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FUN FOR KIDS

A COOPERATIVE PROJECT OF THE SANTA BARBARA NEWS-PRESS AND THE EDUCATORS' ROUNDTABLE, PUBLISHED MONTHLY TO PROMOTE LEARNING AMONG YOUNG READERS IN NATURAL SCIENCE, HISTORY, TECHNOLOGY AND ART

This Month's Theme: The Art Of Collecting

Giovanni Paolo Panini, Italy, Rome 1691-1765, *Interior of a Picture Gallery with the Collection of Cardinal Silvio Valenti Gonzaga, 1749,* Oil painting on canvas, Collection of the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art (The Ella Gallup Sumner and Mary Catlin Sumner Collection Fund, 1948.478)

A Cardinal's Collection

This painting was made over 200 years ago. It shows a collector proudly pointing to some of his treasures. Can you find the collector? He is Cardinal Valenti Gonzaga, standing in the center, dressed in the red robes of a Cardinal, a high official in the Catholic church. Look at the man to the left of him. This is the artist, Giovanni Paolo Panini. How can you tell he is an artist?

The architecture is imaginary, but the paintings all were real. Cardinal Gonzaga owned more than 800 paintings; Panini has only shown about 200 of them.

The large landscape painting on the far left, with horses and trees, is by the Dutch artist Ruisdael. That painting is now in the collection of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art where you can see it today. In fact, Panini's private art gallery represents the kind of space that would eventually become the modern art museum.

Collecting in Museums

Just as we do today, people in the 1700s enjoyed collecting things and displaying them. In addition to paintings, Cardinal Gonzaga collected drawings, sculptures, books, and maps.

The Santa Barbara Museum of Art also has a large collection. Can you guess how many works of art are in the Museum? Over 25,000! Because the space is limited, not everything can be shown at one time. The Museum collects paintings, sculpture, photographs, drawings, prints, books, ceramics, dolls, masks, musical instruments, and textiles.

What Do You Collect?

If you look closely at some of the objects in the front of the painting you will see a variety of things collected by Cardinal Gonzaga. Today people still collect books and paintings but they also collect other things like coins or stamps, bird feathers or rocks or sea glass. What do you collect? How do you show it off or display it for others to see?

Balthasar van der Ast, Dutch, 1593/4-1657, *Still Life with Shells and Fruit,* circa 1630-40, Oil painting, The Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art, (The Ella Gallup Sumner and Mary Catlin Sumner Collection Fund, 1937.491)

A Collection of Seashells

In the 1600s, when this painting was made, seashells were rare and precious things to collect. Can you guess why? Because these shells came from far away—the West Indies and the South Pacific. They were brought back to the Netherlands by Dutch explorers who had visited these far-off lands. If you were to paint these shells how would you arrange them? What other objects can you find in the painting? Use the frame to draw a picture of something you collect or something you would like to start collecting in the future.

There are many different collections to discover at the Santa Barbara Museum of Art. If you come to SBMA you can also see the real paintings on this page. They are part of an exhibition called *Renaissance to Rococo* that is visiting Santa Barbara from the Wadsworth Atheneum, a museum in Hartford, Connecticut. See the exhibition for yourself!

Renaissance to Rococo: Masterpieces from the Collection of the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art will be at the Santa Barbara Museum of Art until May 28, 2006. SBMA is free on Sundays.