

PAPACY AND POLITICS
IN EIGHTEENTH-CENTURY ROME



Pius VI was the last great papal patron of the arts in the Renaissance and Baroque tradition. This book presents the first synthetic study of his artistic patronage and policies in an effort to understand how he used the arts strategically, as a means of countering the growing hostility to the old order and the supremacy of the papacy. Pius's initiatives included the grand sacristy for St. Peter's, the new Vatican Museum of ancient art, a lavish family palace, and the reerection of Egyptian obelisks. These projects, along with Pius's use of prints, paintings, and performances, created his public persona and helped to anchor Rome's place as the cultural capital of Europe.

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PIUS VI AND THE ARTS



JEFFREY COLLINS

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Frontispiece: Marco Carloni, *Profile Portrait of Pius VI*. Philadelphia Museum of Art, Bequest of Anthony Morris Clark, 1978. Photo: Courtesy Philadelphia Museum of Art.

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Rome is a marvelous place. One finds here not only objects of every kind, but also people of every kind who take their work seriously and know exactly what they are doing, and one makes rapid and easy progress in their company. I am beginning, thank God, to be able to learn from others and profit from their experience.

Goethe, *Italian Journey*

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ABBREVIATIONS



The following abbreviations are used in the notes, works cited, and photo credits

AFMV	Archivio Fotografico, Musei Vaticani
ARFSP	Archivio della Reverenda Fabbrica di S. Pietro
ASASL	Archivio Storico dell'Accademia di S. Luca
ASR	Archivio di Stato di Roma
ABA	Fondo Antichità e Belle Arti
BG	Fondo Buon Governo
Cam.	Fondo Camerale
CDP	Collezione Disegni e Piante (collezione prima, seconda, etc.)
ASS	Archivio di Stato di Spoleto
ASV	Archivio Segreto Vaticano
SPA	Fondo Sacri Palazzi Apostolici
Comp.	Computisteria
Tes.	Sezione Tesoriere
b./bb.	busta/buste
BAV	Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana
ACSP	Archivio del Capitolo di San Pietro
BCF	Biblioteca Comunale di Forlì
CR	Raccolta Piancastelli, Carte Romagne
BIASA	Biblioteca dell'Istituto di Archeologia e Storia dell'Arte, Rome
BMCR	<i>Bollettino dei Musei Comunali di Roma</i>
BMMGP	<i>Bollettino dei Musei, Monumenti e Gallerie Pontificie</i>
cart.	cartella/cartelle
cat.	catalogue entry number
Chracas	<i>Diario Ordinario (di Roma)</i>
cod.	codex
DBI	<i>Dizionario biografico degli italiani</i>
doc.	document
f./ff.	folio/folii

A B B R E V I A T I O N S

fasc.	fascicolo
GCS	Gabinetto Comunale delle Stampe, Rome
ICCD	Istituto Centrale per il Catalogo e la Documentazione
ING	Istituto Nazionale per la Grafica, Rome
n./nn.	note/notes
SBASR	Soprintendenza per i Beni Artistici e Storici di Roma
ser.	serie

P R E F A C E



This book presents the first synthetic study of Pius VI and the arts during the last quarter of the eighteenth century. It began with an investigation of the Pio-Clementino and the birth of the modern museum, which soon demonstrated the need for a broader view of its sponsor's artistic policies and the resulting cultural politics in late settecento Rome. The project's main tasks are thus recuperation and reintegration, and its aim is to assist and stimulate further research.

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