

PRE: GIOVE Virtual Giustiniani Collection (engl. version)

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environment

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GIOVE

The Giustiniani Collection in a virtual environment

<http://www.fu-berlin.de/giove/index.htm>

The history of the Project

In 1960 Luigi Salerno published the inventory of the painting collection of Vincenzo Giustiniani in the Burlington Magazine. For the History of Art this was not only an important discovery because it was now possible to verify old ascriptions by the names and measures given in the inventory. It was also the rediscovery of one of the most important collections of the early 17th century in Rome that regained it's profile from a list of more than 600 paintings. Because - different from other private collections of the same period - the Giustiniani collection can today no longer be admired in it's original place. At the end of the 18th century it was sold and dispersed all over the world. In 1815 the Prussian king Friedrich Wilhelm III. bought 157 paintings of the Giustiniani collection in Paris. For this reason the greatest, today still known part of the collection is in the possession of the Berlin Gemäldegalerie and the Stiftung Preussische Schloesser und Gaerten. The research of Salerno was the offspring of many studies on the roman history of collections.

But only through the discovery of two inventories from the possession of cardinal Benedetto Giustiniani, the elder brother of Vincenzo, by Prof. Silvia Danesi Squarzina it is obvious, that it was not Vincenzo alone who as a connoisseur and patron of the arts, was responsible for the fame of the collection that spread over the whole of Europe. Silvia Danesi Squarzina published her results 1997 also in the Burlington Magazine. It was also her, as a professor for the History of Arts at the Universita la Sapienza, who started in 1994 a profound research on the Giustiniani collection. In 1998 she established a research group with young scholars: Luisa Capoduro, Irene Baldriga Giovanna Capitelli and Cecilia Mazzetti that intensified the studies and began to prepare an exhibition that should reunite the most

important still known paintings from the Giustiniani collection in the Palazzo Giustiniani and show the exhibition also in Berlin were today the most Giustiniani paintings are kept. A little later together with Prof. Rudolf Preimesberger and Maximilian Benker of the Kunsthistorisches Institut der Freien Universitaet and Dr. Andreas Bienert from the Staatliche Museen zu Berlin they developed the idea to present not only the most important paintings of the collection in an exhibition but also to reconstruct the collection with all its facets permanently in the Internet and in this way make available information on the collection all over the world. Dr. Bienert assumed the co-ordination of the project. The Stiftung Preussische Schloesser und Gaerten with Gerd Bartoschek and Dr. Christoph M. Vogtherr and the Kunsthistorisches Museum Wien with Dr. Prohaska could be gained as further partners. The project has been supported by the Raphael-programme of the European Commission since 1999. For the members of the different research groups see additionally the website under "partners".

The projects analysis of collection strategy, opinions on taste, the international orientation of leading patrons and collectors, and the information regarding the fate of their art works in later times, is expected to make a significant contribution towards the understanding of common European culture.

The research

The research of Prof. Danesi Squarzina and her group is today the basis of all occupation with the Giustiniani collection. She has dealt in numerous publications with the collection and their works of art. Currently the main field of research of the team of Prof. Danesi Squarzina are all surviving inventories of the Giustiniani family from the 16th to the 18th century which she discovered in the Roman archives.

The museum-partners in Berlin and Potsdam are working manly on the fate of the Giustiniani paintings in Prussia. The foundation of this work was already laid in the sixties, when the later curator of the Italian Baroque in the Gemaeldegalerie, Erich Schleier, as a young assistant analysed the sales catalogues of Landon (1812) and Delaroche (1808/1812) - the main source for the purchase of the Giustiniani paintings for Berlin. At that time this was only possible for the West-Berlin paintings. Other important steps were the publication of the first Gemaeldegalerie catalogue of 1830 together with actual catalogue numbers and the publication of the catalogue of the lost paintings of the Gemaeldegalerie by Rainer Michaelis and the research on the history of the Berlin Museums by Dr. Christoph M. Vogtherr. This work as well as the research of Gerd Bartoschek on the

Giustiniani paintings in possession of formerly royal castles of Prussia will be continued with the database that will be established within the GIOVE-project.

The GIOVE-group of the Kunsthistorisches Institut der Freien Universitaet directed by Prof. Rudolf Preimesberger and since February also by Prof. Eberhard Koenig, with Maximilian Benker, Iris Wenderholm and Marion Kaminski (since July 2000 Staatliche Museen zu Berlin) organised in June 2000 together with the Stiftung Preussische Schloesser und Gaerten a conference on the history of the Giustiniani collection in Berlin and other new discoveries on the Giustiniani collection. In December followed a seminar during which studies on Berlin Giustinian paintings were presented. At both events participated not only the partners of the GIOVE-project and scholars from all over Europe but also professors, students and graduates of the Kunsthistorisches Institut der Freien Universitaet. Since it will not be possible to enumerate all the speeches here it shall be pointed to the sites of our Website (see below) where it is possible to hear some of the conferences. Both Universities in Rome and Berlin also hold seminars on Giustiniani themes. The Kunsthistorisches Museum assumed with the restoration and technical investigation of the "crowning of thorns" by Caravaggio which came from the Giustiniani collection a part of the GIOVE-project, that will offer a further facet of art historical research. Dr. Prohaska could prove through his findings in the archives of the Museum the before only presumed Giustiniani provenance of the painting and reconstruct the whole history of its purchase for Vienna. At the Berlin GIOVE-conference Dr. Prohaska as the curator for baroque painting and Robert Wald as the restorer of the painting gave a first report on their research that will be largely documented in the Website.

The Website (<http://www.fu-berlin.de/giove/index.htm>)

The Website is the central interface for all research in the GIOVE-project. It was realised by students of CIMDATA and is run by Maximilian Benker together with Beate Bruentgens. The entire information will be available only at the end of the project in March 2002, but the public can participate in the process. Some information on the Giustiniani brothers and on their collection, based on the publications of Prof. Danesi Squarzina have already been available since the beginning of the project. Since 1999 we also have offered short texts on Berlin Giustiniani paintings compiled by Iris Wenderholm and Dr. des. Hans Ulrich Kessler (Staatliche Museen zu Berlin). During the entire period of the project until March 2002 new parts of the Website will be opened. It has been possible to hear speeches of the GIOVE-conference in Berlin since July 2000. Since June 2001 (together with the opening of the Berlin Giustiniani exhibition)

we have presented a wide reconstruction of the History of the Giustiniani collection from its arrival in Berlin to the opening of the first Museum in 1830 and beyond by Marion Kaminski with support of Dr. Michaelis, Dr. Vogtherr and conceived by Dr. Bienert. The design and technical realisation was done by the IIEF and the Gfal. The restoration contains plans, fonts, pictures and informations as well as 3d simulations.

Until the end of the project we will work on a database that will offer informations on all known paintings and a few non-antique sculptures of the Giustiniani collection. The Staatliche Museen zu Berlin with Dr. Bienert as a known specialist in databases supplies for this purpose the Musys software was developed by the Dynix company. It will make possible a range of data-entries that is not often reached in the Internet. All partners contribute with their research to this database. During the next month we will insert the results of the exhibition catalogue which was conceived and in large parts written by Prof. Danesi Squarzina and her group.

In addition to the common database dott.ssa Irene Baldriga and Sira Francesca de Vanna have developed a database that will contain information on all inventories of the Giustiniani family discovered and analysed by the team of Prof. Danesi Squarzina. The website is orientated towards a wide section of the public. Aranged according to the keywords "project", "partners", "events", "database", "places", "materials", "exhibition", "forum" it contains general information which, if necessary, leads to further material. A forum offers the possibility to become involved in the Website or ask questions to specific members of the project.

Reference:

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