PREFACE.

The contents of this second volume of the *Papers of the British School at Rome* afford a further illustration of the variety and extent of the work which such an institution can do, even though like the other foreign schools in Rome it is precluded, by circumstances, from the actual excavation of ancient sites.

The history of the monuments of Rome, whether classical or mediaeval, whether still existing or not, is difficult to write: to a very large extent the materials must be sought for elsewhere than in the soil of Rome, in the libraries and museums of Europe. Of especial importance are the drawings of these monuments made by architects, artists, and antiquaries during the period of the Renaissance.

The value of this kind of evidence is now fully appreciated by all students of the subject. But to render it available for study and criticism accurate reproduction of the originals is necessary, and a good deal has been already done in this direction, notably by Professors Lanciani and Huelsen.

The drawings now published are not only of great importance in themselves, but the fact that they were discovered by British scholars in the Soane Museum in London seemed to make it the clear duty of the British School at Rome to place this new material as promptly as possible in the hands of students.

H. F. Pelham.

*(Chairman of the Committee.)*