

THE VILLA FARNESINA



The frescoes of Peruzzi, Raphael and Sodoma still dazzle visitors to the Villa Farnesina, but they survive in a stripped-down environment bereft of its landscape, sealed so it cannot breathe. Turner takes you outside that box, restoring these canonical images to their original context, when each element joined in a productive conversation. He is the first to reconstruct the architect-painter Peruzzi's original, well-proportioned, well-appointed building and to re-visualise his lost façade decoration – erotic scenes and mythological figures who make it come alive and soar upward. More comprehensively than any previous scholar, he reintegrates painting, sculpture, architecture, garden design, topographical prints and drawings, archaeological discoveries, and literature from the brilliant circle around the patron Agostino Chigi, the powerful banker who 'loved all virtuosi' and commissioned his villa-palazzo from the best talents in multiple arts. It can now be understood as a Palace of Venus, celebrating aesthetic, social and erotic pleasure.

James Grantham Turner is James D. Hart Professor in the Department of English at the University of California, Berkeley. A scholar of unusual range who brings together literature, art, the environment, cultural and intellectual history, and gender and sexuality, he is the author of eight books, including the *Politics of Landscape* and *Eros Visible*, the latter cited for its 'extraordinary vitality' and as a 'most important' contribution to Renaissance Studies. Turner has won fellowships from the John Simon Guggenheim Foundation, the National Gallery of Art, Washington, and the National Endowment for the Humanities, among others.

Cambridge University Press & Assessment
978-1-316-51101-5 – The Villa Farnesina
James Grantham Turner
Frontmatter
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THE VILLA
FARNESINA

Palace of Venus in Renaissance Rome

JAMES GRANTHAM
TURNER

University of California, Berkeley



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom

One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA

477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia

314 – 321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre,
New Delhi – 110025, India

103 Penang Road, #05 – 06/07, Visioncrest Commercial, Singapore 238467

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of education, learning, and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781316511015

DOI: 10.1017/9781009036351

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First published 2022

Printed in the United Kingdom by TJ Books Limited, Padstow Cornwall

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library.

ISBN 978-1-316-51101-5 Hardback

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

THIS STUDY OF THE Farnesina grew out of my earlier book *Eros Visible: Art, Sexuality and Antiquity in Renaissance Italy*, and many of the friends who contributed their judgement and encouragement to that research have helped to sustain this new project, especially Andrea Bayer, Patricia Simons and Paul Barolsky. Beatrice Rehl, her anonymous readers and her editorial team have made it a pleasure to bring out my fourth book from Cambridge University Press. I have appreciated the chance to present my preliminary findings to the Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts (CASVA) in Washington DC, and to groups of students and faculty at the University of California, Berkeley, the University of Illinois-Chicago and the University of Chicago Renaissance Seminar. My special thanks to Mari Yoko Hara and Anka Ziefer for including me in the conference they organised in Rome, ‘Baldassarre Peruzzi and the Figurative Arts’, and to Thomas Kren for inviting me to present at the Scholar’s Workshop for ‘The Renaissance Nude 1400–1530’, at the J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles. Jane and Nicholas Turner helped to lick my article ‘Peruzzi and the Villa Farnesina Façade’ into shape for *Master Drawings*. Barbara Furlotti, Guido Rebecchini and Linda Wolk-Simon kindly asked me to write for their Mantua exhibition catalogue *Giulio Romano: Arte e Desiderio/Art and Desire in the Renaissance*, which prompted fresh research and another Farnesina-related article, ‘Raphael, Sodoma and the Afterlife of *The Nuptials of Roxana and Alexander the Great*’.

X } ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I began to study the Italian national collection of prints and drawings when it was still housed in the Farnesina itself, and I was greatly helped by Stefania Massari and her staff at the time; this tradition of expertise and practical help is continued by Francesca Orobi and Danila Rizza at what is now the Istituto Centrale per la Grafica, Palazzo Poli. Research into Peruzzi and the Farnesina would be unthinkable without the other great collections: I am particularly indebted to Hugo Chapman, Mark McDonald and Sarah Vowles at the British Museum; Mark McDonald (again) and Andrea Bayer (again) at the Metropolitan Museum, New York; Carel van Tuyl and his successors at the Louvre, Département des Arts Graphiques; and Marzia Faietti and Raimondo Sassi at the Uffizi (as well as other helpful colleagues in the Gabinetto dei Disegni and the main Gallerie). There are many others to thank for arranging study in ideal conditions, for connoisseurship and expert advice on drawings and paintings, in person or via correspondence. These include: Luigia Attilia at the Archivio di Documentazione Archeologica, Rome; Selina Bartlett at the Allen Memorial Art Museum, Oberlin; Julian Brooks at the Getty; Juliet Ceresole at the V&A; Karmen Corak at the Accademia, Venice; Angela D'Amelio, Museo di Roma; Jean-Marie Dautel at the Palais des Beaux-Arts Lille; Antonietta De Felice at the Biblioteca Reale, Turin; Vincent Delieuvin at the Louvre, Département des Peintures; Elena Giacometti at the Museo Internazionale delle Ceramiche, Faenza; Patrik Granholm at the Kungliga Bibliotek/National Library of Sweden; Susan Halpert at the Houghton Library, Harvard University; Suzanne Higgott at the Wallace Collection; Erik Hinterding at the Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam; Zoltán Kárpáti at the Museum of Fine Arts, Budapest; Stefanie Knöll at the Kunstsammlung Veste Coburg; Dagmar Korbacher at the Kupferstichkabinett, Berlin;

Tatyana Kustodieva at the Hermitage; Charles Noble at Chatsworth; Milena Pagni and Annalisa Pezzo at the Biblioteca Comunale degli Intronati, Siena; Angelo Restaino at the Archivio di Stato, Rome; Kevin Salatino at the Art Institute, Chicago; Rachel Sloan at the Courtauld; Catherine Whistler and Angelamaria Aceto at the Ashmolean; Vicky Wilson at the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA); and Martijn Zegel at the Teylers Museum, Haarlem. Many more curators than I can name should also be thanked, at the Musée Condé, Chantilly; the Musée des Beaux Arts, Dijon; the Kupferstichkabinett, Dresden; the National Gallery of Scotland, Edinburgh; the Real Academia de las Bellas Artes, Madrid; the Staatliche Graphische Sammlung, Munich; the Morgan Library and Museum, New York; the Nationalmuseum, Stockholm; the Albertina, Vienna; the National Gallery of Art, Washington DC; and the Royal Library, Windsor.

I must then thank staff and specialists at research libraries in Berkeley (Bancroft and Environmental Design Rare Books), Berlin (Kunstabibliothek), Brussels (Koninklijke Bibliotheek van België/Bibliothèque Royale de Belgique), Chicago (Newberry Library, Ryerson-Burnham Library at the Art Institute, and the University of Chicago), Florence (Kunst-historisches Institut), London (British Library, especially Maps, University of Westminster, and Warburg Institute), Los Angeles (Getty Research Library), Paris (Bibliothèque nationale de France), Rome (Biblioteca di Archeologia e Storia dell'Arte, Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale, Bibliotheca Hertziana, and École Française), Stuttgart (Württembergische Landesbibliothek) and the Vatican (Biblioteca Apostolica).

For advice about and access to works in private collections I thank Jonathan Den Otter at Christie's, Gregory Rubinstein at Sotheby's, Leon Black, Alessandro and Michele Busiri Vici, Baudouin Du Parc, Lars Ericson, Mathias Hans,

Donlyn Lyndon and the exceptionally generous Allen Rosenbaum.

I would like to acknowledge those institutions and photographers who have made high-quality images available in the Public Domain, including The Metropolitan Museum in New York, the National Gallery of Art in Washington, the Rijksmuseum Amsterdam, the Getty in Los Angeles and the Nationalmuseum Stockholm (but sadly, no longer the British Museum). Wikimedia Commons now hosts impressive photographs by Miguel Hermoso Cuesta, Jean-Pierre Dalbéra, Paris Orlando and others.

I am grateful to the University of Siena and Gabriele Pasqui for the opportunity to study the Villa Le Volte *in situ*, to the staff at the Palazzo di Domenico della Rovere ('dei Penitenzieri'), Rome, and to Carol Capece Minutolo for welcoming me to Blosio Palladio's villa, overlooking St Peters. My thanks also to the officials who authorised visits to the Stufetta of Cardinal Bibbiena and the Raphael Loggia in the Vatican, especially to Paolo de Nicolò, former Regent of the Apostolic Palace.

Attempting to capture every aspect of a place means depending on the specialist knowledge of many experts in many fields, from the construction of vaults to the identification of vegetables. I have greatly benefited from the architect Andrea Hunt's expertise in digital modelling. For sharing their work-in-progress or their unique, particular knowledge I thank Ilaria Abbondandolo, Nicholas Adams, Francesca Alberti, Anne Auber, Ana Ávila, Hilary Barker, Carla Benocci, Jonathan Bober, Bruce Boucher, Cammy Brothers, Jill Burke, Howard Burns, Stephen Campbell, Sharon Cather, Anna Cavallaro, Kathleen Christian, Gabrielle Clement, Flavia

Cortilli, Jodi Cranston, Patricia Cronin, Alexis Culotta, Lynn Cunningham, Louisa Dare, Susan Dixon and Matthew Drummond Smith, Anne Dunlop, Massimiliano Felicioni, Giancarlo Fiorenza, David Franklin, Cecilia Frosinini, Magnus Hauknes, Ann Huppert, Nathaniel Jones, Bram Kempers, Dave King, Annabelle Lenderink, Wolfgang Loseries, Bianca Malitesta, Maria Maurer, Fabrizio Nevola, Morgan Ng, Donatella Occhiuzzi, Francesco Petrucci, Stefano Pierguidi, Nigel Pilkington, Josef Ploder, Giuseppe Rebecchini, Richard Rezac, Marco Riccardi, David Rijser, Charles Robertson, John Belden Scott, Robbi Siegel, Andrew Stewart, Dora Thornton, Annamaria Petrioli Tofani, Ginette Vagenheim, Alessandro Vicenzi, Cassandra Vogel, Leny Louise Waarts, Jeremy Warren (multiple thanks), Matthias Wivel and Karen Zukor.

I am particularly grateful to those whose deep knowledge of Agostino Chigi, the Farnesina and the history of Roman architecture has been a resource for many years. My thanks to Mary Quinlan-McGrath, Ingrid Rowland and above all Martha Pollak, who held the line (literally and metaphorically) as I made measurements and 'scampered' around the villa.

Finally, I must warmly acknowledge the help of those experts who work directly on, or in, the Villa Farnesina itself: Alessandro Zuccari, Christoph Frommel, Giovanni Belardi, Cesare Cundari, Costanza Barbieri, the former Conservatore Rodolfo Donzelli, and the current holder of that position, Virginia Lapenta. I dedicate this book to the art historian and conservationist who supervised the restoration of the Sala delle Prospettive and the Loggia di Psiche, Rosalia Varoli-Piazza.

ABBREVIATIONS AND FREQUENTLY CITED WORKS

Classical authors will be cited from the most recent Loeb edition where possible

| | |
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| Alberti | cited by book and chapter from <i>L'architettura (De re aedificatoria) di Leon Battista Alberti. Testo latino e traduzione</i> , ed. and trans. Giovanni Orlandi, intro. and notes by Paolo Portoghesi (Milan, 1966), translations mine unless I specifically quote an alternative, e.g. <i>On the Art of Building in Ten Books</i> , trans. Joseph Rykwert with Neil Leach and Robert Tavernor (Cambridge MA, 1988) |
| Bartsch | prints may be identified by their numbering in Adam von Bartsch, <i>Le Peintre-graveur</i> , in the order: volume, page, catalogue-number. |
| BAV | Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana, Vatican City |
| BM | British Museum, London |
| Bober and Rubinstein | Phyllis Pray Bober and Ruth Rubinstein, <i>Renaissance Artists and Antique Sculpture: A Handbook of Sources</i> , 2nd ed. (London and Turnhout, 2010) |
| Cremona | Alessandro Cremona, <i>Felices procerum villulae: il giardino della Farnesina dai Chigi all'Accademia dei Lincei</i> (Rome, 2010), a monograph-length article first published in <i>Atti della Accademia nazionale dei Lincei, Classe di scienze morali, storiche e filologiche</i> , Memorie, 9th series, xxv (2009), 516–709 |
| Cugnoni | Giuseppe Cugnoni, <i>Agostino Chigi Il Magnifico</i> (Rome, 1878), the Latin text of Fabio Chigi's biography of his ancestor Agostino, with copious endnotes. All references |

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND FREQUENTLY CITED WORKS ~ XIII

- will give the page number of this book first, followed (since the book itself may be difficult to find) by volume and page of Cugnoni, ‘Agostino Chigi il Magnifico’, *Archivio della Società Romana di Storia Patria* 2 (1879), 3 (1880), 4 (1881) or 6 (1883)
- Cundari Cesare Cundari, Giovanni Maria Bagordo, Gian Carlo Cundari, Maria Rosaria Cundari, *La Villa Farnesina a Roma. L’invenzione di Baldassarre Peruzzi* (Rome, 2017). Different (unnumbered) sections by various authors. Citations by page; figure-numbering begins anew with each section and some figures are unnumbered.
- DBI *Dizionario biografico degli Italiani* (Rome, 1960–)
- EV James Grantham Turner, *Eros Visible: Art, Sexuality and Antiquity in Renaissance Italy* (New Haven and London, 2017)
- Fabio Chigi (Pope Alexander VII), *see* Cugnoni
- FF *see* Frommel
- Frommel Christoph Luitpold Frommel, *Die Farnesina und Peruzzis architektonisches Frühwerk* (Berlin, 1961), abbreviated FF; *Der römische Palastbau der Hochrenaissance* (Tübingen, 1973), abbreviated RP; *La Villa Farnesina a Roma/The Villa Farnesina in Rome*, *Mirabilia Italiae* (Modena, 2003), abbreviated VF, cited by volume and page; “ala maniera e uso delj bonj antiquj”: Baldassarre Peruzzi e la sua quarantennale ricerca dell’antico’, in *Baldassarre Peruzzi, 1481–1536*, ed. Frommel, Arnaldo Bruschi, Howard Burns, Francesco Paolo Fiore and Pier Nicola Pagliara (Venice, 2005), 3–82, abbreviated Frommel 2005; *La Villa Farnesina a Roma* (Modena, 2014), abbreviated Frommel 2014. *See also* Peruzzi
- Gallo Egidio Gallo (Egidius Gallus), *De Viridario Augustini Chigii* (Rome, 1511), ed. and trans. Mary Quinlan-McGrath, *Humanistica Lovaniensia: Journal of Neo-Latin Studies* 38 (1989), 1–99, abbreviated as Q. The text is also available in the Perseus website maintained by Tufts University, though in separate books and without Gallo’s useful marginal notes
- Palladio Blosio Palladio (Blosius Palladius), *Suburbanum Augustini Chisii* (Rome, 1512), ed. and trans. Mary Quinlan-McGrath, *Humanistica Lovaniensia: Journal of Neo-Latin Studies* 39 (1990), 93–156, abbreviated as Q. The text is also available in the Perseus website maintained by Tufts University
- Peruzzi Christoph Luitpold Frommel, *Baldassare Peruzzi als Maler und Zeichner* (Vienna and Munich, 1968), abbreviated as PMZ. *See also* Wurm
- PMZ *see* Peruzzi
- Q Mary Quinlan McGrath (later Quinlan-McGrath with hyphen), editor of Gallo and Palladio; Q before page-numbers indicates that the citation comes from her edition, either text or editorial material

XIV  LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND FREQUENTLY CITED WORKS

| | |
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| Ripalda | Salvador Bermúdez de Castro, 1st Duke of Ripalda (transcribed Ripalta in some Italian sources), Spanish ambassador and tenant of the Farnesina, initiated major remodelling in the 1860s |
| RP | see Frommel |
| Uffizi | unless otherwise specified, refers to drawings in the Gabinetto dei Disegni e delle Stampe delle Gallerie degli Uffizi, Florence |
| V&A | Victoria and Albert Museum, London |
| Vasari | Giorgio Vasari, <i>Le Vite de' più eccellenti pittori scultori e architettori: nelle redazioni del 1550 e 1568</i> , ed. Rosanna Bettarini and Paola Barocchi (Florence, 1966–), cited by volume and page-number. Since the text is widely available, I have generally given only my translation |
| VF | see Frommel |
| Vitruvius | Marcus Vitruvius Pollio is cited by book, chapter and section from the Loeb edition, followed in parentheses by the page in <i>Vitruvius: Ten Books on Architecture</i> , trans. Ingrid D. Rowland, commentary and illustrations by Thomas Noble Howe, with additional commentary by Rowland and Michael J. Dewar (Cambridge and New York, 1999), abbreviated C |
| Wurm | drawings by Peruzzi may be identified by catalogue number in Heinrich Wurm, <i>Baldassarre Peruzzi, Architekturzeichnungen: Tafelband</i> (Tübingen, 1984); Wurm's commentary volume never materialised |