

Lisa Beaven

In the Footsteps of An Angel

Giovanni Pietro Bellori, the Inquisition and the Issue of False Relics in 17th-Century Rome

This paper attempts to examine two separate but linked traditions in seicento Rome: religious practice and archaeology. These come together in the example of the relic of the footsteps of the Archangel Michael in the church of S. Maria in Araceoli. Until the 1650s a circular marble stone of 40 cm in diameter, containing two footprints 12 cm long was worshipped as a holy relic in the church of S. Maria in Aracoeli in Rome. The footprints were believed to have been seared into the stone by the Archangel Michael when he alighted on the Castel Sant'Angelo in 590, appearing to Pope Gregory the Great. This paper examines the controversial circumstances in which the stone was recognized as an ancient Roman bas-relief, removed from the church and placed in the collection of the Capitoline Museums.

Future Papers

Monday 28 June - Domingo Cordoba, "Vendedores Ambulantes: Street Sellers in Bartolomé Esteban Murillo's Genre Paintings".

Monday 2 August - Anthony White, "Italy and Fascism".

Monday 30 August - Clare O'Donoghue, "Vittoria Colonna: number one pin up girl of Italian renaissance poets and artists"

Monday 27 September - Joan Barclay-Lloyd "Carlo Rainaldi's Lazzaretti"

Monday 25 October - Robert Mihajlovski, "Edward Lear in the Balkans 1848: journals of a landscape artist in Bitola and Ohrid"

Monday 22 November - Monica Lausch, "Julius von Schlosser and Portraiture"

Monday 13 December - Lesley den Hartog, "Chinese Gardens in Australia"



Monday 31 May

6.45 pm Room 148 Elisabeth Murdoch Building

All Welcome