

Early Modern Merchants as Collectors (RSA Annual Meeting, Montreal 2011)

Christina Anderson

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CALL FOR PAPERS:

RSA Annual Meeting, 24-26 March 2011, Montreal

Panel: Early Modern Merchants as Collectors

Vincenzo Scamozzi, in his architectural treatise *L'idea dell architettura universale* (1615), described the new galleries for the display of collections which were becoming a feature of Venetian palazzi. In doing so, he included details about a select number of the best Venetian collections, mostly belonging to patricians but also including those of two merchants, one a native Italian and the other a foreigner from the Low Countries.

This is a relatively early recognition of the importance of merchants as collectors. Art historians, however, have only relatively recently been moving beyond their traditional consideration of the artist and the patron as the principal protagonists in the history of collecting to include the advisor and broker. As part of this process, merchants, who often acted as agents for more aristocratic collectors, are now being regarded as influential collectors in their own right.

This panel aims to present a number of case studies of merchants and their collections in order to explore similarities among merchants who were also collectors. It will explore such issues as the cultural premises under which merchants conducted their businesses and collecting activities, the economic dynamics of their activities in the art market, and their legacy to later generations of collectors. Proposals for papers are not limited to any geographical area or category of collecting, but must address one or several specific merchants.

Proposals, of not more than 250 words and including their title, along with a CV and contact details, should be sent to Christina Anderson at cm.anderson@usa.net no later than 10 May 2010.

Reference:

CFP: Early Modern Merchants as Collectors (RSA Annual Meeting, Montreal 2011). In: ArtHist.net, Apr 22,

2010 (accessed Sep 16, 2025), <<https://arthist.net/archive/32569>>.