



**OBJECT LESSONS:
KNOWLEDGE ORGANIZATION AND
ANTIQUITY IN INSTITUTIONAL
TEACHING COLLECTIONS ACROSS
THE LONG NINETEENTH CENTURY
(1750–1940)**

The William J. Battle collection of plaster cast on display in the Old Library (now Battle Hall) at the University of Texas at Austin for the University Centennial Exposition, 1936

8–10 April 2026

8 April 2026

Swedish Institute of Classical Studies in Rome | Via Omero, 14
9.00–16.00

9.00

Welcome and Opening Remarks

ULF R. HANSSON, Swedish Institute
RABUN TAYLOR, University of Texas at Austin

9.20

Opening Keynote

MIKAEL AHLUND, Uppsala University
Royal Collections and a New Understanding of Antiquity in Eighteenth-Century Sweden

9.55

Opening Address

ULF R. HANSSON, Swedish Institute
'Die Quelle des guten Geschmacks': The Role of Classical Engraved Gems and Dactylothecae in the Reception of Ancient Visual Culture in Europe and the U.S.

10.30

Break

10.45

Session 1: Coins

Chair: KEARSTIN JACOBSON

RAGNAR HEDLUND, Uppsala University
Ancient Coins in Eighteenth- and Nineteenth-Century Sweden: From Learned Pastime to National Project

D. ALEX WALTHALL, University of Texas at Austin
The Swenson Coin Collection: From Antiquarianism to Linked Data

GIUSEPPE CASTELLANO, University of Vienna
Friend or Foe? Fakes, Forgeries, and Counterfeits in Coin Collections

SVANTE FISCHER, Uppsala University (not livestreamed)
Assessing the Late Roman Solidus Import from Italy to Migration Period Scandinavia: From Antiquarian Typological Collections to Archaeological Context and Archival Provenance

12.45

Break

14.00

Session 2: American Collections I

Chair: ALEX WALTHALL

ANNETTA ALEXANDRIDIS, Cornell University
Replica Lessons: Cornell University's Teaching Collections Between Laboratory, Museum, and Prestige Object

NICOLE BERLIN, Wellesley College
Reconnecting Ancient Antioch: Teaching Collections, Archives, and Collaborative Research in the Digital Age

MARSHA MCCOY, Southern Methodist University
The Cast Collection of the Metropolitan Museum of Art: From Display to Instruction

JULIE HRUBY, Dartmouth College
Material Copies: Sulfur Casts and Classical Representation

16.00

Reception

9 April 2026

Swedish Institute of Classical Studies in Rome | Via Omero, 14
9.30–16.00

9.30 **Session 3: American Collections II**

Chair: RABUN TAYLOR

KEARSTIN JACOBSON, University of Texas at Austin
Reception and Authenticity of Ancient Sculptures Replicated in Successive 3D Technologies: The William J. Battle Collection of Plaster Casts as a Case Study

VALENTINA FOLLO, American Academy in Rome
Inspired by Antiquity: Elinhu Vedder and Antonio Odelli

SARA MOHR, American Academy of Arts and Sciences
Selling the Ancient World: Edgar Banks and the Narrative Construction of U.S. Teaching Collections

11.00 Break

11.15 **Session 4: Collections and Pedagogy in the Anglophone World**

Chair: KEARSTIN JACOBSON

AMY C. SMITH, Ure Museum of Greek Archaeology, University of Reading
A Tale of Two Thebes

MONIQUE WEBBER, Melbourne Girls Grammar School
Performative Pedagogy in Nineteenth-Century Melbourne Cast Collections

JESSICA GLUECK, North London Collegiate School and University of Cambridge
Museums Makyth Man? Controversy and Classical Collecting at the English Public School, 1870–1930

12.45 Break

14.00 **Session 5: European Collections I**

Chair: ADAM RABINOWITZ

NATACHA LUBTCHANSKY, University of Tours, CeTHiS
Didactic Copies: Teaching Materials for Archaeology and the History of Ancient Art (Greek, Etruscan and Roman) in France, Greece, and Italy (19th–20th Centuries) Held by the Écoles françaises d'Athènes et de Rome (2022–2027)

RAPHAËLE MOUREN, British School at Rome and Centre Gabriel Naudé
Teaching Rome One Century Ago: The Roman Society Collection at the British School at Rome

CARL-LORIS RASCHEL, Louvre Museum and Collège de France
From Museum to Research Center: The Louvre Papyrological Collection as a Teaching Collection

MARINO FICCO, UCLouvain (not livestreamed)
Between Wars and Divisions: The Difficult History of the University Collections of Leuven and Louvain-la-Neuve

10 April 2026

American Academy in Rome | Via Angelo Masina, 5
11.15–19.00

11.15 **Session 6: Digital Workshop (Zoom Webinar only)**
ADAM RABINOWITZ, University of Texas at Austin
Toward a Digital Strategy for the Revitalization and Reconnection of Isolated Teaching Collections

13.00 Break

15.00 **Welcome and Opening Remarks**
CAROLINE GOODSON, American Academy in Rome

15.15 **Session 7: European Collections II**
Chair: HANNAH ARULANANDAM

ROSARIO ROVIRA GUARDIOLA, Institute of Classical Studies, London
From Landscape to Classroom: The Teaching Collection of the Hellenic and Roman Societies in London

WIKTOR PIEKARZ, Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań
From Decoration to Educational Objects: Fritz Gurlitt's Tanagra Figurines in the Collection of the National Museum in Poznań

PAOLO TOMASSINI, École française de Rome
A Collection for Learning Archaeology: The Case of the École française de Rome in the Late Nineteenth Century

ALESSANDRA CAPODIFERRO, Associazione Internazionale di Archeologia Classica
LETIZIA RUSTICO, Soprintendenza Speciale di Roma
Teaching Collections and Archaeological Objects in the Gorga Collection

17.15 Break

17.30 **Closing Keynote**
ANNE HUNNELL CHEN, Bard College
Big Digs and the Development of Disciplinary Frameworks and Taxonomies

18.30 **Closing Remarks and Acknowledgements**
RABUN TAYLOR, University of Texas at Austin

The Swedish Institute for Classical Studies in Rome and the American Academy in Rome will host a three-day conference on archaeological study collections and their role in our understanding of the past. The conference is organized by scholars from the University of Texas, Austin and the Swedish Institute for Classical Studies in Rome and will take place in Rome among a concentration of historic collections of archaeological material housed in academies and research institutes. Participants will explore collections in the context of the broader intellectual history of the period between the eighteenth and the twentieth centuries and the epistemological and classificatory transformations it witnessed.

As European antiquarianism and early excavations accelerated over the eighteenth century, scholars began to recognize the need to organize the flood of new information being produced for study and training. Concurrently, the discipline of ancient art history was emerging under the influence of J. J. Winckelmann. Curiosity cabinets gave way to physical teaching collections consisting of casts of ancient gems or sculpture, coin cabinets, and a wide range of archaeological objects, usually comprising representative type-items of modest quality. Advances in material replication, such as photographs, paper squeezes, and rubbings, introduced new ways to disseminate knowledge of better-known artworks and artifacts. While supporting instruction in art history and archaeology, these collections also served as models for students in fine arts and architecture. As ideas about how to understand the premodern world changed, the organization, display, and use of these collections changed too, responding to art-historical paradigm shifts like Adolf Furtwängler's reclassification of Winckelmann's system for sculpture and gems.

This conference is cosponsored by the University of Texas at Austin, the Swedish Institute of Classical Studies in Rome, the American Academy in Rome, and the Unione Internazionale degli Istituti di Archeologia, Storia e Storia dell'Arte in Roma. The Swedish Institute and the American Academy are hosting the conference sessions, receptions, and meals. Travel, accommodation, and refreshments are subsidized by a generous grant from the Riksbankens Jubileumsfond, the tercentenary foundation of the central bank of Sweden. Travel support for participants from the University of Texas has been made possible by the Centennial Professorship of Classical Archaeology.

For more information about the full program and participants, scan the code



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IN ROME



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ISTITUTO SVEDESE DI STUDI CLASSICI A ROMA

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