

The Antiquarians: Who Were They? Proposal for a Round Table

Tony Grafton/Ginette Vagenheim

A surprising number of scholars based in New York do research on the programs and practices of early modern antiquarians. The two of us, who are here only until the end of spring 2014, propose to bring as many of these experts as possible together to devote an afternoon workshop to our common interest. One way to focus discussion would be to ask everyone to concentrate on the meanings of the actual term “antiquarius” and related terms for scholars and genres, in all the various contexts we work in.

Proceedings might start at 2:00 PM. We would invite participants to present material informally for 10 to 15 minutes each, break for tea after the talks, and then open up a discussion. One point of the exercise is simply to bring together a remarkable group of scholars. A second is to establish whether it might be possible to plan further directed discussions, and perhaps even a collaborative or collective publication.

David Freedberg has generously agreed to provide a space for discussion on April 18th, at the Italian Academy at Columbia. We would propose to invite the following – and to press them, even if they don’t want to speak themselves, to attend and take part:

David Freedberg

Tony Grafton

Peter Miller

Irina Oryshkevich

John Pinto

Will Stenhouse

Ginette Vagenheim

Suggestions for other participants are welcome. A number of distinguished emeriti – Elizabeth Brown, Donald Kelley, Nancy Siraisi – know the world of the antiquaries very deeply and might be willing to speak, or at least to attend to take part in discussion.