Exhibition and Experiment
A History of the Real Museo Borbonico

Andrea Milanese
**Figure 2.1.** Drawing by Achille Vianelli (Italian, 1803–1894), lithograph by Francesco Wenzel (Italian, act. early nineteenth century), Edifizio de’ Real i Musei di Antichità e belle arti. From *Napoli e i luoghi celebri delle sue vicinanze* (Naples, 1845), vol. 2, opposite p. 111.
**Figure 2.2.** Installation view of the marble sculpture of Ferdinand IV as Minerva (inv. 10833), by Antonio Canova (Italian, 1757–1822), in the Museo Archeologico Nazionale, Naples. The statue was commissioned in 1800 and completed in 1816. It was set up in the alcove on the main staircase of the Real Museo Borbonico. On the unification of Italy it was removed from view, but was returned to the spot in 1997.
Figure 2.3. Louis Jean Desprez (French, 1743–1804), Antiquities Found at Herculaneum Being Transported to the Naples Museum, ca. 1782. Pen and black ink and watercolor, 22 × 35.8 cm (8¾ × 14 in.). London, British Museum (inv. 1864,1210.502). The work is a print study for Jean Claude Richard de Saint-Non, Voyage pittoresque; ou, Description des royaumes de Naples et de Sicile, vol. 1 (Paris, 1782), pl. 2, no. 95.
Jean Baptiste Joseph Wicar (French, 1762–1834), Joseph Bonaparte, 1808. Oil on canvas, 230 × 176 cm (90 1/2 × 69 3/4 in.). Musée national du château de Versailles (inv. MV5136). Joseph, king of Naples from 1806 to 1808, holds a plan of the Palazzo degli Studi, whose facade can be seen in the background.
Figure 2.5. Hubert Robert (French, 1733–1808), The Élysée of the Musée des monuments français, 1803. Oil on canvas, 37 × 45.8 cm (14⅞ × 18⅛ in.). Paris, Musée Carnavalet (inv. P1750).
**FIGURE 2.6.** View of the western courtyard of the Real Museo Borbonico. From *Real Museo Borbonico*, vol. 2 (Naples, 1824), frontis.
**Figure 2.7.** Drawing by D. Ferrara, engraving by Giac. Morghen, *Statue in marmo, Portico de’ due Balbi.* From Achille Morelli, *Musée royal Bourbon: Vues et descriptions des galeries* (Naples, 1835), pl. 11. The Portico de’ due Balbi was also known as Portico delle Divinità.
Figure 2.8. New Room at the Royal Museum at Naples.
From The Illustrated London News, June 10, 1854
Figure 2.9. Drawing by J. Monetti, engraving by Jac. Morghen, *Statue di bronzo*. From Achille Morelli, *Musée royal Bourbon: Vues et descriptions des galeries* (Naples, 1835), pl. 17
**FIGURE 2.10.** Drawing by Achille Morelli, engraving by F. Morghen, *Pitture antiche*. From Achille Morelli, *Musée royal Bourbon: Vues et descriptions des galeries* (Naples, 1835), pl. 8
Figure 2.11. Attic terracotta black-figure amphora with Peleus and Thetis, attributed to the Red-Line Painter, 530–510 B.C. H. 47.5 cm (18\(\frac{3}{8}\) in.), Diam. (body) 30.5 cm (12 in.). Naples, Museo Archeologico Nazionale (inv. 81178). This example of *mezzo restauro* was almost certainly carried out by Raffaele Gargiulo.
Figure 2.12. Detail of a case in the Stanza delle armi in bronzo, with bronze horse pectorals and headguards from Ruvo, 1890–1900. Alinari 19070. Naples, Soprintendenza Speciale per i Beni Archeologici di Napoli e Pompei, Archivio Fotografico.
Figure 2.13. Bronze horse pectoral from Ruvo, 6th century B.C. 130 × 20 cm (51\(\frac{3}{16}\) × 7\(\frac{1}{16}\) in.). Naples, Museo Archeologico Nazionale (inv. 5715). The photograph was taken just before restoration in 1996.
Figure 2.14. Bronze horse pectoral from Ruvo (fig. 2.13), after restoration in 1996, during which all the nineteenth-century integrations were removed.
**Figure 2.15.** Detail of a case in the Stanza delle armi in bronzo, with one of the bronze cuirasses (fig. 2.16) from Ruvo, 1890–1900. Alinari 19071. Naples, Soprintendenza Speciale per i Beni Archeologici di Napoli e Pompei, Archivio Fotografico.
Figure 2.16. Bronze cuirass with head of Athena from Ruvo, 5th century B.C. 41 × 27 cm (16 1/4 × 10 1/8 in.). Naples, Museo Archeologico Nazionale (inv. 5735). This cuirass has been cleaned since Gargiulo’s restoration.
Figure 2.17. Bronze cuirass from Ruvo, 4th century B.C. 36.5 × 28.5 cm (14⅞ × 11¼ in.). Naples, Museo Archeologico Nazionale (inv. 5696). This cuirass appears to not have undergone any interventions since Gargiulo’s.
Figure 2.18. Nota delle spese (account of expenses) referring to restoration of the two bronze cuirasses from Ruvo (figs. 2.16, 2.17) by Raffaele Gargiulo in 1838. Naples, Soprintendenza Speciale per i Beni Archeologici di Napoli e Pompei, Archivio Storico, XXI C8, 16.