

The Metropolitan Museum of Art

THE CENTRAL CATALOG

A Guide to Interpreting Bibliographical References

[Sample, not an actual card]

2003.12

References

- Smith, R.W. The significance of Roman glass, in *M.M.A. Bulletin*, N.S. vol. VIII, 1949 (O.) p. 56 (ill.)
- M.M.A. French paintings, vol. III, XIX-XX Centuries, 1967, by Charles Sterling and Margareta Salinger, p. 27ff
- Bowness, Alan. "A note on 'Manet's compositional difficulties'," *Burl. Mag.*, CIII, June 1961, p. 277
- Impressionist and nineteenth century art. Sale cat. [Christie's]. New York, May 5, 1998, p. 113, fig. 1

Bibliographical references in the Museum's Central Catalog are often cryptic, incomplete and selective, but they are an important first step in doing research on Museum objects. The following examples are common references found in those bibliographies and include keys to interpreting the references:

1. The Metropolitan Museum of Art Bulletin articles

The museum's bulletin is almost always abbreviated **M.M.A. Bulletin**, but is cited in several ways.

- Smith, R.W. The significance of Roman glass, in **M.M.A. Bulletin**, N.S. vol. VIII, 1949 (O.) p. 56 (ill.)
- Salinger, Margareta. Windows open to Nature, in **M.M.A. Bulletin**, N.S., vol. XXVII, 1968 (Summer)
- M.M.A. Bulletin**, vol. V, 1910 (July, p. 173)
- M.M.A. Bulletin**, vol. VII, 1912 (Aug), p. 152

The first two examples give the author and title of the Bulletin articles; the two following do not; they give only the volume, date, and page number. The abbreviation **N.S.** in Bulletin citations stands for "**New Series**" and is necessary for locating the correct volume, particularly if the year is missing from the citation. The **M.M.A. Bulletin** is shelved opposite the Circulation Desk.

Both the MMA Bulletin and Journal are now fully searchable (up until a few years ago; as of this writing, through 2003) in JSTOR. For help accessing or using JSTOR, speak to the Reference Librarian.

2. Metropolitan Museum of Art publications

Museum exhibition catalogs and publications documenting the permanent collection are a frequent source of information. The Museum is usually abbreviated **M.M.A.**

- M.M.A.** French paintings, vol. III, XIX-XX Centuries, 1967, by Charles Sterling and Margareta Salinger, p. 27ff
- M.M.A.** American sculpture, a catalogue of the collection of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, by Albert TenEyck Gardner [c1965], p. 21 (ill., catalogued)

The title is located after the abbreviation **M.M.A.** but a quick search on WATSONLINE by title shows that in the first example this is NOT the full title. Try searching on the other information in the citation: a **keyword** search for **french paintings sterling** brings up only two records, one of which is this work cited. If you don't have an author/editor, a keyword search for **metropolitan french paintings** would bring up a manageable group of titles to search through.

3. Exhibition catalogs from other museums

Exhibition catalogs from other museums can be found in WATSONLINE with the same approach used for the Metropolitan's catalogs. Again, the title may be abbreviated or generic.

Hanson, A.C. Edouard Manet, exhibition catalogue, Philadelphia Museum of Art and Art Institute of Chicago, 1966-67, pp. 67, 69, 183

Hamilton, R. The almost complete works of Marcel Duchamp, a catalogue for an exhibition at the Tate Gallery, London, 1966; Art Council, London, 1966. (not in MMA), p. 15

A **keyword** search is the best way to find the first example in WATSONLINE. Use the important and most unique terms from the citation, such as **philadelphia manet**, to bring up the record for this catalog. The second example is easily found by a title search.

4. Monographs

In general, sections within books are cited in the following manner: [*author – with name inverted*]. [*title of book*], [*place of publication*], [*date of publication*], [*page nos.*].

Duret, Theodore. Manet and the French impressionists, London, 1910, pp. 14-15 (discussed, ill.)

Meier-Graefe, Julius. Edouard Manet, Munich, 1912, pp. 52-55, 310 (discussed), pl. 29

If the title is generic as in the second example, it's better to search WATSONLINE by the **author** of the book since there will be fewer entries than under the title.

5. Articles from journals

Articles from journals are generally cited in the following manner: [*article author*]. [*article title*] **in** [*journal title*], [*volume no.*], [*date*], [*pages of article*].

Rosenthal, Leon. Manet et l'Espagne, **in** Gazette des beaux-arts, ser. 5, vol. XII, 1925, pp. 208-212 (discussed), p. 205 (ill., called "Le Guitarrero").

Gautier, Theophile. Abecedaire du Salon de 1861, **in** Moniteur universel, 1861 (July 3)

Bowness, Alan. "A note on 'Manet's compositional difficulties,'" Burl. Mag., CIII, June 1961, p. 277

The difference between an article in a book and one in a journal may not always be clear: Look for the presence of volume and/or issue numbers or words such as "journal", "magazine", "gazette", "bulletino", etc. to identify the work as a journal article. Remember, to find an article, you must locate the journal in the library. Search WATSONLINE by **journal title**, not the title of the article. [The library does NOT catalog articles with the exception of some **M.M.A. Bulletins**.] If the journal title is abbreviated on the card and you can't interpret the abbreviation, ask the reference librarian to help you.

6. Auction or sales catalogs

Auction / sales catalogs are cited in the following manner: [title of auction OR seller/collector OR auction house], sale catalogue, [auction house], [location and full date of sale], [page nos.], [no. of item in catalog]. Many of the library's auction catalogs are in WATSONLINE, but not all of them. Ask the Reference Librarian for help if you cannot find the catalog you are looking for.

Impressionist and nineteenth century art. Sale cat. [Christie's]. New York, May 5, 1998, p. 113, fig. 1

Castellani, collection, sale catalogue, Rome, March 17-April 10, 1884, p. 56, no. 372

Parke Bernet, sale catalogue, New York, May 9, 1972, lot 214 and ill.

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