

A Passion for British Art: Collecting in the 20th Century

Friday 18 January 2008

The Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art



J. M. W. Turner, *Dort, Dordrecht: The Dort Packet-Boat from Rotterdam BeCALMED*, 1817-18, oil on canvas, Yale Center for British Art, Paul Mellon Collection

This one-day conference to be held at the Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art, will discuss issues related to the collection of the late Paul Mellon (1907-1999), and the exhibition, *An American's Passion for British Art. Paul Mellon's Legacy*, at the Royal Academy of Arts, London (20 October 2007 - 27 January 2008). Paul Mellon's collection, which embraces paintings, watercolours, drawings, prints, sculptures, rare books and manuscripts is among the finest of its kind to have been assembled in the twentieth century. Although it encompasses works from many periods and cultures, at the heart of the Mellon collection are pictures from the 'Golden Age' of British art, from the mid-eighteenth to mid-nineteenth century. Among modern private collectors, however, Mr Mellon was not alone in his appreciation of the merits of the British School, and this conference aims to set his achievement within the global context of modern and contemporary collecting.

Full conference fee (including coffee, lunch, tea and wine reception): £40.

Student concessions are available at a reduced rate of £20.

**To register for the conference please send a cheque made payable to
The Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art, to:
Lucy Nixon, The Paul Mellon Centre, 16 Bedford Square, London, WC1B 3JA,
and include a stamped addressed envelope.**

Tel: 020 7580 0311 Fax: 020 7636 6730 Email: events@paul-mellon-centre.ac.uk

Programme

Morning session to be chaired by **Professor Brian Allen** (Director of Studies, the Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art). Afternoon session to be chaired by **MaryAnne Stevens** (Director of Academic Affairs, the Royal Academy of Arts, London).

09.45 Registration

10.00 Welcome and opening remarks by **Professor Brian Allen**

10.15 **Professor David Cannadine**
(Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother Professor of British History, Institute of Historical Research)
Father and Son as Collectors and Philanthropists: Andrew W. Mellon and Paul Mellon Compared

11.00 Coffee break

11.30 **Dr Shelley Bennett**
(Senior Research Associate, Huntington Library, Art Collections and Botanical Gardens)
Henry and Arabella Huntington: Collecting and Cultural Philanthropy in America c. 1900

12.15 **Andrew Wilton**
(Honorary Curator of Prints and Drawings, Royal Academy of Arts)
Collecting British watercolours and drawings in the 20th Century

13.00 Lunch

14.30 **Dr Alison Smith**
(Curator, Head of Acquisitions, British Art Pre-1900, Tate Britain)
Modern Collectors of Victorian Art

15.15 **Angus Trumble**
(Curator of paintings and sculpture, the Yale Center for British Art)
From Hubert von Herkomer to Kenneth Clark: Buying British Art for Australasia, 1899-1954

16.00 Tea

16.30 **Louisa Buck**
(Contemporary Art correspondent for the Art Newspaper)
From Saatchi to Frieze: the reception and acquisition of contemporary British Art at home and abroad

17.15 Closing remarks and discussion

18.00 – Wine reception

19.00