PREFACE:

THE KING'S COLLEGE CONFERENCE

This volume represents the Proceedings of the Third International Conference on Classical Influences organised at the Research Centre of King's College, Cambridge, by Dr. R. R. Bolgar and myself, with generous help from the College in funds and facilities. The first took place on 8–12 April 1969, when twenty-seven scholars spoke, some for half-an-hour, some for ten minutes. The subject was Classical Influences on European Culture, A.D. 500–1500, and the Proceedings, edited by Dr Bolgar and handsomely printed by the Cambridge University Press, were published in 1971. The second took place on 7–11 April 1974, when twenty-eight scholars spoke, fifteen minutes instead of ten being allowed for the shorter papers. The title made the object of the conference more explicit: Classical Influences on European Culture, A.D. 1500–1700: What Needs to be Done? The Proceedings were published in the same way, in 1976.

The present Conference was held on 27–31 March 1977. The form was as before: there were no complimentary introductions and no formal discussion. Though anyone interested was invited to attend the sessions, and satisfactory numbers did, the conditions were sufficiently intimate for discussion to take place easily between interested individuals over coffee or wine after the papers. On this occasion however it seemed appropriate to have fewer speakers and to allow them more time. Four of the twenty spoke for an hour after dinner, the rest for half-an-hour. Professor Owen generously agreed at short notice to speak on Aristotle, Professor G. Patzig having withdrawn. Dr Bolgar read a paper himself besides contributing the final summing-up which has been a feature of these conferences and the basis of his Introductions to the Proceedings.

The starting-date of 1650 was chosen, despite the overlap, because, as things turned out, hardly anyone at the previous Conference had touched on the second half of the seventeenth century. It also seemed appropriate to give rather more of a lead as to subject when inviting speakers, and to limit to certain aspects a field which would otherwise have been too vast. Literature and art were therefore deliberately excluded for this occasion.

As before, we had the help of a Committee consisting of Cambridge
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scholars – Dr C. P. Courtney and Professors M. I. Finley, L. W Forster, E. J. Kenney, U. Limentani and G. E. L. Owen – to whom we are very grateful. Again also we had invaluable advice from Professor J. B. Trapp, now Director of the Warburg Institute, who attended the Conference as a guest of honour, as did also Professor A. Dihle of Heidelberg and Sir Isaiah Berlin. Dr J. J. Hall again kindly arranged an exhibition at the University Library of books relevant to the Conference, and Mr Michael Roberts, Mrs E. L. Brown and Mrs H. M. Clark helped greatly with the organisation within the College.

We are only too well aware that even the collective knowledge of our Committee, greatly reinforced by Professor Finley, could not hope to avoid overlooking scholars who had a strong claim to be invited – not that we would have wished to exclude any of those we were fortunate enough to obtain. As it was, we had to lament the unavoidable withdrawal of Professors H. Dieckmann, A. Momigliano, G. Oestreich and G. Patzig, and Bodley’s Librarian R. Shackleton; also of Mr Stuart Hampshire, who was to have been a guest of honour.

Once more we must emphasise that we made only a very sketchy attempt to cover the whole field though several speakers responded to suggestions that they should deal with topics we should have been sorry to omit. In general scholars were given their head to deal with what they were interested in within the framework of the Conference.

L. P. WILKINSON
EDITOR’S NOTE

It will be obvious that the subjects discussed at this Conference relate
for the most part to the history of ideas. They are concerned almost
exclusively with social, political, philosophical and educational
issues. When this more restricted scope was chosen – restricted when
compared with the two earlier conferences – it was hoped that the
material we have here would be supplemented at a later date by the
proceedings of another conference that would deal specifically with
literature and art. The series would then have extended over the
whole period from the fall of the Roman Empire to the beginning of
modern times.

As was the case with the proceedings of the two previous con-
f erences, the papers do not follow here the order in which they were
delivered, but are arranged in groups according to subject; and it
must be pointed out once again that this arrangement is often crude
and arbitrary, since some speakers covered a wide range of subjects.
We can see from the Introduction that parts of their papers would
have fitted more appropriately under another heading than the one
under which they are placed.

Less attention was paid on this occasion to the gaps in our know-
ledge about the influence of the classical tradition, but the item
‘research opportunities’ has been included in the Index to call
attention to such references as were made.

Authors were asked to correct their contributions, and most of
them have added substantial notes. One major disappointment must
however be recorded. Professor G. E. L. Owen, who read papers on
Plato and Aristotle in the nineteenth century, was unfortunately
unable owing to illness to prepare these for publication.

Finally, the editor would like to take this opportunity to offer his
thanks to the Provost and Fellows of King’s College; to the Syndics
and Staff of the Cambridge University Press; to Dr Elisabeth
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