

Robin L. Thomas

Curriculum Vitae

Associate Professor
Department of Art History
The Pennsylvania State University
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Education

BA, summa cum laude, Emory University, 1999

MA Columbia University, 2000

MPhil Columbia University, 2002

Major Concentration: Baroque Architecture

Minor Concentration: Byzantine Architecture

PhD Columbia University, 2007

Dissertation Title: "Charles Bourbon's Naples: Architecture and Urbanism"

Professional Positions

Associate Professor, The Pennsylvania State University, 2014-present

Assistant Professor, The Pennsylvania State University, 2008-2014

Post-Doctoral Fellow, Emory University, 2007-2008

Adjunct Instructor, Emory University, 2006-07.

Publications and Research Projects

Translation: Vico, Giovanni Battista. "In Memory of Lady Angela Cimmino." *New Vico Studies* 25 (2007): 1-33.

"Luigi Vanvitelli as Reader and Author." *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians* 69, no. 4 (2010): 508-533.

"Building the Monarchy: The Teatro di San Carlo in Naples, 1737." *The Court Historian* 17 (2012): 35-60.

Architecture and Statecraft: Charles of Bourbon's Naples 1734-59 (Penn State Press, 2013)

“Propagandizing Nolli in Naples.” In *Giambattista Nolli, Rome and Mapping: Before and After the Pianta Grande*. Eds. Allan Ceen and Ian Verstegen (Rome: Studium Urbis, 2014), 134–144.

“Convent and Crown: Redecorating Santa Chiara in Naples 1741–59” *1650-1850: Ideas, Aesthetics, and Inquiries in the Early Modern Era* (forthcoming 2016)

“The Architect’s Library.” Companion to the Architecture of the Enlightenment. Eds. Caroline van Eck and Sigrid de Jong (Wiley Blackwell) (forthcoming)

“Albergo dei Poveri” Companion to the Architecture of the Enlightenment. Eds. Caroline van Eck and Sigrid de Jong (Wiley Blackwell) (forthcoming)

“Royal Palace at Caserta” Companion to the Architecture of the Enlightenment. Eds. Caroline van Eck and Sigrid de Jong (Wiley Blackwell) (forthcoming)

“The Original Design of the Royal Palace of Capodimonte” (under review)

Reviews

Heather Hyde Minor. The Culture of Architecture in Enlightenment Rome. *European Architectural History Network Newsletter* 4 (2010): 38-41.

Caraffa, Costanza. Gaetano Chiaveri (1689–1770). Architetto romano della Hofkirche di Dresda. *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians* 67, no. 4 (2008): 606-608.

“New Studies of Vico and Tiepolo.” *New Vico Studies* 26 (2008) 170-172.

Lectures

“Planning Portici: Architecture and Diplomacy between Naples and Spain 1734–49” *Neapolitan Network*, Universitat de Barcelona, October 2014.

“Staging Gothic: Luigi Vanvitelli’s Designs for Milan Cathedral” *Society of Architectural Historians*, April 2014.

“The Bourbon Theater of State and Architecture of Eighteenth-Century Naples” Invited by Princeton University, December 2013.

“The Bourbon Redecoration of Santa Chiara in Naples” *American Society of Eighteenth-Century Studies*, Cleveland, April 2013.

“Reading Spanish Architectural Influence in Bourbon Naples: Portici and La Granja de SanIldefonso” Invited by *The Geography of Southern Baroque Architecture*, Northwestern University, May 2012.

“The Bourbon Theater of State: Decorating the Royal Palace at Portici (1744-1745),” *College Art Association*, Los Angeles, 2012.

“Space and Spectacle at the Court of Charles Bourbon,” Invited by *Delirious Naples: For a Cultural, Intellectual, and Urban History of the City of the Sun*, Hofstra University/New York University, November 2011.

“Charles Bourbon’s Theater of State from Naples to Madrid,” Metropolitan Museum of Art, March, 2011.

“Luigi Vanvitelli: Reader and Author,” *Renaissance Society of America*, Venice, April 2010.

“To Protect and to Serve: Giovanni Battista Piranesi’s Rome,” Invited by Lebanon Valley College, Arnold Art Gallery Exhibition Keynote Speaker, April 2010.

“From Naples to Madrid: Charles III and Civic Architecture of Reform,” *American Society of Eighteenth-Century Studies*, Albuquerque, March, 2010.

“Cosmopolitanism at the Coffehouse on the Quirinal Hill in Rome,” Pennsylvania State University, IAH Moments of Change Salon, March 2010.

"Southern Italian and Spanish Colonial Urban Planning: Grids and Civic Identity," Invited by Muhlenberg College, April 20, 2009.

“Structure and Statecraft: The Reale Albergo dei Poveri in Bourbon Naples,” Invited by Emory University, February 2008.

“For Music and Monarchy: The Teatro di San Carlo in Naples,” Invited by The Ohio State University, Columbus, October, 2007.

“Changing Music and Propagating Form: The Teatro di San Carlo of Naples,” *Society of Architectural Historians*, Pittsburgh, April, 2007.

“Rome and the Bourbons: the Reale Albergo dei Poveri and the Roles of the Church and King in Enlightenment Naples,” *American Society of Eighteenth-Century Studies*, Atlanta, March, 2007.

“Politicizing Nolli in Naples: The Duca di Noja Map,” *Giambattista Nolli, Imago Urbis and Rome*, Rome, May, 2003.

Conference Panels

Respondent, "Naples Reconsidered," American Society of Eighteenth-Century Studies, Vancouver, March, 2011.

Fellowships, Awards, and Honors

Award for Outstanding Teaching, College of Arts and Architecture, The Pennsylvania State University, 2014

Andrew W. Mellon Fellowship, Metropolitan Museum of Art, 2010-11

Post-Doctoral Fellowship, The Bill and Carol Fox Center for Humanistic Inquiry, Emory University, 2007-08

Mrs. Giles Whiting Foundation Fellowship in the Humanities, 2005-06

J. William Fulbright Grant, Italy, 2004-05

Columbia University Traveling Fellowship, 2004-05 (declined)

Rudolf Wittkower Dissertation Fellowship, Columbia University, 2003-04

Teaching Fellow, Columbia University, 2002-03

Presidential Fellow, Columbia University, 2000-01, 2001-02

Marion Luther Brittain Service Award Honoree, Emory University, 1999

Phi Beta Kappa, 1997

Constantinian Award in Byzantine History for essay: "Byzantine Trade Concessions the Genoese," 1996

Service

Director, Committee for Early Modern Studies, The Pennsylvania State University 2013-present

Faculty Adviser, Penn State Quiz Bowl Team, 2014-present

College of Arts and Architecture Faculty Advisory Council, , The Pennsylvania State University 2011-2013

Promotion and Tenure Committee, Department of Art History, The Pennsylvania State University, 2014-15

Search Committee, Renaissance and Baroque Architecture One-year Replacement,
Department of Art History, The Pennsylvania State University 2009

Arts and Architecture: Staff Award of Distinction Selection Committee

Graduate Initiatives Committee, Department of Art History, The Pennsylvania State
University, 2009-10, 2011-12, 2014-15

Institute for the Arts and Humanities Director Search Committee, The Pennsylvania State
University, 2009-10

Committee on Scholarships and Awards for Undergraduates, College of Arts and
Architecture, The Pennsylvania State University, 2013-15

Alumni Scholarship Selection Committee, College of Arts and Architecture, The
Pennsylvania State University, 2008-10

Golumbic Award Selection Committee, College of Arts and Architecture, The
Pennsylvania State University, 2008-10

Undergraduate Initiatives Committee, Department of Art History, The Pennsylvania State
University, 2008-09

Undergraduate Advisor, Department of Art History, The Pennsylvania State University

Emory University Alumni Board, 2003-09

Panelist, Graduate Student Grant Writing Workshop, Emory University, 2007

Co-Chair, Annual Fund, Emory University Libraries, 2005-07

Professional Organizations

American Society of Eighteenth-Century Studies

College Art Association

European Architectural History Network

Italian Art Society

Neapolitan Network

Renaissance Society of America

Society of Architectural Historians