

## The Early Discovery of Medieval Art by Travellers (Naples, 20–21 Nov 23)

University of Naples Federico II, Italy, Nov 20–21, 2023

Deadline: Mar 15, 2023

Stefano D'Ovidio

The Early Discovery of Medieval Art by Travellers Looking for Antiquity in Southern Europe.  
From the 17th Century to the Beginning of the 19th Century.

Between the 17th and early 19th centuries, travel played an essential role in the rediscovery of medieval art. Cultured men from all over Europe visited Mediterranean countries to see Greek and Roman monuments, but they were often confronted with artefacts and buildings from later centuries. How did they perceive medieval monuments that fell before their eyes while they were in search of classical antiquities? What terms did they use to describe them? What interpretative categories did they adopt to define them? What aesthetic or historical opinions they had on the Middle Ages in comparison with Antiquity, which was the main goal of their journey?

This conference wishes to examine the different attitudes towards medieval heritage in authors who were prepared to study Antiquity and verify their impact on the development of a new discipline specifically dedicated to the History of Medieval Art, as it appeared in Europe from 1820's onward.

We invite papers with a multidisciplinary perspective from experts in history, art history, archaeology, linguistics, literature, anthropology, and any other disciplines dealing with the history of travel and art historiography, both on single case studies and more general overviews. Areas of interest may include:

- The perception of medieval art and architecture by European antiquarian travellers to Mediterranean countries from the 17th century to the early 19th century.
- The language adopted to describe medieval monuments, as well as the formulation of a specific vocabulary (definitions, lemmas, technicalities), especially when borrowed from other disciplines.
- The elaboration of interpretative categories to define medieval art and architecture, especially in comparison with that from Antiquity and the Renaissance.
- The visual sources on medieval monuments featuring in travel accounts and descriptions, historical treatises, and pamphlets, especially if analysed in relation with their textual counterpart.
- The social, ideological, aesthetic, and political framework that supported the historical interpretation of medieval art and architecture.

Applicants are kindly requested to send a title and an abstract (max. 300 words), together with a short curriculum vitae, to the e-mail address: [diomedaconference2023@gmail.com](mailto:diomedaconference2023@gmail.com).

Please, refer to this address for any questions.

Proposals will be evaluated, and the applicants will receive an answer by mid-April 2023.

Deadline for proposals: 15 March 2023

Conference dates: 20-21 November 2023

Organizers: Vinni Lucherini and Stefano D'Ovidio

Scientific Committee: Xavier Barral i Altet, Paola D'Alconzo, Tanja

Michalsky, Alessandro Taddei, Arnaud Timbert

Contact person: Dr. Stefano D'Ovidio

U R L :

<https://www.docenti.unina.it/#!/professor/53544546414e4f44274f564944494f44564453464e37354832394638333948/avviso/26167410>

Where: Università degli Studi di Napoli Federico II

Reference:

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