Part II Paper 14: Material culture in the early modern world

Course Convenor: Dr Helen Pfeifer
Lecturers: Dr Melissa Calaresu, Professor Mary Laven, Dr William O’Reilly, Dr Helen Pfeifer, Professor Ulinka Rublack, Dr Emma Spary

This course engages with the vigorous historiographical debates on consumption from the Renaissance to the Enlightenment in a global perspective. Key questions are to what extent this period witnessed a “consumer revolution” and birth of “Western materialism”, or whether early modern Europe was just one of several global centres in which the production and consumption of goods proliferated during this period. Lectures focus not just on Europe, but the Ottoman Empire, Asia and North America. How can historians find out about the meanings a greater number of things held for people in different milieus and how contemporaries approached question of value? Did an engagement with things and appearances constitute identities, so that personhood must therefore be thought of as emerging in relation to objects and exchange, rather than as pre-existing entity? In what ways did the importance of domestic interiors and cuisine change? Should we regard slaves and concubines as part of a contemporary material culture, where you could own people?

Students will gain a fresh and stimulating grounding of the central themes in early modern history as well as of methodological and theoretical frameworks of recent historical writing, which understands the importance of looking at early modern Europe as part of a globalising world. The course allows students to become familiar with the language and approaches of art history and anthropology as well as with changes within economic and cultural history. Key issues interlink particularly closely with HAP teaching on images, artefacts, cultural history, trans-national history, and gender history. In addition to lectures and seminars there are handling sessions and museum visits in Cambridge, guided by experts in the field. These visits provide a rare opportunity to closely look at objects to reflect on what evidence they provide for historians.
Course Outline: Seminars and supervisions

Examination
- Three-hour unseen; answer 3 questions; undivided paper
- Questions are set on the lecture topics and handling topics

Teaching regime for this paper
- Michaelmas: 8 lecture classes; plus 2 museum handling sessions
- Lent: 8 lecture classes; plus 2 museum handling sessions
- Supervisions, 5 or 6 per student (individual supervisions); in either term, plus revision
- Classes are 1 hours 30 minutes and mix c.30-minute lecturing with seminar style teaching and hands-on practical exercises
- Fieldtrips take you to Cambridge Museums and College collections and allow you to handle objects as well as discover those in reserve collections

Seminar Schedule (Mondays 11:00-12.30, Faculty of History, Room 12):

Michaelmas Term

Periods
12 October 2020  Introduction & The Renaissance as a New World of Goods (ML)
19 October 2020  Reformation Worlds (UCR)
26 October 2020  Global Catholicism (ML)
2 November 2020  Enlightenments (MTC)

Geographies of Change
9 November 2020  Globalization and Encounter: Asia and Europe (ML)
16 November 2020  The Atlantic World (WTO)
23 November 2020  The Ottoman World (HP)
30 November 2020  Mughal Gardens (HP)

Lent Term

Topics
25 January 2021  Drugs and the Globalization of Europe (ES)
1 February 2021  The Triumph of Fashion (UCR)
8 February 2021  Print (ES)
15 February 2021  Food and Drink (MTC)
22 February 2021  Courts (WTO)
1 March 2021  Inside and Outside (MTC)
8 March 2021  Inventories (TBD)
15 March 2021  Affects and Objects (UCR)

Handling Schedule:

I. 19 October 2020, 2-3.30pm  Porcelain & Metalwork, Fitzwilliam Museum (MTC + VJA)
II. 16 November 2020, 4-5.30pm  Silver, Robin Hayes Room, Trinity Hall (WTO)
III. 25 January 2021, 4-5pm  Fashion, Fitzwilliam Museum (UCR)
IV. 15 February 2021, 2-3.30pm  Collecting and Cabinets, Fitzwilliam Museum (MTC + VJA)
Bibliography

General
1. Approaching Material Culture
2. Consumption
3. Materiality and Making

Periods
4. Renaissance
5. Reformations
6. Enlightenments

Geographies
7. Turquerie
8. Globalization and Encounter: Asia and Europe
9. Global Object Cultures: Porcelain, Metalwork, Silver
10. The Atlantic World
11. The Ottoman World
12. Mughal Gardens

Topics
13. Food and Drink
14. Drugs and the Globalisation of Europe
15. The Triumph of Fashion
16. Print
17. Courts
18. Collecting and Cabinets
19. Inside and Outside
20. Inventories
1. Approaching Material Culture


*Avery, V., M. Calaresu and M. Laven (eds), Treasured Possessions from the Renaissance to the Enlightenment* (2015)


*Harvey, K., (ed), History and Material Culture* (2009), 1-3, 9.


Miller, P., (ed.), *Cultural histories of the material world* (2013), Intro, 1, 9, 15, 18, 19


*Richardson, C., Hamling, T., and Gaimster, D., (eds), The Routledge Handbook of Material Culture in Early Modern Europe* (Routledge, 2016)


See also several specialised journals, including:

- *Journal of Material Culture*
- *Material Religion*
- *West 86*: A Journal of Decorative Arts, Design History, and Material Culture
2. Consumption

i. Primary:
Bernard Mandeville, *The Fable of the Bees; or, Private Vices, Publick Benefits* (1795).
Molière, *Bourgeois Gentilhomme* (various editions),
For trade cards, search the Waddesdon Manor collection:
http://www.waddesdon.org.uk/searchthecollection/trade_cards_introduction.html or look under
*Prints and drawings* in the online collection of the Fitzwilliam Museum.

ii. Secondary:
Burke, P., *Venice and Amsterdam* (section comparing consumption in both environments).
Spufford, P., *Power and Profit: The Merchant in Medieval Europe* (2006), chs 1,2,5,6
*Welch, E., Shopping in the Renaissance: Consumer cultures in Italy, 1400-1600* (Yale, 2005), esp. Intro., chs 1, 2, 6, 8-10.
3. Materiality and Making

i. Primary:
Benvenuto Cellini, *The Treatises of Benvenuto Cellini on Goldsmithing and Sculpture*, var.edns.

ii. Secondary:
Baxandall, M., *The Limewood Sculptors of Renaissance Germany* (New Haven, 1980), ch.6
Bucklow, S., *The alchemy of paint: art, science, and secrets from the Middle Ages* (London, 2009), chs 1-3
Roberts, L., Schaffer, S., Dear, P., (eds), *The Mindful Hand: Inquiry and Invention from the Late Renaissance to Early Industrialisation* (Amsterdam, 2007)
Schäfer, D., *The Crafting of 10,000 Things: Knowledge and Technology in Seventeenth-Century China* (Chicago, 2011)
4. Renaissance

i. Primary:
Albrecht Dürer, *Travel Journal of his Journey to the Netherlands* (various editions)
Robert Klein and Henri Zerner (eds), *Italian Art, 1500-1600: Sources and Documents* (1990); see especially sections on collecting and taste.
A visit to the Renaissance collection held in the Rothschild Gallery of the Fitzwilliam is especially recommended when preparing this topic.

ii. Secondary:
Baxandall, M., *Painting and Experience in Fifteenth-Century Italy* (first published, 1972; 2nd edn, 1988); sections one and two.


*Welch, E., *Shopping in the Renaissance: Consumer Cultures in Italy*, 1400-1600 (2005), 1, 2, 6, 8-10.

*Welch, E., and O’Malley, M., (eds), *The Material Renaissance* (Manchester 2007), intro, chs 1, 3, 4

Wilson, B., *The World in Venice: Print, the City, and early modern Identity* (University of Toronto Press, 2005), chs 1 and 2 (on city-maps and costume-books).
5. Reformations

i. Primary:
Bray, X. (ed.), The Sacred Made Real (London, 2009)
Corry, M. et al., Madonnas and Miracles (2017); see esp. rosaries, Agnus Dei and domestic piety.
Fitzwilliam Museum: esp. the Glaisher Gallery (23 – European Pottery) and the Rothschild Gallery (32 – Medieval and Renaissance Art).

ii. Secondary:
Alberts, T., Conflict and Conversion: Catholicism in Southeast Asia, 1500-1700 (Oxford, 2013), ch.7
Bamji, A., Janssen, G., and Laven, M., (eds), Ashgate Companion to the Counter-Reformation (2013), esp. chs 11 (Sacred Landscape), 13 (Senses), 20 (Art), 21 (Material Culture), 24 (Legacies)
Freedberg, D., The power of images: studies in the history and theory of response (1989), chs 1, 6–9
Gentilcore, D., From Bishop to Witch: The System of the Sacred in Early Modern Terra d’Otranto (Manchester, 1992); especially ch. 4 on sacramentals and ch. 6 on relics.
*Hamling, T., Decorating the Godly Household: Religious Art in Post-Reformation Britain (2010)
Johnson, C., Cultural Hierarchy in Sixteenth-Century Europe: The Ottomans and Mexicans (2011), chs 3, 6
*King, R., “The beads with which we pray are made from it”: Devotional ambers in early modern Italy’ in C. Göttler and W. de Boer (eds), Religion and the senses in early modern Europe (2013) pp.153–76
Laven, M., ‘Devotional Objects’ in V. Avery, M. Calaresu and M. Laven (eds), Treasured Possessions from the Enlightenment (2015), 238-45 and entries following
Musacchio, J., ‘Lambs, coral, teeth, and the intimate intersection of religion and magic in Renaissance Tuscany’ in S. Montgomery and S. Cornelison (eds), Images, relics, and devotional practices in medieval and Renaissance Italy (Tempe, 2005), pp.139–56
Po-Chia Hsia, R., The World of Catholic Renewal, 1540-1770 (2005); on art and architecture
Richardson, C., T. Hamling and D. Gaimster (eds), The Routledge Handbook of Material Culture in Early Modern Europe (Routledge, 2016), chs 19-20
Rublack, U., Dressing Up: Cultural Identity in Renaissance Europe (2010), ch.3


Spicer, A., (ed.), *Lutheran Churches in Early Modern Europe* (Farnham, 2012); esp. chs 5-7.


6. Enlightenments

i. Primary:
For plates from the *Encyclopédie* (1751-77), see http://diderot.alembert.free.fr/ or http://encyclopedie.uchicago.edu/
For a virtual tour of the Enlightenment Galleries at the British Museum:
http://www.britishmuseum.org/explore/galleries/themes/room_1_enlightenment.aspx
Bernard Mandeville, *The Fable of the Bees; or, Private Vices, Publick Benefits* (1795)
Molière, *Bourgeois Gentilhomme* (various editions)

ii. Secondary:
Coltman, V., *Classical sculpture and the culture of collecting in Britain since 1760* (2009), ch.6
North, M., ‘Material Delight and the Joy of Living’: Cultural Consumption in the Age of Enlightenment in Germany (2008), esp. chs 1-3, Conclusion.
Roche, D., *France in the enlightenment* (Harvard, 2000), chs 17, 19
7. Turquerie

i. Primary sources

Carle van Loo, ‘Chambre Turque’ series (c. 1752)
Jean-Baptiste Vanmour, ‘Femme turque qui fume sur le sopha’ and ‘Fille turque, prenant le café sur le sopha’ (1712-3)
The Military Band of the Old Turkish Army, ‘Old Army March’ and ‘Army March.’
Mozart, Die Entführung aus dem Serail, ‘Chor der Janitscharen’ (1782).
Jean De la Roque, ‘An Historical Treatise of the First use of Coffee; And the progress it afterwards made both in Asia and Europe: how it was first introduced into France, and when it came to be so generally received’, in A voyage to Arabia the happy, by the way of the Eastern ocean, and the streights of the Red-Sea: perform'd by the French for the first time, A.D. 1708, 1709, 1710, etc. (1726).

ii. Conceptualizing cultural exchange


iii. Ottoman culture in Europe

Dursteler, E., ‘“Bad Bread and the ‘Outrageous Drunkenness of the Turks”: Food and Identity in the Accounts of Early Modern European Travelers to the Ottoman Empire’, Journal of World History 25 (2014), pp. 203-228

Landweber, J., ‘“This Marvelous Bean”: Adopting Coffee into Old Regime French Culture and Diet’, French Historical Studies (2015).


8. Globalization and Encounter: Asia and Europe

i. Primary:
C. R. Boxer, *South China in the Sixteenth Century* (London, 1953); especially Galeote Pereira on food, 14; Gaspar da Cruz on sedan chairs, textiles and porcelain, 124-6, on food, 131-141, and on female dress, 149; Martín de Rada on clothes and sedan-chairs, 282-285, and food, 287.


ii. Secondary:


Clunas, C., *Superfluous Things. Material Culture and Social Status in Early Modern China* (19991), intro., chs 1, 2.


De Vries, J., *The Economy of Europe in an Age of Crisis, 1600-1750* (1976); chapter 4, ‘The dynamism of trade.’


*Jackson, A., & Jaffer, A., (eds), Encounters: The meeting of Asia and Europe, 1500–1800* (2004), esp. chs 1 (Intro), 3 (rarities and novelties), ch 4 porcelain, 6-8, 17-18, 20


9. Global Object Cultures

**General**
Adamson, G., Riello, G., and Teasley, S., (eds), *Global design history* (2011), Ch. 1
Roodenburg, H., (ed), *Forging European identities, 1400-1700*, vol. IV of Cultural exchange in early modern Europe (Cambridge, 2007), Intro, pp.138-177 (Howard, D., ‘Cultural transfer between Venice and the Ottomans), and ch.11.

**Porcelain**:
For porcelain objects, go to the Glaisher Gallery at the Fitzwilliam Museum.

**Metalwork**:
Hayward, J., *Virtuoso Goldsmiths and the Triumph of Mannerism, 1540-1620* (1976)


Weinryb, I., *The Bronze Object in the Middle Ages* (2016)

*Silver:*


Flynn, D., ‘Born with a “Silver Spoon”: The Origin of World Trade in 1571’, *Journal of World History*, vol. 6, no. 2 (Fall, 1995), pp. 201-221.


Jones, E.A., *Old Silver of Europe and America*, (1st ed., 1928), JM Classic Editions (2008). The book is organised by country: you may choose various case studies; the chapters on Germany (pp. 180-226), Holland (pp. 227-246) and Italy (pp. 265-270) are particularly good. And look out for mention of Cambridge college silver from these countries.


10. The Atlantic World

Canny, Nicholas, and Philip Morgan (eds), *The Oxford Handbook of the Atlantic World, 1450-1850* (2011), esp. chs 1, 6, 8, 18, 19.
Ganson, Barbara, *The Guaraní under Spanish Rule* (2003), esp. chs 1, 3, 4
Magasich-Airola, Jorge and Jean-Marc de Beer, *America Magica. When Renaissance Europe thought it had Conquered Paradise* (2007), esp. chs 1, 4 7
Velez, Karin, ‘Catholic Missions to the Americas’, ch. 8 in: A. Bamji et al. (eds) *The Ashgate Research Companion to the Counter-Reformation* (2013)
11. The Ottoman world

i. Primary sources


ii. General reading:

Faroqhi, S., *Approaching Ottoman History: An Introduction to the Sources* (1999)
Quataert, D., *The Ottoman Empire 1700-1922* (2005), chs 2-3 [for background].

iii. Lived religion


iv. Power and status

Reindl-Kiel, R., ‘Power and Submission: Gifting at Royal Circumcision Festivals in the Ottoman Empire (16th-18th centuries) *Turcica* 2009.
12. Mughal Gardens

i. Primary:
Images on Moodle
‘The Princes of the House of Timur’
http://www.britishmuseum.org/research/collection_online/collection_object_details.aspx?objectId=265945&partId=1

ii. Secondary:
13. Food and Drink

i. Primary:
Ivan Day’s website on the practice and technology of cooking.

ii. Secondary:
Albala, K. *A cultural history of food in the Renaissance* (2012), chs 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8.
Forster, R., and Ranum, O., (eds), *Food and drink in history* (1979), chs 3, 4, 6
Krohn, D., *Food and knowledge in Renaissance Italy: Bartolomeo Scappi’s paper kitchens* (2015).
Beat Kümin (ed), *A cultural history of food in the early modern age* (2012), chs 5, 6, 7, 8.
Mintz, S., *Sweetness and Power: The Place of Sugar in Modern History* (1986), ch 3
Olson, R. et al. (eds), *The biography of the object in late medieval and renaissance Italy* (2006) ch. 4


14. Drugs and the Globalisation of Europe

i. Primary
Nicolas Lémery, *A course of chymistry: containing an easie method of preparing those chymical medicines which are used in physic* (London, 1720), read Chap. IX., Of Antimony, esp. 202-222*

Pierre Pomet, *A compleat history of druggs* (London, 1712) book II., Of Ipecacuanha, 24-25; and book IV. Ch. 6, Of the Peruvian Bark, 76-79 *

ii. Secondary:
Burke, P., and Po-Chia Hsia, R., *Cultural Translation in Early Modern Europe* (2007), ch.9


Huguet-Termes, T., “New World materia medica in Spanish Renaissance medicine: from scholarly reception to practical impact”, *Medical History* 45.3 (2001): 359-76


Pincus, S., “Rethinking mercantilism: political economy, the British Empire, and the Atlantic world in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries”, *The William and Mary Quarterly* 69.1 (2012): 3-34

Porter, R., and Teich, M., (eds), *Drugs and Narcotics* (1985)


Walker, T., ‘The medicines trade in the Portuguese Atlantic world: acquisition and dissemination of healing knowledge from Brazil (c.1580–1800)’, *Social History of Medicine* 26.3 (2013): 403-31


15. The Triumph of Fashion

i. Primary:

ii. Secondary:
*DiPaolo Loren, *The Archaeology of Clothing and Bodily Adornment in Colonial America* (2010), esp. chs 2-4
Hayward, M., *Dress at the Court of King Henry VIII* (Maney, 2007), esp. I.
*Lemire, Global Trade and the Transformation of Consumer Cultures* (2017), Intro. 2, 3, 6
*Riello, G., Cotton: The Fabric that made the Modern World* (2013), esp. 1,7,8
*Schäfer, D., et al. (eds), *Threads of Global Desire: Silk in the Pre-Modern World* (2018), esp. chs 13 (Riello on Global Comparisons), 4, 6, 9, 10
*Warsh, Molly A., American Baroque: Pearls and the Nature of Empire 1492-1700* (2018), esp Intro., chs 1, 5
Welch, E., and M. O’Malley (eds), *The Material Renaissance* (Manchester 2007), ch. 1
16. Print

i. Primary:
Visit the Rare Book room at the University Library or your college library and examine an early printed version of a text, author, or subject you are familiar with. Explore some of the material features of the book, using Sarah Werner’s *Studying Early Printed Books* (2019) as a guide.

University Library: For more detailed studies on book illustration, book-binding, paper-making, printing type and ink, publishing and distribution for specific cultures or time periods, you may wish to consult the reference collection on the shelves of the University Library’s Rare Books Room (B classmark).

Centre for Material Texts website - http://www.english.cam.ac.uk/cmt/

ii. Secondary:


Darnton, R., *The Forbidden Best-Sellers of Pre-Revolutionary France* (1996), Chapter 7


Johns, A., “Dolly’s Wax: The Historical Physiology of Interpretation in Early Modern England”, in
Raven, J., Small, H., and Tadmor, N., (eds), The Practice and Representation of Reading in
*Latour, B., “Visualization and Cognition: Thinking With Eyes and Hands”, Knowledge and
Ogborn, M., and Withers, C., (eds), Geographies of the Book (2010), introduction and chs 4-5.
Richardson, B., Printing, Writers and Readers in Renaissance Italy (1999).
Sherman, W., Used books: marking readers in Renaissance England (2008), Preface, ch.8
Smyth, A., ‘What We Talk About When We Talk About Scissors’, in Ornamentalism: The Art of
*Werner, Sarah, Studying Early Printed Books, 1450-1800: A Practical Guide (Chichester: John
Wiley & Sons, 2019)
17. Courts

i. Primary:

ii. Secondary:
Goldthwaite, R., *Wealth and the Demand for Art in Italy* 1300-1600 (1993)


Schmitter, M., ‘“Virtuous Riches”: The Bricolage of Cittadini Identities in Early-Sixteenth-Century Venice’, *Renaissance Quarterly* 57, 3 (Fall 2004), pp. 908-969.


18. Collecting and Cabinets

i. Primary:

ii. Secondary:
Evans, R.J.W., *Rudolf II and His World: A Study in Intellectual History* (1576–1612) (1973), ch. 5
Evans, R.J.W., and Marr, A., (eds), *Curiosity and wonder from the Renaissance to the Enlightenment* (Aldershot, 2006), Preface and Introduction
Findlen, P., *Possessing Nature: Museums, Collecting, and Scientific Culture in Early Modern Italy* (1996), chs 1, 6, epilogue
MacDonald, D., ‘Collecting a New World: The Ethnographic Collections of Margaret of Austria’, *Sixteenth Century Journal* 33, 3 (Fall 2002), pp. 649-664.
Marr, A., and Evans, R.J.W., (eds), *Curiosity and wonder from the Renaissance to the Enlightenment* (2009), Intro, ch. 8 by Marr

Welch, E., *Shopping in the Renaissance: Consumer cultures in Italy, 1400-1600* (Yale, 2005), ch. on Isabella d’Este.
19. Inside and Outside

i. Primary:
French furniture at the Metropolitan Museum: ‘case’ furniture & seat furniture
Jan Comenius, *Orbis Sensualium Pictus* (1658), pp.85, 91-2

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Annibale Carracci, *Di Bologna, L'arti per via* [Rome, 1660] (Forni Editore, Bologna).
Ambrogio Brambilla, *Ritrato de quelli che vano vendendo et lavorando per Roma* (Rome, 1612), Pepys Library, Magdalene College, Cambridge
Paolo Petrini, *Facciate delli palazzi piu cospicui della città di Napoli con le brevi descrizione delle cose più magnifiche*, (Naples, 1718), ff.13-29
Duca di Noja, *Mappa topografica della città di Napoli e de’ suoi contorni* (Naples, 1775)

ii. Secondary:
Domestic:
Handley, S., *Sleep in Early Modern England* (Yale, 2016), ch.2
Vickery, A., ‘An Englishman’s home is his castle? Thresholds, boundaries and privacies in the eighteenth-century house’, *Past and Present*, No. 199 (May, 2008), 147–73

Street Lives:


Maczak, A., Travel in early modern Europe (1995), ch. 2 on inns and ch 5 on ‘Frontiers’


Shesgreen, S., Images of the Outcast: The Urban Poor in the Cities of London from the Sixteenth to the Nineteenth Century (Manchester, 2002), chs 3-4


Welch, E., Shopping in the Renaissance: Consumer cultures in Italy, 1400-1600 (2005), chs 3 and 5.
20. Inventories

i. Primary:
Margrieta van Varick inventory and exhibition: interview with Natalie Zemon Davis - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hwiR3dz4Wg8
Emmanuel Ximenez and Isabel da Vega Inventory, 1617, Antwerp - http://ximenez.unibe.ch/inventory/reading/
Ma Hongjie, Chinese Family Possessions Photography Project - http://www.theguardian.com/world/gallery/2015/may/26/everything-we-own-chinese-families-
possessions-in-pictures
willem-van/
Domestic Interiors Database [search ‘inventory’] - http://csdi.rca.ac.uk/didb/index.php
Goods dictionaries:
German - http://www.kruenitz1.uni-trier.de/

ii. Secondary:
Ajmar-Wollheim, M., and Dennis, F., (eds), At Home in Renaissance Italy (2006), esp. Parts 2-5.
Brundin, A., D. Howard and M. Laven, The Sacred Home in Renaissance Italy (Oxford, 2018), ch. 4
Krohn, D., and Miller, P., (eds), Dutch New York, between East and West: the world of Margrieta van Varick (2009), Introduction and interview with Natalie Zemon Davis
Shepherd, A., Accounting for Oneself. Worth, Status and Social Order in Early Modern England (2015)