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*„Fantasie dentro di ferriere“ – Netherlandish Landscape Painting with Metallurgical Subject Matter in Italian Collections of the Cinquecento*

My dissertation project on Netherlandish mannerist landscape images deals with the artistic interpretation of mining plants and antique objects in depictions by Herri met de Bles, Michiel Gast and others. The study aims at elucidating how the Early Modern interest in such fields as industrial and especially mineralogical processes and the reception of antiquity were both founded in the same humanistic intellectual culture, which pervaded the European princely courts of the time. To this end, I will analyze the manifold connections between producers of metals such as the Fugger family, trading sites like Antwerp and nearby montane regions and major collections of *artificialia* and *naturalia* (for instance Francesco I. de' Medici's *studiolo* in the Palazzo Vecchio, Florence). Main literary sources such as Georgius Agricola's *De re metallica* will serve as keys to the understanding of contemporary metallurgical procedures and their moral assessment by leading humanist thinkers. The thesis is guided by the assumption that mining and early archaeological enterprises both basically represent the same concern with the 'strata' of Earth's and Mankind's history respectively. Crucially, the dichotomy of natural and human creation is conceived of in mannerist landscapes by predominantly Netherlandish painters. It encompasses works by the aforementioned Antwerp-based artists and the Italianate school of Michiel Gast and Herman Posthumus.