorial appointments, whereas in this case the idea would prevail that "the quick seizes the quick." Since Professor Panofsky has another three years to go, the new appointment would result in a temporary overlap of two representatives in the same field. Far from being harmful, this overlap would secure the continuity of tradition most effectively, not to mention the fact that the working together of two scholars in the same field would be a stimulus for both. There is another reason, however, for prompt action. At present there is a good chance that Professor Meiss will accept our invitation, whereas the same might not be true a year or two from now. It is commonly known that Dr. Bernard Berenson, in Florence, intends to bequeath his Florentine estate, Villa I Tatti, to Harvard University. In the event of such a bequest it will almost certainly fall to Professor Meiss to preside over this new acquisition of Harvard University. If Professor Meiss should once have established himself in Florence, the chances of luring him back to Princeton soon would surely be diminished. For this additional reason the School of Historical Studies feels that this is the proper time to appoint Professor Millard Meiss to a professorship in the Institute.

Principal Publications of Professor Millard Meiss

1. "Ugolino Lorenzetti," Art Bulletin, XIII, 1931, pp. 376-397.

2. "The Problem of Francesco Traini," ibidem, XV, 1933, pp. 97-173.

3. "The Madonna of Humility," ibidem, XVIII, 1935, pp. 435-464.

4. "Un dessin du Maître des Grandes Heures de Rohan," Gazette des Beaux-Arts, ser. 6, XIII, 1935, pp. 65-75.

5. "The Earliest Work of Giovanni di Paolo," Art in America, XXIV, 1936, pp. 136-143.

6. "A Dugento Altarpiece in Antwerp," Burlington Magazine, LXXI, 1937, pp. 14-25.

6a. "Fresques italiennes...à Béziers," Gazette des Beaux-Arts, ser. 6, XVIII, 1937, pp. 275-286.

7. "Italian Style in Catalonia and a Fourteenth-Century Italian Workshop," Walters Art Journal, IV, 1941, pp. 45-87.

8. "A Documented Altarpiece by Piero della Francesca," Art Bulletin, XXIII, 1941, pp. 53-68.

9. "Light as Form and Symbol in Some Fifteenth-Century Paintings," ibidem, XXVII, 1945, pp. 175-181.

10. "Bartolommeo Bolgarini, altrimenti detto 'Ugolino Lorenzetti,'" Rivista d'Arte, XVII, 1946, pp. 113-136.

11. "Italian Primitives at Konopiště," Art Bulletin, XXVIII, 1946, pp. 1-16.

12. Painting in Florence and Siena after the Black Death, Princeton, 1951.

13. "Nicholas Albergati and the Chronology of Jan van Eyck's Portraits," Burlington Magazine, XCIV, 1952, pp. 137-146.

14. "London's New Masaccio," Art News, L, 1952, pp. 23-26.

15. "Ovum struthionis, Symbol and Allusion in Piero della Francesca's Monforte Altarpiece," Studies in Art and Literature for Belle da Costa Greene, Princeton, 1954, pp. 90-101.

16. "The Exhibition of French Manuscripts of the XIII-XVI Centuries at the Bibliothèque Nationale," Art Bulletin, XXXVIII, 1956, pp. 187-196.

In Print: A book to be entitled Studies in Quattrocento Painting (Mantegna, etc.)

Ready for publication: A book to be entitled Studies in French Illumination (chiefly concerned with the critical period around 1400, viz., the activities of such precursors of modern painting as Jacquemart de Hesdin, the Limbourg brothers, the Maître des Heures du Maréchal de Boucicaut).

THE FRICK COLLECTION
1 East 70th Street, New York 21, New York

November 16, 1956

Dr. Erwin Panofsky
School of Historical Studies
The Institute for Advanced Study
Princeton, New Jersey

Dear Pan:

I am pleased to have the opportunity to express my opinion regarding the proposed recommendation that Millard Meiss be appointed to a professorship in the School of Historical Studies of The Institute for Advanced Study. First of all, let me say that I would recommend his appointment to this position whole-heartedly, and without qualifications.

I have known Millard Meiss as a professional colleague for more than fifteen years. His accomplished record as a scholar, shown by a notable series of publications, clearly indicates that he possesses in a high degree those qualities of analytical judgment and artistic perception that are required by this position. He has the ability to discern important problems, and the literary capacity to present his ideas effectively. In addition to building an eminent record as a teacher at Columbia and Harvard Universities, he has ably participated in the activities of various national and international art organizations, so that he is keenly aware of the practical issues which confront our profession.

From my own observations, and from the remarks made by Dr. Oppenheimer in a recent article, I understand that one of the problems which has to be faced by all members of The Institute for Advanced Study is that the very freedom from normal academic duties, which makes these positions desirable, can also become a danger, even for a mature scholar. In my opinion, Millard Meiss has clearly shown that he possesses those qualities of discipline and self-control that would avoid any difficulties in this direction.

I believe that appointing Millard Meiss to this position in The Institute for Advanced Study would result in a continuing and productive enrichment of art historical scholarship, fully in keeping with the high tradition which it now enjoys.

With best personal regards,

Sincerely,

/s/ Franklin Biebel

Franklin M. Biebel
Director

FMB/b

YALE UNIVERSITY
Department of the History of Art
New Haven, Connecticut

Dec. 5, 1956

Dear Pan:

Please pardon the delay in answering your letter of November 13. In spite of football games, Thanksgiving, etc. I have had to keep to my schedule which is very heavy at this time of the year. It seems to be the Medieval section of our survey course and it has kept me busy.

I am, of course, delighted and should say complimented to be asked to write about Millard Meiss's qualifications. I presume that his academic record is well known to your faculty and I shall, therefore, not go into these details. I have known Millard for more than fifteen years and have the highest regard and affection for him. Although I have never been associated with him directly in a scholarly project, I have served on numerous committees with him. His mind is always keen, alert and quick to seize the significant features of a problem, and his final judgment is always equally weighed and tested against all available evidence. These same qualities mark his scholarship as is amply demonstrated by his publications. Certainly among American scholars he enjoys an outstanding position, and this is true abroad as well as in this country, although I believe that his impatience with careless and inept publishers may have created some tension now and then. It would seem somewhat futile to ring further changes on this same theme. It is obvious that I have the highest opinion of Millard as a scholar and as a person, and if it were at all possible to find someone to succeed Pan, then he certainly is the ideal person.

With my very best wishes and I do hope we may see you before too long.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Sumner McK. Crosby

Mr. Erwin Panofsky
Institute for Advanced Study
Princeton, N. J.

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY
Princeton, New Jersey

Department of Art and Archaeology

November 15, 1956

Professor Erwin Panofsky
The Institute for Advanced Study
Princeton, N. J.

Dear Pan:

I am delighted to hear that the Institute is thinking seriously of inviting Millard Meiss to become a professor in the School of Historical Studies, and I give the idea my full and most enthusiastic support. So, I may say proleptically, would every member of my department if they knew, as I do, what may be the shape of things to come.

Millard, a scholar of international reputation, is the foremost authority in this country, if not in the world, on late mediaeval and early renaissance painting in Italy, and he is likewise a powerful scholar in the field of the northern renaissance. His coming to Princeton would be a most valuable complement to the work of my department, which has no representative in the fields in which Millard is strong. Millard is, furthermore, a man of great culture and wisdom, whose opinion and advice in the councils of our discipline are often sought and always respected. And he is a gentleman in the best sense of the word.

On every count, it seems to me, the Institute could not make a finer choice or one better calculated to redound to the fame of its historical studies. If a vote were taken by serious historians of art in this country as to who is the best candidate for the position at the Institute, I am certain that the lot would fall on Millard.

Yours faithfully,

/s/ Rensselaer W. Lee

CARL NORDENFALK
Curator
Nationalmuseum
Stockholm

19.XI.1956

Professor E. Panofsky
The Institute for Advanced Study
Princeton, N. J.

Dear Pan,

Your request that I should state my opinion as to Millard Meiss' qualifications to become your successor puts me in front of a flattering task which I will do my best to answer immediately.

Your question really implies the problem who among the younger art historians of our days would be the best of all - and you know, as well as anybody that there is no absolute scale of values in existence to be applied in this case. But I am sure that if there were, Meiss would come very high on the list and probably top it.

In order to support this statement one has only to mention Meiss' main work (so far) "Painting in Florence and Siena after the Black Death," with its happy combination of social and art historical points of view. It is a standard work in every respect. And yet the reputation of Meiss rests to no less degree on a series of articles on Italian and French painting of the XIV and XV centuries which have appeared in different periodicals like the Art Bulletin, the Burlington Magazine, Gazette des Beaux-Arts and others.

They have some very specific qualities in common. They are positive, founded on facts, as is - or should be - any report of a commission, yet they are at the same time exciting in the same way as a good detective story. They introduce new material of real importance, and they always bring solution to essential problems. Our present knowledge of great masters like Duccio, Simone Martini, Piero della Francesca to mention only these, is for ever tied up with his happy discoveries. He has been able to do them because he has at the same time the sharp eye of a connoisseur and the acute mind of a scientist.

All these qualities have recently been brilliantly displayed by Meiss in his fundamental reviews of two remarkable exhibitions in Paris - on Italian primitives in La Revue des Arts and on French Gothic illumination in the Art Bulletin.

May I conclude by saying that if Meiss is appointed your successor it will be a honor and a privilege for him, but also a splendid choice from the side of the Institute.

If you want to make use of this letter - however superfluous this may seem - I will, of course, only be delighted.

With kindest regards,

Yours as always,

/s/ Carl Nordenfalk

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY
Institute of Fine Arts
17 East 80th Street
New York 21, N.Y.

November 26, 1956

Professor Erwin Panofsky
The Institute for Advanced Study
Princeton, New Jersey

Dear Pan:

I am impressed with the wisdom of your decision to recommend Millard Meiss of Harvard University for a Professorship at The Institute for Advanced Study and very glad of the opportunity you give me to write about him.

It has been clear, I believe, for some time that Millard Meiss is the outstanding American art historian of his generation. Nor can I think of anyone better abroad. This is so for several reasons.

Professor Meiss combines in himself the principal kinds of study of the history of art, not normally united in one person, and he excels in each. Art history could not be written without the findings of connoisseurship. Professor Meiss is, first of all, a distinguished connoisseur of unusual perception and exactness, with a record in the publication of new attributions that time is proving astonishingly flawless. At the same time, the study of the subject matter of art, as developed especially by Aby Warburg and his circle, finds in him a distinguished exponent of great learning and skill. But he is more, as his ground-breaking book Painting in Florence and Siena after the Black Death shows: a penetrating critic of works of art, responsive in a most creative way to their content, and a highly original but scrupulous historian of major art-historical developments and their relation to other aspects of history. This book has, in fact, provided a model of sound method for the study of art as an expression of society and culture, for which accurate techniques are sorely needed. It is the great virtue of Professor Meiss, finally, that, far from specialising in the art of only one country, he directs his special attention to the history of art in Late Medieval and Renaissance Europe as a whole, with nearly equal emphasis on Italy, the Netherlands, and France. The advantage he derives from thus bridging the Europe of so crucial an era gives an unusual authority to all his writing, however minute or sweeping the study that may engage him.

Besides his qualifications as a creative scholar, Professor Meiss has the respect of his colleagues in his profession as a man of wisdom, and he is, therefore, high in its councils, both as an officer of The College Art Association of America and a member of the International

Committee on the History of Art. His is always the thoughtful, measured, yet imaginative counsel. As a professor at The Institute for Advanced Study, he could be counted upon to exercise the influence that goes with the position with rare conscientiousness and judgment in the best interests of scholarship in our field.

I hope very much Professor Meiss will be appointed. He would be a credit to your great center of learning and valued, I might add, as a delightful and stimulating person in the scholarly community. I am certain his would be an appointment applauded and welcomed on every hand.

Let me say, however, that all of us will regret beyond measure the corollary of a new appointment, namely, your retirement. It is difficult even to think of it.

With my best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Craig Hugh Smyth
Director

CHS:es