

**The Newsletter of the
ITALIAN ART SOCIETY**

**XVIII, 1
Spring 2006**

**An Affiliated Society of the College Art Association
and the Renaissance Society of America**

President's Message:

I would like to wish you a good new year and to announce that this year represents a important milestone for the Italian Art Society: it is our 20th Anniversary. Two decades ago we were founded by a dedicated and forward-looking cadre of our colleagues at Kalamazoo during an annual meeting of the International Congress on Medieval Studies. Since then and from our Medieval roots, we have grown in membership, area coverage, and stature as a society, and we now proudly claim affiliations with both the College Art Association and the Renaissance Society of America in addition to maintaining our longstanding ties with Kalamazoo and with one another in friendship and professional discourse.

We shall happily celebrate our history this year on two separate occasions. At Kalamazoo this May we will join with the ICMA (International Center of Medieval Art) in a joint reception for which Joyce Kubiski at Western Michigan University has already been hard at work on the plans (see below). More immediately, at the College Art Association meeting in Boston, **we have planned a reception at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum**. Thanks to the good work and arrangements of Rebecca Corrie, the reception will be on **Friday, February 24, 2006 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.** and will coincide with an opportunity to view the Gardner's new exhibition "Gentile Bellini and the East." The exhibition has been co-curated by Alan Chong, Curator of the Collections at the Gardner, and Caroline Campbell of the National Gallery in London. I am pleased to announce that through the agency and generosity of Alan Chong, the Gardner will be a joint sponsor of our anniversary reception. I am also delighted to announce that Nancy Radke, through her work with the Consorzio Parmigiano Reggiano, has graciously offered to provide an exquisite gift of parmigiano to aid in the celebration of our anniversary. Those of you who recall our commemoration of the 100 th anniversary of the Kunsthistorisches Institut at the New York CAA meeting in 1997 will fondly recall Nancy's similarly spectacular gift on that occasion.

To defray a portion of the cost of the event and as a contribution to the Society's travel funds for graduate students, we asking for a \$15.00 reservation fee from each attendee, payable to the Italian Art Society and mailed before February 10 to Joyce Kubiski, Treasurer, Italian Art Society (School of Art, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, Michigan, 49008). Your reservation and payment will also allow us to provide the Gardner with an accurate number on which to plan for wine and hors d'oeuvres.

For your information, the Gardner can be reached by taking the Green-E line from the Prudential Center a distance of three stops to the stop dedicated to the Museum of Fine Arts. One then walks from that stop two blocks to the Gardner. Additional directions can be found on the Gardner's web-site: www.gardnermuseum.org.

Don't forget to attend our business meetings: CAA: Friday, February 24, 7:30 to 9:00 a.m., Room 306, Hynes Convention Center; Thanks to the Division of

International Programs Abroad at Syracuse University (Interim Executive Director Jon Booth) for sponsoring this breakfast. At Kazoo we'll have our usual Friday lunch meeting in Fetzer 1010; box lunches will be available.

On behalf of the entire membership of the Italian Art Society, I wish to thank you for your association and contributions to our Society over these last twenty years. I look forward to celebrating this achievement with you at the Gardner in February and at Kalamazoo in May.

Roger Crum

[Looking Back at the History of the IAS by Anita Moskowitz](#)

[CAA Annual Meeting in Boston \(February 22-25, 2006\)](#)

The IAS Travel Grant recipient to the College Art Association Meetings in Boston is Andaleeb Badiie Banta, graduate student at the Institute of Fine Arts. Her paper, "From Monastery to Marketplace: The Commercial Career of Bernardo Strozzi" offers a fresh perspective on the relationship between aesthetic choice and commercial pressure in the career of this Genoese artist. It will be presented in a session titled, "The Economic Lives of Seventeenth-Century Painters," chaired by Richard Spear and Philip Sohm. Congratulations to Andaleeb, whose paper was chosen from an exceptionally strong group of applications.

[RENAISSANCE SOCIETY OF AM. IN SAN FRANCISCO \(March 23-25, 2006\)](#)

[INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF MEDIEVAL STUDIES AT KALAMAZOO \(May 4-7, 2006\)](#)

The IAS announces a grant of \$500 to aid in travel to the International Congress for Medieval Studies at Kalamazoo, MI, May, 2006. Students and recent recipients of the Ph.D.(3 years post-degree) are eligible if presenting a paper that concerns the art or architecture of Italy, in any period from late antique to contemporary. Please send a CV, the abstract of the paper to be presented, and a cover letter that includes the name and contact information for the applicant's academic advisor; and the title and chair of the session in which the paper will be presented. These should be sent to Amy Neff <aneff@utk.edu> by March 15, 2006.

CALLS FOR PAPERS for sessions the IAS is sponsoring at conferences of organizations of which we are an affiliated society: the deadlines for submissions to both are **May 13**:

For College Art Association, February 2007

Standing on the Shoulders of Giants? Or Shooting at Father's Corpse? The History of Italian Art, Then and Now. CONTACT: Anne Derbes, Hood College, and Julia Miller, California State University, Long Beach; mail to derbes@hood.edu and jimiller@csulb.edu.

How have specialists in Italian visual culture, c. 1200-1600, been shaped by the interests, approaches, assumptions and ideologies of previous generations of scholarship in America? What do we retain, consciously or unconsciously, from our mentors in the field, and what is its value or relevance today? To what extent have we moved beyond our training? We invite submissions that look critically at these historiographic issues, focusing on the state of the discipline today and its indebtedness to, or independence from, scholars such as Millard Meiss, Frederick Hartt, Howard Davis, S. J. Freedberg, and Richard Offner. Participants are encouraged to present new research while considering how current approaches draw from, and react to, those popular in the recent past; what we've gained, along

with what we might have lost.

For the Renaissance Society of America, 2007

The topic for the IAS session at RSA is still under discussion. Check the website for updated information on the topic and who to contact.

At the business meetings at Boston and Kalamazoo we will discuss plans and proposals for IAS sessions for the future. Please come with your ideas. You are also welcome to e-mail ideas to members of the committee, especially if you are not going to be at Kalamazoo. CONTACT: Rebecca W. Corrie, Phillips Professor of Art and Visual Culture, Department of Art and Visual Culture, Olin Arts Center, Bates College, 75 Russell Street, Lewiston, Maine 04240, 207-786-6258 or rcorrie@bates.edu

SPECIAL FEATURES OF THE NEWSLETTER

Members are welcome and encouraged to write for upcoming issues of the Newsletter and are asked to bring ideas to the attention of David Wilkins at dgw2@pitt.edu. Features should be approximately two pages in length. The deadline for inclusion in the Fall 2006 Newsletter is September 1 2006.

NEWS AND NOTICES

We now have a connection with ICMA, the International Center for Medieval Art; IAS members get a discount on their membership in that organization. Their website is www.medievalart.org.

Libraries throughout the United States that have **programs to acquire Italian books now face a major funding crisis because of an arbitrary decision by the Library of Congress.** The Library of Congress, which is in many respects the world's most important library, has decided to stop cataloging Italian books. Meanwhile, books that come in from other countries around the world continue to be routinely cataloged in Washington at taxpayers' expense. Cataloging information is made available at no extra charge to smaller libraries throughout the United States under existing programs, but this will no longer be the case for Italian language books. It is anticipated that each library will have to pay an exorbitant fee of almost \$15.00 to access the cataloging information for each new Italian book that it acquires. All members of the educated public who want American libraries to continue to acquire Italian books should contact Dr. James H. Billington, who is the Librarian of Congress (libofc@loc.gov), and especially their Congressmen--to whom the Librarian reports. See also the following websites:

http://www.usitalia.info/archivio/dettaglio.asp?Art_Id=1142&data=25/12/2005

<http://www.dartmouth.edu/~wessweb/rldgmw06.html>

The NEH has announced a 2006 Summer Seminar for College and University Teachers entitled, "Shaping Civic Space in a Renaissance City: Venice c. 1300 – c. 1600." Directed by Gary Radke and Dennis Romano from Syracuse University, this interdisciplinary seminar will be held in Venice from June 12 to July 14, 2006. Participants will examine how Venetians shaped their city, how individuals and groups interacted in the urban environment, and how, in turn, civic spaces shaped human behavior. Numerous site visits will complement discussions of primary texts and secondary readings. Ample time will be available for pursuing independent research projects on the seminar theme as well. Participation by non-Venetian

specialists in Renaissance art, architecture, history, music, literature, philosophy, religion and other humanities disciplines who wish to add a comparative dimension to their work is especially encouraged. For information and application instructions consult www.maxwell.syr.edu/hist/shaping_civic/
APPLICATION DEADLINE: MARCH 1, 2006

MELLON SUMMER INSTITUTE IN ITALIAN PALEOGRAPHY, at the Getty Research Institute, Summer 2007, for more information: <http://www.newberry.org>

Contributions to the Gründler Memorial Fund at WMU support scholarships for students working on medieval topics; contributions to the Endowment Fund at WMU provide financial support for the Congress at Kalamazoo.

[CALL FOR PAPERS: THE BOOKS OF VENICE](#)

New and Forthcoming Publications by IAS Members:

Crum, Roger, and John Paoletti (eds.). *Florence: A Social History*, forthcoming April 2006

Hartt, Frederick, and David G. Wilkins. *History of Italian Renaissance Art*, 6th edition, forthcoming April 2006

Holman, Beth. "'For 'Honor and Profit:' Benvenuto Cellini's Medal of Clement VII and Competition with Giovanni Bernardi," *Renaissance Quarterly* 58 (Summer 2005):. 512-75

Howe, Eunice D. *Art and Culture at the Sistine Court: Platina's "Life of Sixtus IV" and the Frescoes of the Hospital of Santo Spirito*. Citta del Vaticano: Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana, [Studi e Testi, 422] 2005

Moskowitz, Anita. "The Case of Giovanni Bastianini: A Fair and Balanced View." *artibus et historiae*, 50: 2004, 157-185

Moskowitz, Anita. *The Pulpits of Nicola and Giovanni Pisano: Pious Devotion/Pious Diversion*, Harvey Miller Press

Paoletti, John, and Gary Radke. *Art in Renaissance Italy*, 3rd edition, 2005

Schmidt, Victor M. *Painted Piety: Panel Paintings for Personal Devotion in Tuscany, 1250-1400* (Istituto Universitario Olandese di Storia dell'Arte, Firenze. Italia e i Paesi Bassi, 8), Florence: Centro Di, 2005

[UPCOMING EXHIBITIONS IN 2006 OF SPECIAL INTEREST TO MEMBERS](#)

HELPFUL INFORMATION: If you need to travel from downtown Rome back to Fiumicino Airport, you have the options of the train (sometimes insanely crowded), a cab (often quite hair-raising), or one of the transfer services. We've have good luck with AURELIA TRANSFER, which currently charges 38 Euros for 1-3 people, plus 5 Euros for each additional person. They charge an extra 10 Euros for an airport pickup because of the waiting time and parking. FAX: 06 61567079, PHONE: 393.9171099. They will also take you to Ciampino Airport or pick you up there for the same prices plus 10%. In addition, their card says that they offer "convenient rates" for Tivoli, Ostia Antica, Firenze, Assisi, Orvieto, Pisa, Napoli, Pompeii, etc. (D.W.)

NEWS FROM ITALY: During a brief trip to Rome and Florence over New Year's, I noted the following that might be of interest to IAS members: The restoration of the interior of the Pantheon has been completed, with spectacular results: the dome is now a light cream color and the marbles on the lower walls glow, partly due to new lighting. The new skylit room for the Marcus Aurelius at the Capitoline Museums has been completed and the statue once again looks magnificent. The program to clean the large stained-glass oculi at the Florentine Duomo continues; recently completed is the Uccello *Nativity*, which was displayed, artificially lit, on the ground near the façade for the holidays. Florence was adorned with a number of plaster (?) cows painted by artists; they weren't obtrusive and since they will be auctioned to support a new pediatric hospital, the cause was worthy. And, if you missed John Seabrook's article on "Renaissance Pears" in the food issue of *The New Yorker* (September 5, 2005, 102-107, try to get a copy; it's about a family in Umbrian trying to save historic fruit trees. You can visit the farm and even sponsor a tree.... (David Wilkins)

The IAS website is: <http://vassun.vassar.edu/~jamusacc/IAS/iashome.htm>. For information on the website, or to update your bibliographic listing, contact Jacki Musacchio at jamusacchio@vassar.edu.

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