

ANTIQUÉ SILVER EXHIBITION

*Sir Ashley Clarke*

Attended by the British Ambassador ~~Clark~~ and the Undersecretary to the Public Instruction Jervolino, a show has been inaugurated at Palazzo Venezia in Rome for the exhibition of antique silver brought to Rome by the British Council.

"Argenti inglesi" are being shown under the auspices of the Ministero della "Pubblica Istruzione".

The silver dates from 1660 to 1830 and is considered to be the most important display ever sent abroad. It is a literally dazzling collection which includes a goodly number of pieces from Her Majesty's Treasury. The modern galleries of historic Palazzo Venezia gleam with masterpieces borrowed by London's Victoria and Albert Museum for this traveling exhibition. The silver comes from all over England on loan from museums, churches, guilds, private owners, cities and the Royal Collections. Among the many contributors to this cultural exchange are listed the Ashmolean Museum of Oxford, the Provost and ~~the~~ Fellows of Eton, the Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths of London and the cities of Bath, Birmingham, Nottingham and York.

Much of the silver is gilded into; even greater splendor. Some of the pieces are of breathtaking grandeur and all are of exquisite craftsmanship. There are richly chased stately candelabra, magnificent chalices from the churches, tankards fit for kings and plates the size of cartwheels.

The exhibition is open daily from now until Jan. 12th.