
Finding aid for the Anna Laetitia Pecci-Blunt collection of maps of Rome, circa 1550-1883

Finding aid prepared by Brian Parshall

Descriptive Summary

Title: Anna Laetitia Pecci-Blunt collection of maps of Rome

Date (inclusive): circa 1550-1883

Number: P850002

Creator/Collector: Pecci Blunt, Anna Laetitia, 1885-1971

Physical Description: 42 maps

Repository:

The Getty Research Institute

Special Collections

1200 Getty Center Drive, Suite 1100

Los Angeles 90049-1688

URL: <http://hdl.handle.net/10020/askref>

(310) 440-7390

Abstract: The collection consists of 42 printed maps of the city of Rome, dating circa 1550 to 1883, from the library of collector, gallerist, philanthropist and patron of the arts, Countess Anna Laetitia Pecci-Blunt.

Request Materials: Request access to the physical materials described in this inventory through the [catalog record](#) for this collection. Click here for the [access policy](#).

Language: Collection material is in Italian

Biographical/Historical Note

Anna Laetitia ("Mimi") Pecci-Blunt was born on 15 March 1885. Her father, Count Camillo Pecci was head of the Guardia nobile pontificia and a nephew to Pope Leo XIII (Vicenzo Gioacchino Pecci), and her mother, Silvia Bueno y Garzon was a Spanish noblewoman from Cuba. After passing the years of World War I in Switzerland, Anna Laetitia Pecci settled in Paris and soon immersed herself in artistic and intellectual circles, becoming friends with Georges Braque and Jean Cocteau. She was introduced to the wealthy and cultured American banker, Cécil Blunt, son of the collector Ferdinand Blumenthal. The marriage between the two was celebrated in 1919 with the benediction of Pope Benedict XV, who gave Cécil Blunt the title of Count Pecci-Blunt. The couple took up residence in Paris where they opened their home to writers, poets, artists and musicians including Salvador Dalí, Cocteau, Paul Valéry, Francis Poulenc and Paul Claudel. The Pecci-Blunts had five children: Dino, Laetitia, Viviana, Camilla and Graziella.

In 1929, the Pecci-Blunts decided to spend part of each year in Rome and they purchased, near the Campodoglio and the Piazza Venezia, the palazzo in Piazza Aracoeli 3 designed by Giacomo della Porta. As in Paris, this residence became a cultural hub, reflecting Anna Laetitia Pecci-Blunt's desire to foster exchange between Italian and foreign artists, musicians and intellectuals. During this period Pecci-Blunt began to acquire prints, published works, drawings and paintings thematically focused upon the city of Rome. Many of these materials were purchased in Rome, however she also acquired art during her frequent trips to Paris. Pecci-Blunt's collection included views, plans, maps of Rome and depictions of the inhabitants of the city in popular costume. As intense urban development under Mussolini transformed Rome in the 1930's, interest in the city's past grew among certain circles in Rome. The collection came to be known as "Roma Sparita" because of its nostalgic focus on the Rome of a bygone era.

In addition to her collecting activities, Pecci-Blunt's patronage of the arts blossomed during this period. She began hosting an annual series of spring concerts at her palazzo and invited musicians such as Darius Milhaud, Arthur Rubinstein, Poulenc, George Auric, Igor Stravinsky and Nathan Milstein to perform. By 1934 plans were laid to open an art gallery. The Galleria della Cometa opened in April 1935 under the direction of Libero de Libero and featured contemporary artists including AFRO (Afro Basaldella), MIRKO (Mirko Basaldella), Corrado Cagli, Giorgio de Chirico, Guglielmo Janni and Gino Severini, among others. In 1937 a New York branch called The Cometa Art Gallery was opened. Both galleries were named after Pecci-Blunt's family coat of arms, a comet. She had adopted the symbol from her relative, Pope Leo XIII.

For a brief period, both galleries were in operation until mounting political tensions forced the closure of the gallery in Rome in 1938. Anna Laetitia and Cécil Pecci-Blunt spent the years of World War II in New York, before returning to Italy in 1947. Upon her return, Pecci-Blunt resumed her cultural and artistic activities, and in 1948, the first meeting of the Associazione Amici dei Musei di Roma was held in her palazzo. Shortly after, she expressed her desire to donate her collection of drawings, watercolors and other paintings to the Museo di Roma. Over the next twenty-odd years, she continued to support artistic endeavors in all forms, holding concerts, building and operating a theater (Teatro di Cometa), and serving in an advisory capacity to the museums of Rome. She was honored for her artistic patronage and philanthropy in 1960 with a Medaglia d'oro per l'arte e la cultura and in 1964, for her encouragement of cross-cultural interchange, with

a Légion d'honneur from the French government.

During her years of activity with the Amici dei Musei di Roma, she provided funds for acquisitions and discouraged purchases that would duplicate items in her own collection. Upon her death in 1971, she donated her collection of drawings, watercolors, and paintings to the Museo di Roma, while her collection of prints and published works were sold and dispersed.

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Preferred Citation

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<http://hdl.handle.net/10020/cifap850002>

Acquisition Information

The collection was acquired in 1985 as part of the library of Anna Laetitia Pecci-Blunt, which was sold in 1972 after her death, along with her printed maps of Rome. The prints were integrated with the Getty Research Institute's Special Collections and divided into two collections: maps of Rome, Accession no. P850002, and views of Rome, Accession no. P850003.

Processing History

The finding aid and the processing of the collection was completed in June 1997 by Brian Parshall; revisions of the finding aid were made in September 2012.

Related Archival Materials

The collection is complemented by a collection of 97 prints of views of Rome, also held by The Getty Research Institute, Los Angeles, Accession no. P850002, and by other holdings from Pecci-Blunt's library. Search the Getty Research Institute's library catalog using the phrase "Anna Laetitia Pecci-Blunt" for the Research Institute's holdings from the Pecci-Blunt library.

Scope and Content of Collection

The Anna Laetitia Pecci-Blunt collection of maps of Rome comprises 42 printed maps of Rome, dating from the mid-16th to the late 19th centuries, with captions identifying sites. The majority of the maps were printed in Rome (29), although several were printed in other Italian cities: four from Venice, and one each from Siena and Bologna. The remainder are German (4), French (2), and Dutch (1) in origin. Included are examples by Giovanni Battista Piranesi (1720-1778) and Antonio Tempesta (1555-1630).

Arrangement note

Arrangement is by chronological order.

Subjects - Topics

Maps -- Private collections

Pecci Blunt, Anna Laetitia, 1885-1971 -- Art collections

Subjects - Places

Rome (Italy) -- Maps

Genres and Forms of Material

Maps -- Italy -- 19th century

Maps -- Italy -- 16th century

Maps -- Italy -- 18th century

Maps -- Italy -- 17th century

Contributors

Pecci Blunt, Anna Laetitia, 1885-1971

Piranesi, Giovanni Battista, 1720-1778

Tempesta, Antonio, 1555-1630

To request an item:

Bibliographic Note: Amato Pietro Frutaz. *Le piante di Roma* (Roma: Istituto di Studi Romani, 1962); Camillo Scaccia Scarafoni. *Le piante di Roma possedute dalla Biblioteca dell'Istituto [di archeologia e storia dell'arte] e dalle altre biblioteche governative della città* (Roma: Libreria dello Stata, 1939); Christian Hülsen. *Saggio di bibliografia ragionata delle piante iconografiche e prospettiche di Roma dal 1551 al 1748* (Firenze: Leo S. Olschki, 1933).

Citations from Frutaz and Hülsen have been verified. Scarafoni citations have been verified only so far as they are reflected in Frutaz, notations in the inventory indicate when the citation in Scarafoni was not verified.

box 1*, item 1	Roma, [Venice? : B. Zaltieri?, 1569?] 
box 2*, item 2	Recens rursus post omnes omnium description[um] vrb[is] Romae topographia ... / N[icolas] B[eatrizet] 
box 1*, item 3	Roma, [later 16th century?] 
box 1*, item 4	Roma, [later 16th century?] 
box 1*, item 5	Roma, In Venetia : Alla libreria del segno de S. Marco in merzaria D.B., [after 1550] 
flatfile 6**	[Rome] / Leon Pitor, MDLXVIII [1568]. 
oversize 7**	Du Pérac, Etienne, -1604, cartographer. Specimen, seu, Perfecta urbis antiquae imago. [Rome] : Impensa Antonij Lafrerij, anno MDLXXIII [1573] 
box 2*, item 8	Panvinio, Onofrio, 1529-1568, cartographer. Antiquae urbis imago, 1580. 
box 2*, item 9	Brambilla, Ambrogio, active approximately 1579-1599. Antiquae urbis perfecta imago accuratissime delineate ..., MDLXXXII [1582]. 
box 2*, item 10	Brambilla, Ambrogio, active approximately 1579-1599. Vrbis Romae descriptio, [ca. 1600?] 
box 1*, item 11	Roma. In Padoua : Per Mattio Cadorin, [16--] 
oversize 12**	Brambilla, Ambrogio, active approximately 1579-1599, cartographer, etcher. Novissima urbis Romae descriptio MDLXXXVII. [Rome] : Nicolai uan Aelst for[mis] Rom[a]e, [1597] 
box 1*, item 13	Bry, Theodor de, 1528-1598, etcher, publisher. Nouissima vrbis Romae descriptio a[nn]o M.D.L.XXXXVII, [Frankfurt am Main : Bry, 1597?] 
box 1*, item 14	Roma. [Padua] : Franco. Bertelli for[mis], [16--] 
box 2*, item 15	Nouissima vrbis Romae descriptio. [Sienna] : Matheo Florimj formis, [159-?] 
box 1*, item 16	Bry, Theodor de, 1528-1598, etcher. Antiquae vrbis perfecta imago, [Frankfurt am Main : Bry, 1597] 
box 2*, item 17	Antiquae urbis perfecta et noua delineatio. [Rome? : publisher not identified, approximately 1600] 
box 2*, item 18	Schiaminossi, Raffaello, approximately 1570-approximately 1620, etcher. Nouissima urbis Romae descriptio. Romae : Apud Carolus Vaccarius Romanus, 1612. 
box 2*, item 19	Schayck, Govert van, cartographer. Roma antiqua. [Rome : G. van Schayck, between 1620 and 1635] 
oversize 20**	Roma, [Frankfurt am Main, M. Merian, 16--] 
box 4*, item 21a-h	Du Pérac, Etienne, -1604, designer, engraver. Vrbis Romae sciographia ex antiquis monumentis accuratiss[ime] delineata. [Rome] : Cura et tipis Io[annis] Iacobi de Rubeis in Romae ad templ[um] S[anc]t[ae] M[ari]ae. de Pace, [between 1649 and 1691] 
box 2*, item 22	Vrbis Romae nouissima delineatio MDCL. [Rome] : Io. Iacobus de Rubeis excudebat Romae ad Pacem, 1650. 
box 2*, item 23	Maggi, Giovanni, 1566-1618, cartographer. Descriptio vrbis Romae nouissima A.D. MDCL. [Rome] : Gio. Batta. de Rossi milanese in Piazza Nauona, [1650] 
oversize 24**	Lauro, Giacomo, active 17th century, cartographer, engraver. Roma antiqua triumphatrix ab antiquis monumentis et rerum gestarum memoriis eruta. [Rome] : Io[annes] Iacobus de Rubeis formis Romae ad Templu[m] Pacis, [16--] 
oversize 25**	Cruyl, Lieven de, approximately 1640-1720, cartographer. Plan de la ville de Rome ... Se vend a Paris : Chez Hubert laillot au bout du Pont neuf proche les Augustins aux deux globes, 1668. 
oversize 26**	Agnelli, Federico, 1626-1702, cartographer, engraver. Roma. In Bologna : Nella stamperia del Longhi, [166-?] 
oversize 27**	Schnitzer, Lucas, active 17th century, etcher. Abbildung de[r] vortrefflichen und Weltberühmten Statt Rom. [Nuremberg] : Paul Fürst ex., [166-?] 

box 1*, item 28	Ridolfi, Pietro, cartographer. Roma, [Venice : Coronelli, 1689]
oversize 29**	La Feuille, Jacques de, 1668-, etcher, publisher. Novissima et accuratissima delineatio Romae veteris et novae, Amstelodami : Ex officina Iocobi de la Feuille, [169-?]
oversize 30I-VI**	Cingolani, Giovanni Battista, cartographer. Topografia geometrica dell' Agro romano, ouero, La misura, pianta, e quantita di tutte le tenute e casali della campagna di Roma ... [Rome] : Si stampano in Piazza Nauona da Fulvio Paluzzi romano, l'anno MDCLXXXII [1692, i.e. between 1692 and 1704]
oversize 31**	Barbey, Antonio, active 1684-1714, etcher. Nuoua pianta della città di Roma ... [Rome] : Data in luce da Domenico de Rossi, erede di Gio. Giacomo de Rossi, dalle sue stampe in Roma alla Pace, l'anno 1697. il di 25. Maggio.
oversize 32**	Fer, Nicolas de, 1646-1720, cartographer, publisher. Roma : plan nouveau de la ville de Rome. A Paris : Chez le Sr. de Fer dans l'Isle du palais sur le quay de l'orloge a la sphere royale, 1713.
oversize 34**	Vrbis Romae ichtographia / à Leonardo Bufalino ligneis formis evulgata atque aeri incisa à Ioh. Baptista Nolli, geometra et architecto Sum[m]i Pontificis Benedicti XIV. [Nuremberg] : Recusa prostat in Offic[ina] Homan[niana], 1755.
box 3*, folder 35a-i	Rossi, Matteo Gregorio de, 1638-1702, designer, engraver. Nuoua pianta di Roma presente ... [Rome] : Presso Carlo Losi, l'anno MDCCLXXIII [1773].
oversize 36**	Piranesi, Giovanni Battista, 1720-1778, designer, etcher, publisher. Pianta di Roma e del Campo Marzo. [Rome : G.B. Piranesi, approximately 1774]
oversize 37**	Benedetti, Ignazio, 1725-, etcher. Nuova pianta topografica della città de Roma ... Roma : Presso Venanzio Monaldini in Piazza di Spagna no. 6, [177-?]
oversize 38**	Brun, Giovanni, 1754-, etcher. Roma, [Rome] : Si trova nella calcografia Vasi, in via del Babbuino no. 122, [approximately 1780]
box 1*, folder 39	Vasi, Giuseppe, 1710-1782, cartographer, etcher, publisher. Nuova pianta di Roma in prospettiva ... [Rome] : Si vende dal medesimo autore per paoli otto, [1781]
oversize 40**	Pianta di Roma come si trova al presente ... [Rome] : Presso Carlo Losi, l'anno 1784.
oversize 41**	Roma antiqua triumphatrix ex vetustis monumentis expressa. Romae : Apud Marianum Vasi, 1792.
box 1*, item 42a-l	Ligorio, Pirro, approximately 1513-1583. Antiquae vrbis imago accuratissime ex vetusteis monumenteis formata. [Rome] : Presso Giovanni Scudellari, [1820-1830]
oversize 43I-XVI**	Spinetti, Antonio, cartographer, designer. Pianta topografica di Roma ..., [1883 or later]
