

The Society's Archive of Publications: The Confraternities Collection at the CRRS

One of the observations made during last April's conference was that those of us working on confraternities needed to set up both a system of communication and a resources-base. As a result, the newsletter *Confraternitas* was founded to facilitate the spread of information about our work. And to make the products of our research readily available to our colleagues, we decided to establish an Archive of publications.

It became clear during the conference that too often our publications on confraternities appear in discipline-based journals, and because of this those of us working in other disciplines are not always up to date on recent scholarship. Other times articles appear in small journals or in festschrifts that do not have wide circulation, and so are difficult to consult -- even when we know of their existence, we cannot get our hands on them.

The founding members of the Society decided, therefore, to start a collection of offprints and books dealing with confraternities. The collection would be housed in a central location and would be open to all *bona fide* scholars (or students). Because there was no money to start purchasing the necessary items, we decided to rely on donations of articles and books by authors (and others) who felt strongly enough about the need for such a resource.

After a discussion with the Director of the Centre for Reformation and Renaissance Studies (Toronto), which co-hosted the conference, we reached an agreement whereby the material donated by Society members and friends would be housed as a separate sub-collection of the CRRS's own rich holdings in Renaissance and Reformation materials. This "Confraternities Collection," therefore, would not stand alone, but would be part of a larger, respected scholarly collection.

The advantages of associating a infant *fondo* on confraternities with an adult library on the Renaissance and Reformation are many; the foremost of which is that supporting materials, not dealing directly with confraternities, would be readily available next to the Confraternities Collection. The question of space to house and manpower to manage such a collection would also be resolved by including such matters within the context of a much larger enterprise.

The CRRS offers other advantages for us, as well. For one, it has a successful programme of Senior Fellowships, which could be of interest to scholars interested in spending a few months in Toronto on a sabbatical or on a research leave. A "Senior Fellow" has access to all the University of Toronto libraries, a study carrel in the CRRS, and membership in the Victoria College Senior Common Room, all of which would be fine fringe benefits when on a research leave.

Those of us working on English confraternities will be happy to know that the Records of Early English Drama project is

also located at Victoria College. Its interests in English guilds and its extensive resources (in microfilm, texts, and published volumes) will complement and enrich the research opportunities for scholars working on English confraternities. An article on the REED project will appear in a later issue of *Confraternitas*.

All articles and books donated to the Confraternities Collection will be listed in the *Publications Received* rubric in the Society's newsletter. This listing offers us not only a quick bibliography of recent scholarship by members and friends, but over the course of time it will also give us a good list of the holdings of the Confraternities Collection. The first such *Publications Received* rubric appears in this issue of the newsletter.

Everybody who has worked or published on confraternities is urged, therefore, to think of the Confraternities Collection and send to the editors of *Confraternitas* their offprints/books for inclusion in both the *fondo* and the newsletter's bibliography.

Konrad Eisenbichler

The Director of the CRRS writes:

I am delighted to welcome the Confraternities Collection to the Centre for Reformation and Renaissance Studies. This initiative arises, in part, out of the work of scholars already involved with the Centre, and illustrates the way in which the Centre's interests increasingly dissolve the boundaries between disciplines. The CRRS will do whatever it can to help the Society in establishing a shared body of resources in this vital and interesting area of Renaissance studies. And of course we all look forward to welcoming you to Victoria when you come to use the resources you will help us bring together!

Germaine Warkentin
Director, CRRS