

THE STATE HERMITAGE



ANNUAL REPORT

1996



The State Hermitage is a national museum of the world culture and is to collect, keep, study and display the monuments of world culture and fine arts, thus promoting the spirit of mutual understanding and respect between different nations.

Following this mission, the Hermitage combines in itself a state depository, a research institute, an educational institute, and an architectural and historical preserve as well.

The life itself and the care for the future chose the two main purposes in the frame of the Great Hermitage, a programme for the general reconstruction of the museum. — to preserve and to demonstrate.

The first one means the increasing of control over the collections, their better registration and preservation, as well as the museum buildings and equipment; while the second one means the turn of the museum to its visitors, to their demands and wishes, the creation of a benevolent atmosphere in the museum.

The museum is to be somewhat isolated from the outer world but at the same time extremely hospitable as well. In this respect it is like a monastery preserving the spiritual heritage of the nation. It is separated from the world but everyone who enters it is met with love.

И. М. Попов