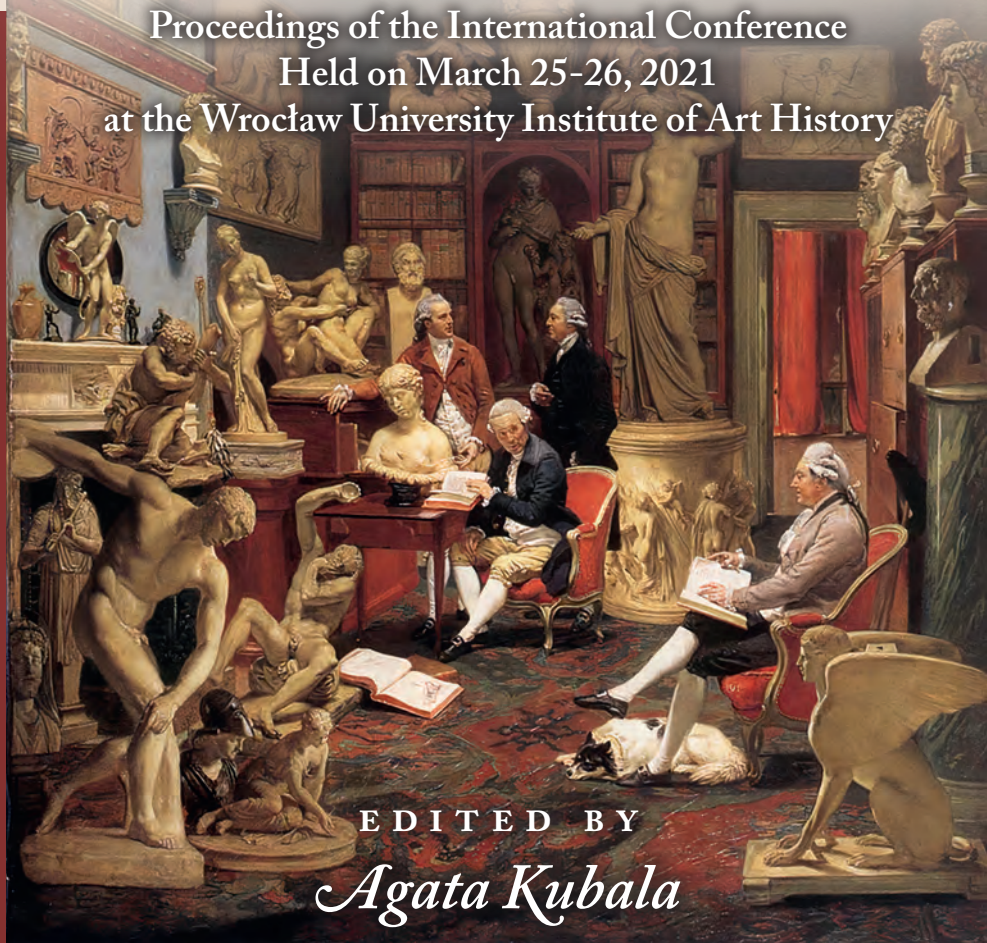


# COLLECTING ANTIQUITIES

FROM THE MIDDLE AGES  
TO THE END OF THE  
NINETEENTH CENTURY

Proceedings of the International Conference  
Held on March 25-26, 2021  
at the Wrocław University Institute of Art History



EDITED BY  
*Agata Kubala*



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Kraków-Wrocław 2021

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Cover design  
Marta Jaszczuk

ISBN 978-83-8138-585-5 (print)  
ISBN 978-83-8138-586-2 (PDF)  
<https://doi.org/10.12797/9788381385862>

On the cover: Johann Zoffany, Charles Townley  
in his Sculpture Gallery (source: Wikimedia Commons)

Publication financed by the Institute of Art History and the Faculty of Historical  
and Pedagogical Sciences of the University of Wrocław

**KSIĘGARNIA AKADEMICKA PUBLISHING**

ul. św. Anny 6, 31-008 Kraków  
tel.: 12 421-13-87; 12 431-27-43  
e-mail: [publishing@akademicka.pl](mailto:publishing@akademicka.pl)  
Internet bookstore: <https://akademicka.com.pl>

# CONTENTS

Preface.....	7
Introduction: When is a Collection a Collection? Provenance Studies and the Role of Dealer's Collections (Vinnie Nørskov).....	9

## Part I. European Collections of Antiquities in Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries

From Antiquarianism to Scholarship: Classical Archaeology in the Netherlands, 1600–1840 (Ruurd Binnert Halbertsma).....	31
Antiquities in the Collection of the Radziwiłł Family in the Wettin Era (Aistė Paliušytė).....	55
Master and Disciple: Bertel Thorvaldsen's Private Collection and Its Impact on Neoclassicism (Zoltán Suba).....	83
Glyptic Treasures in Krakow and Old Master Paintings Collection of Constantine Schmidt-Ciążyński (Paweł Gołyźniak).....	99
Collecting in Sicily in the Nineteenth Century: Baron Judica and the Wonders of Ancient Akrai (Elena Santagati).....	129
The Overlooked Collection: The Ancient Art Collection of the Princes Czartoryski Museum (Dorota Gorzelany-Nowak).....	143

## Part II. Collecting Prehistoric Antiquities in Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries

Die ostpreußischen Sammlungen der »vaterländischen Alterthümer« im 18 Jh. (Wojciech Nowakowski).....	163
United by Context, Divided by Collection: The Nineteenth Century Collecting of Prehistoric Artifacts from Villafraati (Sicily, Italy) (Serena D'Amico).....	179

## Part III. Silesia Antiqua. Collecting Antiquities in the Nineteenth-Century Wrocław and the Lower Silesian Area

Antiquities Collections in Silesia – Terra Incognita? (Magdalena Palica).....	207
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## Contents

From Greece to Wrocław: Eduard Schaubert's Collection of Antiquities (Agata Kubala).....	217
Collecting Antiquities at the Archaeological Museum of the Royal University in Wrocław in the Second Half of the Nineteenth Century (Urszula Bończuk-Dawidziuk) .....	237

### Part IV. Chosen Objects from European Collections of Antiquities

The Pieces of the Ara Pacis (Gaius Stern).....	259
The Collection of Late Antique Textiles from Egypt Acquired in 1893 by the Archaeological Cabinet of the Jagiellonian University in the Context of the Early Interest in "Coptic" Weaving (Anna Głowa, Joanna Sławińska) .....	287
From the Capitol to the Louvre: The Journey of a Relief of Mithras (Annarita Martini) .....	311
Luxury Souvenir or Precious Original: The Case of the Bronze Tripod from the Real Museo Borbonico (Eliška Petřeková) .....	331
The Dionysian Ancient Reliefs of the Cardelli Collection: A Product of Seventeenth Century Classicism or an Interpretative Paradigm? (Giulia Moretti Cursi).....	347

### Part V. Varia

"Anno ab incarnatione Domini Nostri MLXVI": A Note about Halley's Comet in Viterbo's Archbishop Library Collection (Luca Salvatelli) .....	369
--	-----

#### The Presence of the Sobieski Royal Family in the Collection of the Sovrintendenza Capitolina ai Beni Culturali di Roma, in the Roman Chronicles and in Rome: A Historical Commentary

The Sobieskis: Memories, Prints, Paintings, and Letters in the Collections of the Sovrintendenza Capitolina di Roma, in the Roman Chronicles and in Rome: A Historical Commentary (Francesca Ceci) .....	385
<i>The Memorial to the Visit of the Queen of Poland Maria Casimira Sobieski in the Musei Capitolini: History, Style, Setting up and Dismantling over Two Centuries</i> (Isabella Serafini) .....	417
Index of Names.....	467



## PREFACE

The international conference *Collecting Antiquities from the Middle Ages to the End of the Nineteenth Century* took place remotely via Microsoft Teams on 25–26 of March 2021. Like many other events during the pandemic of 2020–2021, it had initially been planned as a traditional reunion of scholars, who were to be hosted by the organizer in the city of Wrocław in March 2020. A year after the planned date, due to epidemiological restrictions still in place, there was no other option but to organize the conference as a virtual event. In the short time that has passed since the beginning of the pandemic, we have all become accustomed to this mode of working, especially in academia. The conference participants came from countries heavily impacted by the epidemic – at the time of our virtual meeting, we had thirty thousand new cases recorded in Poland each day. Therefore, the event could not have taken place were it not for these new tools. It was undoubtedly successful, with twenty to over thirty participants from many different countries attending at all times.

This by no means suggests that we intend to overlook the irreplaceable advantages of face-to-face meetings, such as the conference ambience and discussions over coffee during which we get to meet people whom we have only known so far from reading their scientific texts. Virtual conferences, which we have learned to appreciate as they are relatively easy to organize, more cost-effective and convenient – as they can be attended from home, from our desk or even our kitchen table – are still merely a substitute for the real encounters as we knew them before the pandemic. We hope that the former conference format and manner of exchanging ideas will soon become possible again.

The conference that has generated and has been documented in this volume, was conceived and facilitated by dr hab. Agata Kubala from the Institute of Art

## Preface

History. It was due to her determination that this previously cancelled meeting could finally take place. The conference was attended by researchers from the Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, the Netherlands, the USA, and Poland, from universities, museums, libraries, independent research institutions, as well as by independent scholars. We wish to express our gratitude to all those who, following a year-long delay, responded positively to our invitation to participate in this virtual event and who made their texts available for publication.

Romuald Kaczmarek  
Director  
Institute of Art History  
University of Wrocław



The gathering of archival materials always precedes the work on the items in every collection. Unfortunately, many documents have been lost, collections have been scattered, but their impact on culture and science has remained, as a deep interest in the ancient world, including its material products. Perhaps this appeal of the ancient world comes from Italy, thanks to its history, monuments and culture. Among the greatest contributors to spreading knowledge of and fascination with antiquity were painters, especially those who wanted to surround themselves with period objects when creating scenes set in ancient times. There are also collections devoted to classical art and literature. The book I have in front of me is an excellent mirror of antiquity collecting. It presents its history, the reasons for the rise of the fascination with antiquity, the history of individual collections, as well as methods of searching for them. Moreover, almost every article outlines the political circumstances of the time that affected collectors and their actions. This book will most probably find its way to the bookshelves of archaeologists, art historians, historians, museologists, as well as numerous gatherers and collectors.

From the review by dr hab. Tomasz Scholl



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ISBN 978-83-8138-585-5



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