Researching Art Objects Owned by The Cleveland Museum of Art

THE MOST FREQUENTLY CONSULTED SOURCES for research on objects owned by the museum are its serial publications (*The Bulletin of The Cleveland Museum of Art; Cleveland Studies in the History of Art; Members Magazine*) catalogues of the CMA collection and major exhibition catalogues published by the museum (e.g., *Picasso and Things, The Triumph of Japanese Style, Egypt’s Dazzling Sun*). Most should be available at local public and academic libraries as well as at the museum’s Ingalls Library.

Not all objects have been or will be published in museum publications or elsewhere. Critical analysis on unpublished objects can be done using examples of similar objects for comparative purposes.

Following is a research procedure for finding information on CMA objects.

I. CHECK the “CMA Publications Index” for a citation to an article on the object of interest. The “CMA Publications Index” is a component of the Library’s online public access catalog and can be accessed by clicking on the icon labelled “CMA Publications Index.” The index covers the entire run of the Bulletin from its beginning in 1914 through the last issue published in 1994 as well as *Cleveland Studies in the History of Art (1996 - *) and the Members Magazine (1995- *).

The articles on objects owned by the museum frequently include lengthy bibliographies. The sources cited can be searched in the library’s online catalog and paged from the stacks if the publications are owned by the library.

II. CHECK *The Handbook of The Cleveland Museum of Art* (various editions). While the Handbook includes little textual information, it is useful for locating an illustration of a museum object.

III. CHECK SOURCES LISTED BELOW. The museum publications below cover information on objects of all media from many geographic areas and art historical periods.

*Catalogue of the Elisabeth Severance Prentiss Collection*, 1944.


*A Cleveland Bestiary*, 1981.


IV. CHECK THE SOURCES LISTED BELOW for information on specific objects by subject area (e.g., "Paintings" or "Medieval Art").

Ancient Art


Kozloff, An Introduction to the Art of Egypt in the Cleveland Museum of Art, 1992.


Asian Art

Boger and DeOreo, Sacred India: Hinduism, Buddhism and Jainism, 1985


Czuma, Indian Art from the George R. Bickford Collection, 1975.

Czuma, Kushan Sculpture: Images from Early India, 1985.


Leach, Indian Miniature Paintings and Drawings, 1986.


**Decorative Arts**


Hawley, *Faberge and His Contemporaries: The India Early Minshall Collection of The Cleveland Museum of Art*, 1967


**Drawings**


**Greek Vases**


**Medieval Art**


*Handbook of the Severance Collection of Arms and Armor*, 1925


**Modern Art**

*Art of the Twentieth Century in The Cleveland Museum of Art*, 1969(?).

Museum History


Painting


*European Paintings before 1500: Catalogue of Paintings, Part One*, 1974


Robinson, Cole and Steinberg. *Transformations in Cleveland Art, 1796-1946: Community and Diversity in Early Modern America*, 1996


Sculpture


Textiles


V. CHECK PERIODICAL INDEXES. These indexes may provide citations to other articles devoted to Museum objects. Search under the heading, "Cleveland Museum of Art" or by the artist's name or subject heading.

VI. IF NO INFORMATION on a specific object is found using any of the above methods and sources, searching for published materials on comparable objects is often necessary, especially for works of art by contemporary artists, and in instances where the artist is unknown. Such searches can include books about objects of the same time period, geographical area, type and media of the object for which information is sought. For example a book on Chinese bronzes will contain general information which can be applied to the study of unpublished bronzes in the museum's collections.