

# Around the World

## Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei, Rome

In May 2004, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei held a joint meeting in Rome. In their opening remarks, President of the Academy Patricia Meyer Spacks (University of Virginia) and President of the Lincei Giovanni Conso (University of Turin) spoke of the long history and common purpose of the two organizations. One of the oldest learned societies in the world, the Lincei celebrated its fourth centenary last year; the American Academy will mark its 225th anniversary in 2005 – 2006. Both academies encourage international cooperation in science and scholarship by bringing together members of the learned community and the professions to share their perspectives on social and scholarly issues.

The focus of the meeting was a symposium on “Changing Perceptions of Art in History.” At the opening session, moderated by the Editor of the Academy Steven Marcus (Columbia University), three Academy Fellows discussed a group of artists who abandoned classical ideals of beauty and developed a radical new approach to art in the 1860s and 1870s. Drawing upon the paintings of Eduard Manet, James Cuno (Art Institute of Chicago) described the emergence of modern concepts of beauty in mid-eighteenth-century Paris. Philip Gossett (University of Chicago) reflected on the development of freer and more open forms of musical aesthetics, citing Verdi’s three revisions of *La Forza del Destino* as an example of how composers struggled with the new approach to the beautiful in music. Rosanna Warren (Boston University) considered the evolution of free verse and the prose poem as seen through the work of Rimbaud.

Salvatore Settis (Scuola Normale Superiore di Pisa) chaired the second session, featuring presentations by members of the Lincei. Lina Bolzoni (Scuola Normale Superiore di Pisa) described the association of words and images in the art of memory – a technique invented in ancient Greece, taught as part of rhetorical training well into the seventeenth century, and still in use today. Writer and scholar Daniele Del Giudice (Venice) examined the Greek word *poiein*, which means “to do or make” but which also lies at the root of “poet” and “poetry,” arguing that the practice of science creates its own kind of poetry. Concluding the session, Ingrid Rowland, a Fellow of the Academy and the Andrew W. Mellon Professor in the Humanities at the American Academy in Rome, provided a commentary on the text and illustrations of one of the most beautiful books in the Lincei collection: a facsimile of the first printed edition (1486) of the *Ten Books on Architecture*, written for Emperor Augustus by the architect Vitruvius in about 20 B.C.

The Academy also visited a number of sites throughout the city. Ingrid Rowland graciously welcomed Fellows to the American Academy in Rome and provided lively and informative commentary for tours of Baroque Art in the Piazza Navona, a palazzo at the Lincei, and Etruscan sites at Tarquinia and Cerveteri. The U.S. Ambassador to the Holy See, R. James Nicholson, extended greetings at the Pontifical Academy.

The meeting was organized by the Secretary of the Academy Emilio Bizzi (MIT) and the Co-President of the Lincei Lamberto Maffei (Istituto di Neurofisiologia del CNR, Italy). ■



Philip Gossett (University of Chicago)



Rosanna Warren (Boston University)



James Cuno (Art Institute of Chicago)



Lincei members Lina Bolzoni and Salvatore Settis (both, Scuola Normale Superiore di Pisa) and Daniele Del Giudice (Venice)



1. Ingrid Rowland (American Academy in Rome) addressing members and guests of the Academy and the Lincei on the steps of the Villa Farnesina.
2. Secretary of the Academy Emilio Bizzi (MIT) and President of the Lincei Giovanni Conso (University of Turin).
3. Academy Treasurer John Reed (New York Stock Exchange), Executive Officer Leslie Berlowitz, and Vice President Louis Cabot (Cabot-Wellington LLC)
4. Elio Raviola (Harvard Medical School) and David Sabatini (NYU School of Medicine)
5. Members and guests of the Academy and the Lincei at the opening session of the conference.
6. Co-President of the Lincei Lamberto Maffei (Istituto di Neurofisiologia del CNR) and Academy President Patricia Meyer Spacks (University of Virginia)

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