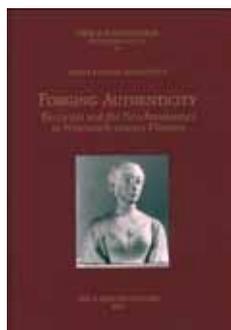


ANITA FIDERER MOSKOWITZ

## FORGING AUTHENTICITY

### GIOVANNI BASTIANINI AND THE NEO-RENAISSANCE IN NINETEENTH-CENTURY FLORENCE

Giovanni Bastianini (1830–68) was a Florentine sculptor whose creations answered to the growing demand for Renaissance and Renaissance-like works of art during the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Arguably the most infamous and gifted imitator of Italian Renaissance sculpture, he became a subject of great controversy during his lifetime that continues to this day. This book examines Bastianini's total oeuvre, exploring the dichotomy between his pseudo-Renaissance and his contemporary 'period' style. At the same time, it places him firmly within the economic, political and cultural context



that encouraged the production of neo-Renaissance art, which found a ready market in both Europe and the New World. The book will be of great interest not only to scholars of Italian Renaissance and nineteenth-century sculpture attempting to sort out the authentic from works of questionable attribution,

but also to those engaged in the history of taste and the conditions surrounding the Risorgimento that promoted the creation and acquisition of Renaissance art and artifacts in both Europe and the New World during the latter part of the nineteenth century.

*Giovanni Bastianini, probabilmente il miglior imitatore fiorentino della scultura italiana rinascimentale dell'Ottocento, è stato oggetto di una controversia che continua ancora oggi. Analizzando la dicotomia tra il suo stile pseudo-rinascimentale e contemporaneo, Moskowitz pone saldamente la sua figura nel contesto economico, politico e culturale del Risorgimento. Europei e Americani, desiderosi di assimilare l'atmosfera di una perduta Età dell'Oro, rappresentarono un mercato pronto a incoraggiare la produzione di arte neorinascimentale.*

ANITA MOSKOWITZ, Professor Emerita at Stony Brook University, has lectured and published widely on Italian Gothic and Renaissance sculpture, and issues of forgery and imitations. Her books include *The Sculpture of Andrea and Nino Pisano*, *Nicola Pisano's Arca di San Domenico and its Legacy*, *Italian Gothic Sculpture c. 1250-c. 1400*, *Nicola and Giovanni Pisano Pulpits*, and *The Façade Reliefs of Orvieto Cathedral*. Moskowitz has been the recipient of a fellowship from the Villa I Tatti (the Harvard University Center for Renaissance Studies) and three NEH fellowships. In 2003 she was a Visiting Senior Fellow at the Center for advanced Study in the Visual Arts at the National Gallery in Washington D.C. where she began research on Giovanni Bastianini.

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