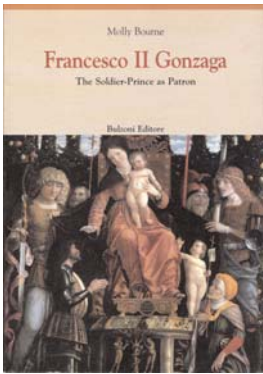


Molly Bourne



On December 13, 2008, Molly Bourne's book, *Francesco II Gonzaga: the Soldier-Prince as Patron* (Rome: Bulzoni Editore, 2008) was launched at Mantua's Palazzo Ducale. The volume, which examines the artistic patronage of Mantua's fourth marquis (ruled 1484-1519), was presented by Giovanni Agosti, professor of art history at the Università di Milano and noted expert on Andrea Mantegna, artist to the Gonzaga court. The event was sponsored by the Soprintendenza di Mantova and the Archivio di Stato di Mantova. A second presentation of Molly Bourne's book was also held on January 31, 2009 in Gonzaga, the town from where Mantua's ruling family in the Renaissance originally came.

Charles Ewell



An article featuring Charles Ewell appeared in the most recent edition of *Vista*, an English language magazine published here in Florence. The article consisted of several interviews of scholars in Florence. The interview with Charles highlighted his life and work as an archeologist in Italy and in particular, his direction of an excavation outside of Lucca known as the *Palazzaccio*. In addition, this past month Charles Ewell was honored by the city of Lucca as an official archeologist of the province.

Carlotta Kliemann



This past December 13th at the Odeon Theatre, as part of the "50 Days of Film" organized by the Mediateca Regionale Toscana, Carlotta F. Kliemann, vice-President of the newborn Associazione Chicca Richelmy, presented the association to a highly interested audience. Besides illustrating the goal of the association - promoting film culture in many of its forms - various short and medium films were shown, including "Archive of Dreams" by Tomas Sheridan, winner of the Spazio Torino at the last Torino Film Festival directed by Nanni Moretti and Chicca Richelmy Award, followed by a lively debate with its young director (www.chiccarichelmy.org).

Jonathan Nelson



Jonathan Nelson has received the first faculty leave under the new program here at SUF. During the leave, he will finish up a monograph on Botticelli. When he began teaching the Botticelli seminar a dozen years ago, Jonathan was surprised to discover that there is no useful book for undergraduate students on this artist: the market only offers little picture books or massive, luxury volumes. The approach he will use for the new book grew out of the seminar. He is delighted to have the opportunity to carry out this work, and honored to receive the leave. As he said, "The new program is a vote of confidence on the part of the home campus about what we do here in Florence. I recognize that I have a special responsibility, and many eyes will be on my work. I'll do my best to satisfy my various audiences...and most of all, the students of the future who will read my book." At the moment, Jonathan is busy working on the exhibition he is co-curating at the Galleria dell' Accademia, "Robert Mapplethorpe: 'Perfection in Form,'" which opens May 26.