The Evolution of English Collecting: receptions of Italian art in the Tudor and Stuart periods


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Abstract

This fully illustrated volume consists of twelve essays, based on papers read at a conference I organised at Southampton Solent University. It was inspired by the direction that my own research had taken since publishing The Grand Tour and the Great Rebellion and The Evolution of the Grand Tour (which I had revised for the second, paperback edition in 2000), and by a growing awareness that there was no adequate publication available for students studying our 'Travel, Taste and Collecting' unit. The Evolution of English Collecting contains chapters by a range of international scholars, including Charles Avery, Christopher Baker, Karen Hearn, Jane Roberts and Richard Williams. The book is prefaced by my 124 page introduction, designed to provide a broader context of the origins of European collecting, along with a new account of the evolution of early-modern British fascination with Italian art and a comprehensive bibliography of primary and secondary sources. The book was favourably reviewed in the Burlington Magazine, The Art Newspaper, Renaissance Quarterly, Print Quarterly and the Journal of the History of Collections. Blackwell Publishing subsequently asked me to write a 30 page introduction and revised bibliography for a new edition of John Hale's England and the Italian Renaissance (Oxford, 2005).

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