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## **Buying Baroque: Italian Seventeenth-Century Paintings Come to America (The Frick Collection Studies in the History of Art Collecting in America)**

**From Bowron Edgar Peters : Buying Baroque: Italian Seventeenth-Century Paintings Come to America (The Frick Collection Studies in the History of Art Collecting in America)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Buying Baroque: Italian Seventeenth-Century Paintings Come to America (The Frick Collection Studies in the History of Art Collecting in America):

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Although Americans have shown interest in Italian Baroque art since the eighteenth century Thomas Jefferson bought copies of works by Salvator Rosa and Guido Reni for his art gallery at Monticello, and the seventeenth-century Bolognese school was admired by painters Benjamin West and John Singleton Copley a widespread appetite for it only took hold in the early to mid-twentieth century. *Buying Baroque* tells this history through the personalities involved and the culture of collecting in the United States. The distinguished contributors to this volume examine the dealers, auction houses, and commercial galleries that provided access to Baroque paintings, as well as the collectors, curators, and museum directors who acquired and shaped American perceptions about these works, including Charles Eliot Norton, John W. Ringling, A. Everett Austin Jr., and Samuel H. Kress. These essays explore aesthetic trends and influences to show why Americans developed an increasingly sophisticated taste for Baroque art between the late eighteenth century and the 1920s, and they trace the fervent peak of interest during the 1950s and 1960s. A wide-ranging, in-depth look at the collecting of seventeenth- and eighteenth-century Italian paintings in America, this volume sheds new light on the cultural conditions that led collectors to value Baroque art and the significant effects of their efforts on America's greatest museums and galleries. In addition to the editor, contributors include Andrea Bayer, Virginia Brilliant, Andria Derstine, Marco Grassi, Ian Kennedy, J. Patrice Marandel, Pablo Prez d'Ors, Richard E. Spear, and Eric M. Zafran.

This substantive and important contribution on the collecting of Italian Baroque paintings in this country provides insights into the vagaries of American taste and the exciting dynamics of museum politics, collecting, scholarship, and showmanship. The informative essays by ten eminent scholars suggest that despite a longstanding lack of interest in Italian Baroque paintings in the U.S., a few prescient individuals acquired key works that later provided the core collections for major American museums. Babette Bohn, author of *Ludovico Carracci and the Art of Drawing* The wealth of Italian Baroque paintings in America is the outcome of an extraordinary twentieth-century collecting phenomenon. But it was effected by a relatively small group of enthusiastic and inspired individuals: curators, museum directors, art historians, private collectors, and art dealers. Their efforts, often in the face of entrenched tastes colored by religious and critical biases, are treated in this volume of essays by both participants in and beneficiaries of this rich cultural legacy. Robert Simon, president of Robert Simon Fine Art Bursting at the seams with fascinating, otherwise unfindable information about this important chapter in the history of taste and collecting, this excellent group of essays is essential reading for anyone interested in the way in which networks of collectors, art dealers, museum curators, and academics collaborated to form America's rich bounty of Italian Baroque paintings in public and private collections. David M. Stone, co-editor of *Caravaggio: Reflections and Refractions* Furthers understanding of dealers, critics, conservators, art historians, and others who contributed to this web of relationships and impacted aesthetic interests, collecting activities, exhibitions, and scholarship over the past century. J. Decker, Choice About the Author Edgar Peters Bowron served as the Audrey Jones Beck Curator of European Art at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, from 1996 through 2014. Previously, he was senior curator of paintings at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C., director of the Harvard University Art Museums, and director of the North Carolina Museum of Art. Now retired, he most recently published *Pompeo Batoni: A Complete Catalogue of His Paintings*.