

# Lisa Beaven

## **Cheating the Female Patron: A coins-for-paintings swap in 1658 be- tween Rome and Madrid**

This paper investigates the evidence for an exchange between Camillo Massimo of Rome and Donna Lorenza de Cardenas of Madrid in 1658. In order to obtain a valuable studiolo of Spanish coins and medals from Donna Lorenza, Massimo undertook to commission 35 paintings in Rome, to be sent to Spain as payment. Because he was in exile he delegated the task of commissioning the paintings to Giovanni Pietro Bellori in Rome, and the task of selecting and sending the coins to Antonazzi, a miniaturist in Spain. The letters about this commission reveal a wealth of technical information about painting, from pigments, to the nature of the affetti, and to the Spanish love of smooth finishes, all of which reveal major differences in taste between Spain and Italy. The exchange comes to an abrupt end when Donna Lorenza receives the first shipment of paintings and realizes that she has been cheated.



**Monday 14 November**

**6.30 pm**

**Room 148 Elisabeth Murdoch Building**

**All Welcome**