

CORRESPONDENCE

justify me in examining this tradition, and I conceived that even the Thomists themselves would admit that there was *some* "novelty" in the re-formulation of Thomism to meet the Molinist position. For this mistake, and for the unfortunate impression which it may have caused, I am sorry; and should it ever happen that I cover any of this ground again in a published work, I shall attempt to correct both.

I am, Sir,
Yours faithfully,
NIGEL ABERCROMBIE.

CHRISTIAN ART

To the Editor of BLACKFRIARS

SIR,—Although I agree very largely with Ivan Brook's article on Christian art published in the May number of BLACKFRIARS, I felt I must encroach on your courtesy to give me room in your Review to express an opinion that there is a certain danger in holding "Art for Art's sake" as being altogether against Catholic principles.

"Art for Art's sake" is the same as saying art for contemplation's sake, that is, not for utility. Both forms of art are needed. It is true that at the present time the artist is pushed to dedicate himself almost entirely to the first form because society does not employ him as they should; and I greatly desire the artist to take a normal place in society again. But in desiring this there is no need to condemn "Art for Art's sake." Art may be the subject of art as thought may be the subject of thought in psychology. Naturally it can only appeal to a limited public in the same way as philosophy and abstract thought can only be followed by an *élite*. "Organization" of line, colour and rhythm is not just a sensuous arrangement, but being connected with order is rather an intellectual arrangement. Again, although it is true that art reflects the whole person and therefore the need of a Catholic Art, yet there should not be too much fear in taking inspiration from non-Catholic artists. Few knew better than St. Thomas how to utilize the fruits of thought gathered by pagan philosophers!

I should like to close by suggesting that it would be very useful if a Catholic Summer School Week at Oxford could be arranged to deal with Christian and Sacred Art.

I am, Sir,
Yours faithfully,
J. MORRIS, S.P.