

# "Collections and Collectors: a tale of Philanthropy and Power"

A Talk by Archeologist

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Kondysar Presentation Room 2023



*"I give you the commission too for bas-reliefs for insertion in the stucco walls of the hall (...) be sure you do not promise your library to anyone, however ardent a suitor you may find for it". (Cicero, Letter to Atticus, book 1, n.10). As early as the 1st century B.C. we can find ardent collectors of contemporary masterpieces or of works of art that belonged to a recent and somehow legendary past. Following the thread of this fire, burning for the possession of culture and the display of it in rich mansions, we will venture through the corridors of one of the most famous European Museums: the Uffizi, in Florence. After an analysis of the political propaganda that inspired the Grandukes of Tuscany in their purchases of ancient busts and Roman sarcophagi, we will look at the distinctive philanthropists who decided the set and building of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York.*