

The Newsletter of the
ITALIAN ART SOCIETY

XVII, 1

Winter 2004

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

President's Message:

As the Italian Art Society moves toward the celebration of its 20th Anniversary Year – this will take place at CAA in New York 2006 – we are entering what seems to be a very fruitful period. Our Program Committee has done yeoman work, with the result that our sponsored sessions at CAA and Kalamazoo have been major draws. Everything points to this continuing. This year IAS became an affiliated society of the Renaissance Society of America. We will be presenting our first session as an affiliated society, under the title “1504”, at RSA in New York this April. The first student travel grant of the IAS will be made this year, and will be presented to a graduate student at the CAA meeting in Seattle . We are now in the stage of planning sessions to celebrate our Anniversary Year, and we look forward to discussing these plans with you at our forthcoming meeting in Seattle . The hour is horrendously early, 7:00-8:30 AM on Friday (Feb. 20), but we look forward to your presence – sweetened by the presence of breakfast goodies.

Matters of Business:

Business Meeting at CAA 2004

The Business Meeting will be held on Friday February 20 from 7:00-8:30 a.m. in Meeting Rooms 613 and 614 of the Washington Convention Center . All members are strongly encouraged to attend this meeting, as we will be discussing ways to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Italian Art Society, particularly at CAA in New York in 2006. Refreshments will be provided by [Syracuse University 's Division of International Programs Abroad](#).

The Italian Art Society is now an affiliated society of the Renaissance Society of America .

In honor of the fiftieth anniversary of the RSA, the IAS is sponsoring a session focusing on the year 1504 at the [Renaissance Society of America's annual meeting](#) on April 1-3, 2004 in New York.

In Florence, while Michelangelo is completing his *David* and beginning his fresco of the *Battle of Cascina*, Botticelli is still working,

Perugino still has a studio, and Raphael has just arrived. In Venice , Giorgione and Titian are starting their public careers, while Giovanni Bellini continues to maintain a large shop and Tullio Lombardo is delivering a narrative relief to the Santo in Padua . In Rome , Andrea Bregno and Antoniazio Romano remain major presences, yet Bramante has already begun new St. Peter's. A seemingly artificial date, 1504 represents a critical juncture, when one can see the old becoming old just as the new is being invented.

The session will be held on April 1, 2004 at 1:45 pm

1504

Chair: Debra Pincus

Shelley Zuraw, "Michelangelo between Siena and Rome "

Andreas Beyer, "The Florentine Rendezvous of Future Enemies"

Denise Allen, "Julius II and Paride de Grassis Shape the Papal Tiara"

Respondent: William E. Wallace

Italian Art Society session at CAA 2005 (Atlanta) – abstract and call for papers

St. Peter's Basilica in Rome : Peter to Present

Chair: Tod Marder, Rutgers University

St. Peter's Basilica in Rome has acquired an iconic status as the central church of Christendom. Although every aspect of it has been studied, from the archaeology of its origins to its embellishment in the Baroque to the controversial recent restorations, there is still much to learn about the fabric and its decoration. This session is designed to advance the broad history of art and architecture of St. Peter's through papers treating its long history from the time of Constantine to the present day. Discussions may concern form and meaning, structure and intention, as well as related historical and cultural matters. Papers that relate the building and its decoration to the development of the Vatican palace will also be given serious consideration. The influence of St. Peter's is everywhere, and each bit of its history has the potential to be understood as widely as our cultural parameters will allow.

Mail abstracts to:

Tod Marder

Department of Art History

Rutgers University

Voorhees Hall

New Brunswick , NJ 08901

Notices of Grants and Awards:

THE ITALIAN ART SOCIETY announces grants to graduate and undergraduate students to aid in travel to College Art Association

Meetings, February 18-21, 2004, and to the International Congress for Medieval Studies at Kalamazoo, MI , May 6-9, 2004. Two grants are available, each of \$500, one for each conference, to be awarded to a student presenting a paper related to the art of Italy in any period. Applications should be cut-and-pasted into an email (no attachments, please) and include a CV, the abstract of the paper to be presented, a cover letter, and the names and contact information for the applicant's academic advisor and the chair of the session in which the paper will be presented. For travel to CAA, these should be sent to Rebecca Corrie (rcorrie@abacus.bates.edu) by January 16, 2004; for Kalamazoo, to Amy Neff (aneff@utk.edu) by March 15.

The first winner of the grant, for travel to CAA in Seattle , 2004 is Elizabeth Carroll, graduate student at Indiana University , currently doing research in Venice and teaching for the Scuola Internazionale di Grafica in Venice. Her paper, "Venetia figurata or Venus: The Female Nude in Sixteenth-Century Venice" explores the novelty and complexity of meaning attached to the glorified female form in Venetian painting, bringing together myths linking Venice to Venus and to the Virgin, Venetian history, and humanist literature, especially the pastoral genre. It will be part of the session, " Venice, Venus and the Virgin: The Search for Arcadia in the Sixteenth Century," chaired by Joanne Snow-Smith. Carroll is a doctoral student working with Prof. Bruce Cole. Her dissertation-in-progress is titled, Bartolommeo Montagna and Production of the Sacra Conversazione Altarpiece: An Examination of Civic and Artistic Identity in Early Sixteenth-Century Vicenza.

The Samuel H. Kress Foundation has provided the IAS with a grant to support the travel of foreign scholars participating in sessions at the Renaissance Society of America conference and the International Congress on Medieval Studies. This funding will enable Dr. Andreas Beyer to present "The Florentine Rendezvous of Future Enemies" during the session "1504" at the Renaissance Society of America's annual meeting in April 2004 in New York and Dr. Erica Neri-Lusanna will present "Arnolfo's Florentine Works" at the International Congress on Medieval Studies in May 2004 in Kalamazoo.

2004 Membership:

By now members should have received their 2004 membership renewal forms. Your timely return of this form (along with the check) will be very much appreciated. (Membership Dues: \$10.00 for graduate student members; \$15.00 for U.S. members; \$20.00 for Canadian and overseas members). Please make checks payable to the **ITALIAN ART SOCIETY** and kindly mail this form (and check) to: Scott B. Montgomery at the address listed at the end of the Newsletter.

Currently, the IAS has a total of 279 members, drawn principally from North America . The breakdown of members is as follows:

U.S. Members: 227
Canadian Members: 6
Outside North America: 38
Honorary Members: 8

The following members are currently out of contact, as they seem to have moved and I do not have their new addresses: Katherine Bentz, Dawn Cunningham, and Jill Greenwood. If any members have their current contact information, please contact Scott B. Montgomery at smontgo4@du.edu.

Brief Breakdown of Responses to the IAS Members' Survey:

Though a limited number of members (15 total) completed the survey, a few general points of consensus can be gleaned from these responses. Nearly all of the members who responded to the survey suggested that the IAS actively pursue the expansion of the chronological span beyond the society's traditional emphasis on the Medieval and Renaissance periods. While the Baroque period was most widely highlighted for this chronological expansion, increased attention to ancient as well as modern and contemporary art in Italy was strongly suggested. The IAS session for CAA 2005, "St. Peter's Basilica in Rome : Peter to Present", is intended to implement this by offering a session that is focused on a major monument while allowing for a broad chronological purview.

Those members who use the website and bibliography generally find them quite useful. The only suggested improvement to the bibliography was a proposal that it be indexed. (Though an excellent suggestion, such a task would require that a member volunteer to take on the indexing task). Several members voiced their desire that a printed version be made available. Many members noted that the Newsletter is particularly useful, citing the feature articles and calendar of events as especially welcome.

The IAS website is:

<http://vassun.vassar.edu/~jamusacc/IAS/iashome.htm>. The latest edition of the IAS bibliography and Newsletter are available on-line. For information on the website, contact Jacki Musacchio (jamusacchio@vassar.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 Scott B. Montgomery at smontgo4@du.edu. Features should be approximately two pages in length. The deadline for inclusion in the

Spring 2004 Newsletter is April 17, 2004

[A Proposal Regarding Photographic Costs: A Note from Anita Moskowitz](#)

Forthcoming Publications by IAS Members:

William R. Levin, *The Allegory of Mercy at the Misericordia in Florence: Historiography, Context, Iconography, and the Documentation of Confraternal Charity in the Trecento*, Lanham, MD: The University Press of America (forthcoming in early 2004).

The author provides the first complete analysis of the often overlooked *Allegory of Mercy* fresco, the mid-fourteenth-century centerpiece of the artistic program for the important Florentine Company of the Misericordia. Intended as both didactic and inspirational, the painting illustrates what newly discovered archival sources utilized here establish: that the Misericordia provided a host of services to needy Florentines from as early as the trecento, offering members and benefactors the possibility of helping their neighbors while ensuring salvation for themselves.

William R. Levin, "Tanto goffe e mal fatte...dette figure si facessino...belle": The Trecento Overdoor Sculptures for the Baptistry in Florence and Their Cinquecento Replacements," *Studies in Iconography* (forthcoming in 2004 or 2005).

Future Newsletters will continue to include this section in which brief announcements of forthcoming publications of interest to the IAS membership will be listed. This is intended to draw attention to publications scheduled for appearance in print within six months of the Newsletter's release. It is hoped that this feature will provide a useful forum that increases awareness of significant forthcoming publications (in advance of the Bibliography). Members are encouraged to submit brief notices (and descriptions, if desired) of forthcoming publications to Scott B. Montgomery at smontgo4@du.edu.

The deadline for inclusion in the Spring 2004 Newsletter is April 17, 2004 .

News of IAS Members:

The Phoenix Art Museum is pleased to announce that Thomas J. Loughman has joined its staff as curator of European art.

Notice of New Journal with Publishing Opportunities of Interest to IAS Members:

ICONOGRAFICA: Rivista di iconografia medievale e moderna
Journal of Medieval and Modern Iconography - Direttori/ Editors:

Michele Bacci, Fabio Bisogni, Roberto Rusconi

The significant amount of research dedicated to iconography over recent years finds a natural home in this new journal. This context offers incisive comparison of diverse disciplinary approaches with contributions by iconographers, art historians, medieval and modern historians of hagiography and literature. Without engaging in futile searching for new definitions, scholars will find here studies devoted to figurative documents, i.e. those that consider images a source in all meanings of the term, whatever their quality.

Volume II-2003 contains: M. EXNER, Wandlungen des Christophorus-Bildes im 12. Jahrhundert - V. ROUCHON MOUILLERON, L'illustration de la Genèse au «Duecento»: le cycle d'Abraham sur la coupole du baptistère de Parme - A. TRIVELLONE, Il portale di S. Sabina a S. Benedetto dei Marsi, unico resto di una cattedrale scomparsa - R. COBIANCHI, «Visio e sincerus amplexus»: un momento di agiografia domenicana ed i suoi sviluppi iconografici (secc. XIII-XV) - D. PICCIRILLI, Gli affreschi del beato Placido nel monastero di Santo Spirito d'Ocre - B. BAERT, The Wall Paintings in the Campanile of the Church of St. Nicola in Lanciano (ca. 1330-1400). Reading an Unknown Legend of the Cross in the Abruzzi , Italy - M. TOMASI, Miti antichi e riti nuziali: sull'iconografia e la funzione dei cofanetti degli Embriachi - U. ROZZO, L'officina tipografica nelle illustrazioni dei secoli XV e XVI. Indici.

If you are interested in an exchange of bibliographic information, subscribe to the Iconographica mailing list by sending an e-mail to the editorial board at: iconographica@unisi.it

[CAA 2004 Meeting – Sessions and Papers on Topics Related to Italian Art](#)

[Renaissance Society of America 2004 Meeting – Sessions on Topics Related to Italian Art](#)

[Special Events Calendar](#)

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