9 RESCUED WORKS OF ART

SPANISH RELIEF COMMITTEE

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16th June, 1938.

In response to urgent cables from the Co-ordinating Committee for Spanish Relief in Paris, the Australian people collected over £1000 in May. Every penny of this was needed for ambulances and food: air-raids had doubled the numbers of helpless refugees.

> Anyone willing to help can do so now. We would like ,ou to call at our office: A send helf .

> > Nettie Palmer President.



In this war for the independence of Spain, it is not only the spiritual and geographical liberty of our country which is being decided, but also the possession of our artistic treasures.

Before the outbreak of this war of foreign invasion, of the armed irruption into our country of men whose colour and language differ from our own, our people were not able to enjoy the magnificent art treasures which are the pride of our country.

The museums, private collections and exhibitions were not for the people, were kept, as it were, out of their reach.

Notwithstanding the propaganda made by the liberal Governments since 1931, inspite of the efforts of the Pedagogic Missions, created for the purpose of expanding culture and making our art known in all the hamlets and villages throughout the country, the number of people to enter museums on their own impulse continued being very limited. Only a small minority was able to indulge in the contemplation of our Art which, until the war, continued being the property of just a few and not of all and for all.

During this conflict, which started by being a civil war and is now a war of independence, the Government, besides attending to the innumerable and fundamental war problems, has devoted time, attention and energies to the rescue and safeguarding of Spanish Art for the people of Spain.

And therefore, inspite of bombardments, fires and air-raids, our Art, the much-coveted Art of our country, is now, in its greater part, out of danger, and carefully guarded, to be given back to the people on the day of victory.

From the very first moment the Government has done its best to save, protect and rescue all the marvellous works of art, which centuries of the highest artistic tradition and culture have lavished on our territory, which we have now started to reconquer, rescuing herewith from the grasp of the barbarians the booty treason had surrendered to them.

On the explosion of the first bomb, with its trail of smoke and death, the Minister of Public Instruction created the Committee for the Defense and Protection of National Art, the magnificent work of which is universally admired, but which constitutes an unpardonable offense in the eyes of international Fascism, with its lust of destruction both of culture and human lives.

Almost all the art treasures of loyal Spain, promised as booty of war to international Fascism by our "old generals", have been saved by the members of our Committee, and other are being rescued in the rebel zone by our "new Generals". We are able to assure, therefore, that only a small part of our works of art have been the prey of fire and nocturnal bombardments.

The National State Tourist Department, the mission of which consists, in war-time as in peace, in giving out information concerning the culture and art of Spain, has now the pleasure and satisfaction of announcing to the entire civilized world that, thanks to the untiring and ceaseless efforts of the Republican Government, there are still many beautiful things to be seen in our country.

The booklet we are publishing herewith, is intended to serve as an index of the work which is now being done, giving a sample of the styles, schools and monuments which form part of the artistic wealth of Spain.

These photographs are the best arm we can flourish in the face of the traitors who, in order to attain their goal, have not hesitated to offer up the treasures of Spain's artistic tradition, to exchange our Art for war material with which to bathe our country in blood; they are documents which prove the spirit in which we are fighting this war: they, our enemies, burn and destroy; we rescue and save.

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In this booklet we have selected nine works of art for publication, in order to give an idea of the different aspects of the magnificent work which has been done by the Government of the Spanish Republic,

The reproduction of all the works of art which form part of the artistic wealth of Spain and which are now under the care and protection of a Board delegated by the "Dirección General de Bellas Artes", would fill several volumes.

All the works of art which we are reproducing in this publication are placed under the care of the Committee for Protection and Preservation of the National Art Treasure.

Bronze lamp of the purest Roman style.

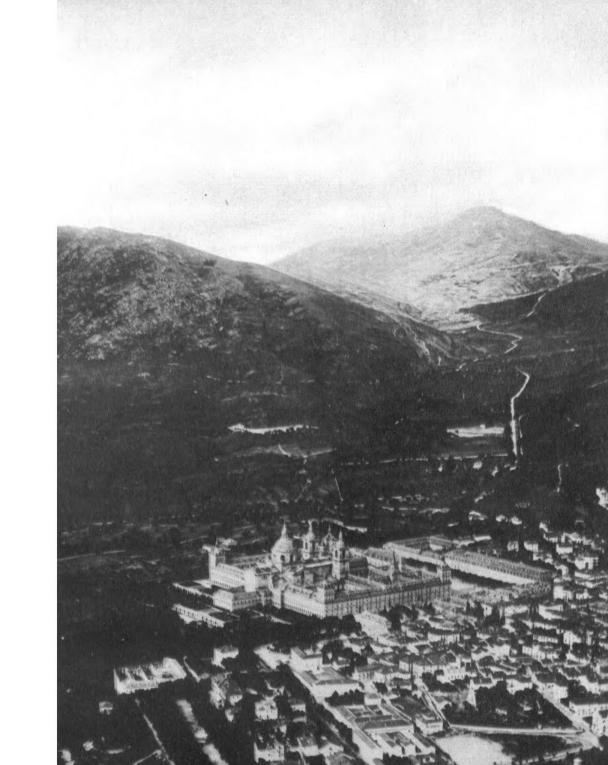
The splendid victory of the Popular Army over the Italians at Guadalajara was followed by the conquest of Brihuega and the rescue of its magnificent gardens, unique in their style and beauty. A corner of the same.



Chalice of the Cathedral of Cuenca (XVth Century) with monstrance of the XVIth century fitted into the opening of the chalice.



Picture of Velazquez "The Spinners".



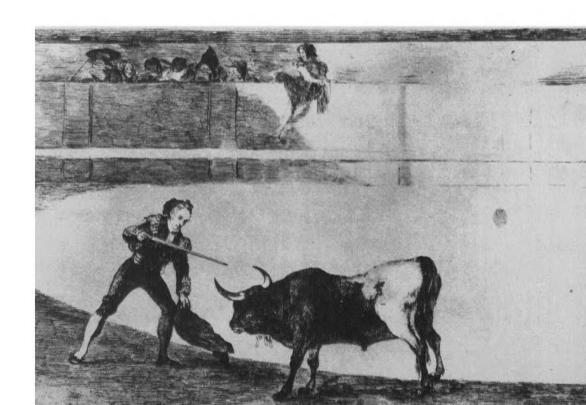
The Escorial Monastery, which the Army of the Republic, by its magnificent resistance in the Guadarrama-mountains and followed by the victories of Brunete, has known how to defend against the foreign invasion.



One of the tapestries of the splendid collection property of the Spanish Republic.



Polychromated wood-carving, of the Cathedral of Cuenca.



Engraving of Goya, entitled "Pedro Romero matando a toro parado" belonging to the collection "La Tauromaquia", published by the National Calcography towards 1815.

