

Scientists, travellers and antiquarians (Montreal, 24-26 Mar 11)

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Call for papers:

Annual meeting, Renaissance Society of America, 24-26 March 2011, Montreal

Scientists, travellers and antiquarians and the problem of credibility of wonders in the early modern period

This panel seeks to reach a better understanding of the coexistence of 'rational' and 'irrational' forms of thinking in Europe in the early modern period. Long-standing traditions that claimed, for instance, the existence of monsters, giants, prodigies and prophecies of various kinds, stood along a growing impetus on relying on the direct examination of nature. In an attempt to make sense of the complexity of the world, these two complementary approaches to reality coexisted for centuries and pervaded everyday life at all levels of society. Historians, anthropologists and philosophers interested in different geographical and historical contexts have attempted various interpretations of this peculiarity of early modern culture suggesting a variety of different interpretations. This panels will explore this paradox and in particular unfold the narrative and rhetorical strategies adopted in early modern visual and literary accounts of wonders.

Please send abstracts (of 150 words maximum) for a 20 minute paper. Provide a brief CV, with full name, email address, institutional affiliation, title of paper and any A/V requirements you may have by May 15 to Guido Rebecchini (guido.rebecchini@gmail.com)

Reference:

CFP: Scientists, travellers and antiquarians (Montreal, 24-26 Mar 11). In: ArtHist.net, May 3, 2010 (accessed Sep 17, 2025), <<https://arthist.net/archive/32675>>.