

of the eighteenth century). To date, the most complete published work has been by Brian de Breffny ('Christopher Hewetson, concise biography and preliminary catalogue raisonné', *Irish Arts Review* 3 (1986), 52–75), and although it has been common to find works by the sculptor in recent exhibitions about the Settecento or Neoclassicism in eighteenth-century Rome, the investigations never go beyond the compilation of catalogue citations of the artist's well-known pieces. In *A Dictionary of British and Irish Travellers in Italy, 1701–1800 Compiled from the Brinsley Ford Archive*, by John Ingamells (London/New Haven, 1997), great efforts were made to gather information about the artist. Nevertheless, considering that Hewetson arrived in Rome in 1765, and remained there until his death in 1798, it is surprising that the information available is so sparse. During my time at the BSR, the most noteworthy highlight was, without a doubt, discovering the artist's will and property inventory, both of which shed important light upon his life and work. The publication of this project will be fundamental to the history of this artistic figure and will help future researchers to make new discoveries.

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#### ROME FELLOWSHIPS

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#### *Our men in Rome: ambassadors and agents at the papal court, c. 1450–1530*

My project, 'Our men in Rome: ambassadors and agents at the papal court, c. 1450–1530', analyzed changing diplomatic practices at Rome in the period between the return of the popes and the 1527 Sack of the city. These years saw the formation of a system of permanent resident diplomacy in Europe; and Rome, as the seat of the Catholic Church, attracted the largest group of envoys of any European court. Such men — ambassadors, orators and agents — dealt not only with church business but increasingly with secular matters. However, to date only limited research has been undertaken on the Roman diplomatic corps during this important period. My work responds to that neglect and to recent calls for a 'new diplomatic history' of early modern Europe.

This project built on my doctoral research, which used a micro-historical study of Gregorio Casali, an Italian nobleman in the diplomatic service of Henry VIII of England, to explore aspects of diplomacy in the 1520s and '30s. To my existing findings — on such issues as family networks, diplomatic households and gift-giving — I have now added several new strands of analysis. In relation to the incorporation of diplomats into the ceremonial world of the Curia during the fifteenth century, I was fortunate to find some very promising source material in the form of a ceremonial written by the papal master-of-ceremonies Patrizi Piccolomini in the 1480s and annotated by his successor, Johann Burchard. This text was edited and published in 1980 but previously had not been assessed in terms of its considerable significance for the study of developing diplomatic structures and practices at the papal court. The second stage of my research involved the preparation of a database of embassies mentioned in Roman chronicles and in the diaries of papal masters-of-ceremonies. Here there is some intriguing material for analysis relating to the development of lay

diplomacy in Rome and the functioning of the order of precedence. While it often is assumed that churchmen were the preferred candidates for diplomatic roles in Rome, my research demonstrates that, in fact, there were good reasons to appoint laymen to such positions. I discuss some of these findings in a chapter entitled 'Performing Henry at the court of Rome' for a forthcoming collection on Henry VIII and the Tudor court, and will consider them further in a second article, to be completed mid-2011.

A key focus for my term as Rome Fellow was the development of a book for a broad audience based on my doctoral research. I had long thought that there was scope for such a project, and with the encouragement of colleagues at the BSR I drafted a proposal and some sample chapters, carrying out a small amount of additional background research to support this work, notably in the Archivio Storico Capitolino and in the Vatican Archives. I am pleased to report that I have had a positive response to my proposal for *Our Man in Rome*, and it will be published by Bodley Head in 2012. In the course of my Fellowship, I also co-edited and contributed an article to a special edition of the *Journal of Early Modern History* on the subject of family networks in early modern diplomacy (December 2010). I further wrote a short chapter on 'The city of Rome as a space for diplomacy' and drafted chapters for two books: one on the domestic interior in early modern Italy and the other on Old Saint Peter's basilica. I am grateful both to my fellow scholars and to the many visitors to the BSR who took the time to discuss these projects with me over the year. Their input has taken my work in new directions, and that promises to continue in the future, as I develop a new project on the public history of the Italian Renaissance.

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*An edition and study of seventh-century papal letters, and a study of Carolingian Nonantola's manuscripts*

The Carolingian renaissance of the eighth and ninth centuries saw the flowering of scholarship across Charlemagne's empire, scholarship that was often nurtured within monasteries. Although Charlemagne conquered Italy in 774, the monastery of Nonantola, near Modena, rarely features in discussions of this renaissance. Similarly, the seventh century has been one of the least discussed in the history of the papacy. It generally has been considered a period of intellectual decline. By indulging my two great interests, namely study of manuscripts and of Latin texts, I worked in Rome to show the other side of each story.

Nonantola's political and economic importance in the eighth and ninth centuries has long been recognized. Its cultural activity, however, has been somewhat more difficult to define, except that it produced a number of manuscripts. During my doctoral work, I had discovered swaths of annotations in Nonantolan manuscripts now in Rome. These annotations revealed engagement with ideas current in other parts of the Carolingian realm, suggesting that Nonantola, too, had participated in the Carolingian 'renaissance'. During my post-doctoral fellowship in Rome, I continued work with Nonantola's