

STUDY AND WORK

2. THE ARCHIVES OF CONTEMPORARY ART.

Rapp. : Pierre FRANCASTEL.

The Dublin Congress approved in principle the work plan proposed last year by the French and Italian delegations.

With regard to the question of premises for the IAAC, negotiations have been successfully concluded. For its Archives the IAAC has now at its disposal extensive filing cabinets and drawers in the reserve room of the Doucet Library, attached to the University of Paris. Files can be consulted by members of the IAAC in the reserve room itself which offers quite large available accommodation. The autonomy of the documents can be assured since the statutes of the Doucet Foundation provide, on the one hand, for the control of communications and, on the other, for the possibility of creating autonomous funds. Consequently the question of premises is settled.

With regard to the wish expressed at Dublin that the French section should undertake a study of the sources of Cubism, this has been done. The Congress will be able to hear a report by M. Guy HABASQUE who has just completed an important thesis for his Doctorate of Literature on Cubism, and who will give an account of the present known sources of Cubism. Furthermore M. Habasque is preparing a wider documentation on the development of Cubism after 1914.

In addition, thanks to the generosity of Madame Delaunay, M. Francastel has had access to the unpublished papers of Robert Delaunay. These documents have all been deciphered and transcribed; they will be published during 1955 through the good offices of the Ecole des Hautes Etudes.

Finally an echo of the work undertaken in the field of the relations between art and science at the beginning of this century will be heard in the debate on the links between science and art. The study by M. Bouligand professor of mathematics at the Sorbonne, will be published in the Journal of Psychology. The work of the colloquy on Colour will be published separately this coming winter.

It would seem, then, that the collecting and study of material for a scientific study of Cubism has made positive progress.

It is to be hoped, moreover, that other studies relative to other great contemporary movements will be undertaken with a view to publication. The material which has helped in the preparation of these studies should subsequently be filed at the Doucet Library - as will no doubt be the case for Cubism and the Delaunay papers.

Furthermore, it seems that the Istanbul Congress ought to take up another aspect of the problem raised last year in Dublin. Namely the largest possible collection of photographic and bibliographic material relating to contemporary art, without any immediate view to publication. It is particularly to be hoped that the possibility of making a collection of all the catalogues of exhibitions relating to contemporary art, will be seriously studied.

We also think it would be profitable to study the possibility of collecting photographs, or at least memoranda of photographic sources, on the occasion of great international exhibitions and even private shows.