

## ***Wilhelm Bode and his loyal lieutenants: the trade in Dutch pictures, 1879-1914***

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Drawing upon Bode's annual pocket calendars, travel journals, and mail received, the paper examines his key Dutch acquisitions for the Gemäldegalerie, 1879-1898, while narrating a tale of changing fortunes (i.e., Berlin's diminishing status) in the years after 1898 and until the Great War. The paper sees three interconnected factors as essential to Bode's commercial clout: deep knowledge of British private collections; close relations with middlemen and dealers in Bond Street; and the ability to enlist private wealth for state goals. The rise of American collectors, however, is presented as the source of Bode's eventually reduced position.

### *About Michael J. Ripps*

M.J. Ripps read history at Virginia and Cambridge and later art history in Amsterdam, under Ellinoor Bergvelt. Michael submitted his doctoral thesis, 'Bond Street picture dealers and the international trade in Dutch old masters, 1882-1914,' at Oxford, supervised by Christopher Brown. He has held grants from the Frick Collection, Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation, and Burlington Magazine (Haskell Prize), and spent a year in the paintings department, J. Paul Getty Museum. While completing his DPhil, Michael also gained experience in the trade, where he assisted Bob Haboldt. His primary interests are in connoisseurship and the art market's history. Presently, he is turning his thesis into a monograph.