

AHIS 477—STUDIES IN VISUAL AND MATERIAL CULTURE: EARLY MODERN COLLECTING

Fall 2012
VKC 257, Mondays 3-5:50 pm
Office Hours by Appointment

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This seminar examines European collections and collecting practices during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. It explores the ways natural specimens, scientific instruments, ethnographic artifacts, antiquities, and works of art were circulated, acquired, displayed, and documented by collectors from Rome to Copenhagen. We shall consider how collections were used and understood in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries as well as their political, social, cultural, and scientific significance.

The study of early modern collections has expanded rapidly over the past two decades. Scholars have sought to better understand the consequences of early modern collecting, particularly in terms of their role in the history of art, the history of science, and the history of cross-cultural exchange. This seminar seeks to help students to develop a critical understanding of the relationship between collections, political power, the global economy, European self-definition, and European colonization. The approach will be comparative, drawing on collections both north and south of the Alps. The meetings will be organized thematically ranging in topics from the collection of New World artifacts by Italian natural philosophers to the collection of German automata by Holy Roman Emperors.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

The success of the course depends upon an engaged and lively group dynamic. For this reason, attendance, participation, and completion of the reading assignments are crucial. The other major requirements for the seminar are oral presentations, and a final research paper (10 to 12 pages) on a topic of relevance to the course.

ORAL ASSIGNMENTS (50% of final grade)

Active Participation in seminar discussion (15%)

Leading Discussion: (20 %)

Each week a pair of students will act as discussion leaders. The pair of students will discuss the readings with each other prior to meeting with the professor on the **Monday** before their seminar presentation. **(To be clear: the meeting will take place one week before the pair of students will act as discussion leaders.)** At this meeting the students, with the guidance of the professor, will develop a list of questions related to the readings. These questions will serve both as a guide to the reading assignment for the other seminar participants as well as discussion topics during the week the pair of students act as discussion leaders. The questions will be posted to Blackboard on the **Tuesday** before the seminar meets.

Presentation of Research Topic: (15%)

On **Monday, October 15, 2012** each student will be responsible for briefly (5 minutes) presenting the topic of their research, the central question that drives their research, and summarize the state of the literature.

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS (50% of final grade)

Abstract: (10%)

Students will submit a one-page abstract of their final paper on **Monday, October 22, 2012**.

Annotated Bibliography: (10%)

Students will submit a five-page annotated bibliography on **Monday, October 22, 2012**. The annotated bibliography cannot include literature from the reading assignments.

Final Paper: (30%)

Students will submit a 10 to 12 page research paper, which includes footnotes (according Chicago Manual of Style guidelines) and images with captions, on **Monday, December 17, 2012**. The page count does not include images. There must be 10 to 12 pages of text, and the paper must be written in 12-point Times New Roman. Footnotes must be in 10-point Times New Roman.

READINGS

The following books will be available for purchase at the campus bookstore:

- Bredekamp, Horst, *The Lure of Antiquity and the Cult of the Machine: The Kunstkammer and the Evolution of Nature, Art and Technology*, trans. Allison Brown (Princeton: Markus Wiener Publisher, 1993).
- Smith, Pamela H., and Paula Findlen, *Merchants and Marvels: Commerce, Science and Art in Early Modern Europe* (New York: Routledge, 2002).
- Daston, Lorraine and Katherine Park, *Wonders and the Order of Nature, 1150-1750* (New York: Zone Books, 1998).
- Foucault, Michel, *The Order of Things, An Archaeology of the Human Sciences* (New York: Vintage Books, 1994).

All reading assignments that are not pulled from the texts above will be posted on the seminar's Blackboard site.

SEMINAR SCHEDULE

I. WEEK 1 (08/27/2012): INTRODUCTION TO SEMINAR

- Discussion of seminar mechanics; introductory lecture.

II. WEEK 2 (09/10/2012): EARLY MODERN COLLECTIONS

- Horst Bredekamp, *The Lure of Antiquity and the Cult of the Machine*, trans. Allison Brown (Princeton: Markus Wiener Publisher, 1993): 1-36

- Mark A. Meadow, “Merchants and Marvels: Hans Jacob Fugger and the Origins of the Wunderkammer” in Smith, Pamela H., and Paula Findlen, *Merchants and Marvels: Commerce, Science and Art in Early Modern Europe* (New York: Routledge, 2002)
- Oliver Impey and Arthur MacGregor, “Introduction” in Oliver Impey and Arthur MacGregor eds., *The Origins of Museums, The Cabinet of Curiosities in Sixteenth- and Seventeenth-Century Europe* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1985): (1-4) (17-23) (47-53) (69-75) (76-89).
- Donald Preziosi, “Collecting/Museums” *Critical Terms in Art History*, eds. Robert S. Nelson and Richard Schiff (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1992): 281-291.

III. WEEK 3 (09/17/2012):INVENTORIES

- Jessica Keating and Lia Markey, “Introduction: Captured Objects: Inventories of Early Modern Collections,” *Journal of the History of Collections*, 23 (2011): 209-213
- Christian Normore, “On the Archival Rhetoric of Inventories: Some Records of the Valois Burgundian Court,” *Journal of the History of Collections*, 23 (2011): 215-227
- Fernando Checa Cremades, ed., *The Inventories of Charles V and the Imperial Family* (L.A.: The Getty Foundation, 2010): TBA
- Meadows, Mark, “Quiccheberg and the Copious Object: Wenzel Jamnitzer’s Silver Writing Box” in the *Lure of the Object*, ed. Stephen Melville (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2005): 39-58.

IV. WEEK 4 (09/24/2012): NETWORKS OF CIRCULATION

- Brigitte Buettner, “Past Presents: Gifts at the Valois Courts, ca. 1400,” *Art Bulletin*, 83 (2001): 598-625.
- Paula Findlen, “Inventing Nature: Commerce, Art and Science in the Early Modern Cabinet of Curiosities” in *Merchants and Marvels: Commerce, Science and Art in Early Modern Europe*, eds. Pamela H. Smith and Paula Findlen (New York: Routledge, 2002): 297-323.
- Dániel Margócsy, “A Museum of Wonders or a Cemetery of Corpses? The Commercial Exchange of Anatomical Collections in Early Modern Netherlands,” in *Silent Messengers: The Circulation of Material Objects of Knowledge in the Early Modern Low Countries*, eds., Christoph Lüthy and Sven Dupré (Berlin: Lit Verlag, 2011) pp. 185-216.

V. WEEK 5 (10/01/2012): COLLECTING ANTIQUITIES

- Christopher S. Wood, “Maximilian as Archaeologist,” *Renaissance Quarterly*, 58 (2005): 1128-1174.
- Wren Christian, Kathleen, *Empire without End: Antiquities Collections in Renaissance Rome, c. 1350-1527* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2010): 151-214.
- Christopher S. Wood and Alexander Nagel, *Anachronic Renaissance*, (New York: Zone Books, 2010): 37-50.

VI. WEEK 6 (10/08/2012): COLLECTING PAINTING AND SCULPTURE

- Thomas Howard, *Earl of Arundel: Patronage and Collecting in the Seventeenth Century*, (Oxford: Ashmolean Museum, 1985) (on reserve in library)
- Elizabeth Angelicoussis, "The Collection of Classical Sculptures of the Earl of Arundel, 'Father of Vertu of England'," *Journal of the History of Collections*, 16 (2004): 143-159
- Juliet Caxton, "The Countess of Arundel's Dutch Pranketing Room: 'An Inventory of all the Parcells or or Purselin, glasses and other Goods now remaying in the Pranketing Roome at Tart Hall, 8th Sept 1641'," *Journal of the History of Collections*, 22 (2010): 187-196.
- John Newman, "A Draft Will of the Earl of Arundel," *Burlington Magazine*, 122 (1980): 692-696.

VII. WEEK 7 (10/15/2012): COLLECTING WORKS ON PAPER (**PRESENTATION OF RESEARCH TOPIC.)

- Mark McDonald, *The Print Collection of Ferdinand Columbus (1488-1539)* (London: British Museum, 2004): (15-18) (75-98) (145-167).
- Parshall, Peter, "Art and the Theater of Knowledge: The Origins of Print Collecting in Northern Europe" *Harvard University Art Museums Bulletin* 2 (1994): 7-36.
- Dagmar Eichberger, "Naturalia and artefacta: Dürer's nature drawings and early collecting" in *Dürer and his culture*, Dagmar Eichberger and Charles Zika, eds. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1998): 13-37.
- Kristel Smentek, "The Collector's Cut: Why Pierre-Jean Mariette Tore up His Drawings and Put Them Back Together" *Master Drawings* XLVI, no. 1 (2008): 36-60.

VIII. WEEK 8 (10/22/2012): COLLECTING NATURALIA (SEMINAR HELD IN SPECIAL COLLECTIONS) (**ABSTRACT AND ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY DUE.)

- Florike Egmond, "Precious Nature: rare naturalia as collectors items and Gifts in Early Modern Europe" in Renggenier Rittersma ed., *Luxury in the Low Countries: Miscellaneous Reflections on Netherlandish Material Culture, 1500 to the Present* (Brussels: Pharo Publishing, 2010): 47-65.
- Pamela Long, "Objects of Art/Objects of Nature," in Smith, Pamela H., and Paula Findlen, *Merchants and Marvels: Commerce, Science and Art in Early Modern Europe* (New York: Routledge, 2002).
- Deborah Harkness, "'Strange' Ideas and 'English' Knowledge," in Smith, Pamela H., and Paula Findlen, *Merchants and Marvels: Commerce, Science and Art in Early Modern Europe* (New York: Routledge, 2002).
- Horst Bredekamp, *The Lure of Antiquity and the Cult of the Machine*, trans. Allison Brown (Princeton: Markus Wiener Publisher, 1993): 37-80
- James Delbourgo, "Divers Things: Collecting the World Under Water," *History of Science*, 49 (2011): 149-185.

IX. WEEK 9 (10/29/2012): COLLECTING EXOTICA AND ETHNOGRAPHICA

- Florike Egmond and Peter Mason, “ ‘These are People Who eat raw Fish:’ Contours of the Ethnographic Imagination in the sixteenth century,” *Viator*, 31 (2000): 311-360.
- Daniela Bleichmar, “Seeing the World in a Room: Looking at Exotica in Early Modern Collections,” in Daniela Bleichmar and Peter Mancall, *Collecting Across Cultures*, (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2011): 15-30.
- Deanna MacDonald, “Collecting a New World: The Ethnographic Collections of Margaret of Austria” *Sixteenth Century Journal* XXXIII 3 (2002): 649-663.
- Elke Bujok, “Ethnographica in early modern *Kunstkammern* and their perception” *Journal of the History of Collections* 21, no. 1 (2009): 17-32.

X. WEEK 10 (11/05/2012): COLLECTING WONDROUS OBJECTS

- Joy Kenseth, *The Age of the Marvelous, exhibition catalogue, Hood Museum of Art, Dartmouth College, September 21- November 24, 1991* (Hanover: Hood Museum of Art, 1991): 24-59 and 80-101.
- Claudia Swan, “Making Sense of Medical Collections in Early Modern Holland: The Uses of Wonder” in *Making Knowledge in Early Modern Europe: Practices, Objects and Texts, 1400-1800*, eds. Pamela H. Smith and Benjamin Schmidt (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2007): 199-214.
- Lorraine Daston and Katherine Park, *Wonders and the Order of Nature, 1150-1750* (New York: Zone Books, 1998): 21-108.

XI. WEEK 11 (11/12/2012): THE COLLECTOR

- Jeffrey Chipps Smith, “Albrecht Dürer as Collector” *Renaissance Quarterly*, Vol. 64, No. 1 (Spring 2011): 1-49.
- Thomas DaCosta Kaufmann, “From Mastery of the World to Mastery of Nature: The Kunstkammer, Politics and Science” in *The Mastery of Nature, Aspects of Art, Science and Humanism in the Renaissance* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1993): 174-194.
- Lorraine Daston and Katherine Park, *Wonders and the Order of Nature, 1150-1750* (New York: Zone Books, 1998): 255-302.

XII. WEEK 12 (11/19/2012): COLLECTING: MOTIVATIONS AND THEORIES (PART A)

- Michel Foucault, *The Order of Things, An Archaeology of the Human Sciences* (New York: Vintage Books, 1994).

XIII. WEEK 13 (11/26/2012): COLLECTING: MOTIVATIONS AND THEORIES (PART B)

- Baudrillard, Jean, “The System of Collecting” in *The Cultures of Collecting*, ed. John Elsner and Roger Cardinal (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1994): 7-24.
- Walter Benjamin, “Unpacking my Library” in *Illuminations*, ed. Hannah Arendt (New York: Schocken Books, 2007): 59-68.
- Stewart, *On Longing: Narratives of the Miniature, the Gigantic, the Souvenir, the Collection*, (Durham: Duke University Press, 1993): 132-170.

XIV. WEEK 14 (12/03/2012): THE FIRST MUSEUMS

- Findlen, Paula, “The Museum: Its Classical Etymology and Renaissance Genealogy” *Journal of the History of Collections* 1 (1989): 59-78.
- Bente Gundestrup, “From the Royal *Kunstkammer* to the Modern Museums of Copenhagen” in Impey, Oliver, and Arthur MacGregor, eds., *The Origins of Museums, The Cabinet of Curiosities in Sixteenth- and Seventeenth-Century Europe* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1985):
- Thomas DaCosta Kaufmann, “From Treasury to Museum: The Collections of the Austrian Habsburgs” in *The Cultures of Collecting*, ed. John Elsner and Roger Cardinal (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1994): 137-154.

XV. WEEK 15 (12/17/2012): ****FINAL PAPERS DUE