

James Ackerman

2001 Balzan Prize for the History of Architecture (including town planning and landscape design)

For his outstanding work on the history of Renaissance architecture which contributed to the modern approach to architectural history based on a systematic critical examination of written and visual sources.

1. James Ackerman Award

Centro Internazionale di Studi di Architettura “Andrea Palladio”

2. Summer School in Applied Palaeography

American Academy in Rome

Adviser for the General Balzan Committee: Dmitry O. Shvidkovsky

1. *James Ackerman Award.* Part of the second half of the Balzan Prize received by James Sloss Ackerman in 2001 went to the creation of the “James Ackerman Award in the history of architecture”, made possible by Ackerman’s donation to the Centro Internazionale di Studi di Architettura Andrea Palladio. The James Ackerman Award is conferred since 2005 for the publication of an important, original work in any period in the history of architecture by one or two scholars of any nationality who have not yet published any books. The texts selected by the Jury presided over by Ackerman himself are published in a series created for this purpose. The first James Ackerman Award was awarded to Leo Schubert for his book *La villa Jeanneret-Perret di Le Corbusier, 1912. La prima opera autonoma*, which was published in May 2006. The 2006 award went to Valeria Cafà for her book *Palazzo Massimo alle Colonne di Baldassarre Peruzzi* which was published in May 2007. The winner of the 2007 award was Angela Dressen and her book, *Pavimenti decorati del Quattrocento in Italia*, was published in May 2008. In 2008, the Prize was awarded to Federica Rossi for her book *Palladio in Russia: Nikolaj L’vov, architetto e intellettuale russo al tramonto dei Lumi*, published in 2010.

Members of the selection board were James S. Ackerman (president), Arnaldo Bruschi (1928-2009) Past President of the Scientific council of the Centro, Howard Burns, president of the Scientific council of the Centro, Guido Beltramini, director of the Centro, Fernando Marías, director of “Annali di architettura”, the journal of the Centro, and two members of the current Scientific council of the Centro Internazionale di Architettura.

2. *Summer School in Applied Palaeography*. The rest of the second half of the Balzan Prize awarded to James Ackerman was destined to the creation of a “Summer School in Applied Palaeography” at the American Academy in Rome. The program focused on the analysis of texts from Roman antiquity to the Renaissance in Europe, and was consistent with Ackerman way of studying Renaissance architecture “based on a systematic critical examination of written and visual sources”, as the motivation for the Balzan Prize reads. The courses were offered free of charge to graduates and scholars, who did not necessarily have to be Americans. They were chosen according to their curricula, and for six weeks they were the guests of the American Academy in Rome, one of the oldest American institutions abroad.

Directed by Christopher S. Celenza, Professor of European history at the University of Michigan, the summer courses in Applied Palaeography took place in 2002, 2003 and 2005. Amongst the participants of the 2002 Summer School: Sandra Chang, Walter Cupperi (today at Scuola Normale Superiore di Pisa), Federica Ciccolella (then earning her Ph.D. at Columbia University, today at Texas A&M University), Frederick Lauritzen (then earning his Ph.D. at Columbia University, today at Fondazione Scienze Religiose Giovanni XXIII, Bologna), Dana Munteanu (today at Ohio State University).

Other organizers and participants were Karl Appuhn, Antonio Ciaralli, Christine Huemer, Melissa Bullard, Armando Petrucci, John Petruccione, Charles M. Radding, Ingrid Rowland, Fabio Troncarelli (2003); Lorenzo Calvelli, Eileen Jaxsens, Jennifer Knust, Christine Kralik, Manu Radhakrishnan, Sonia Sabnis, (2005). Maria Pia Blasi (Biblioteca Nazionale di Roma) and Don Faustino Avagliano (Abbazia di Montecassino) facilitated the scholars’ work on the ancient manuscripts.

Dedicated website: www.premioackerman.it

Publications:

- Cafà, V., *Palazzo Massimo alle Colonne di Baldassare Peruzzi: storia di una famiglia romana e del suo palazzo in rione Parione*, Marsilio, Vicenza-Venezia, 2007.
- Dressen, A. *Pavimenti decorati del Quattrocento in Italia*, Marsilio, Vicenza-Venezia, 2008.
- Rossi, F. *Palladio in Russia. Nikolaj L’vov architetto e intellettuale russo al tramonto dei Lumi*, Marsilio, Vicenza-Venezia, 2009.
- Schubert, L. *La villa Jeanneret-Perret di Le Corbusier, 1912. La prima opera autonoma*, Marsilio, Vicenza-Venezia, 2006.

**Statements by the Prizewinner, by Adele Chatifield Taylor, and by Carmela Vir-
cillo Franklin:**

The humanities have been losing the support of government and the interest of students in the last two decades, particularly in my country. Yet the importance of the critical understanding of human enterprises and creations that they inculcate is ever greater as much of the world descends into disorder and conflict. The commitment of the Balzan Foundation to the support of humanistic learning and teaching – and particularly to the encouragement of young scholars – helps immeasurably to reverse the decline. I thank the Foundation for this commitment, for the honor it confers upon us, and for its generosity. James Ackerman (Berne, 09.11.2001)

Over the course of these three years, Professor Celenza was able to train fifteen students from a cross section of disciplines in the art of Palaeography. The Summer Program, though finite in length, has helped to train an entire generation of American Scholars in the art of Palaeography, and through them, its effects will influence scholarship and culture for years to come. Adele Chatifield Taylor, President of the American Academy in Rome (2005)

The Latin Palaeography seminar at the AAR has served a most important function – that of training young scholars in the actual study of Latin manuscripts, books copied by hand before the invention of printing in the middle of the 16th century. One of the most wonderful and fruitful experiences for scholar of manuscripts is the actual study of these precious original remains. Few places can match Rome's rich collection of such documents, and the AAR Palaeography seminar students were able to apply the instruction received by Professor Celenza directly to their own projects with great benefit. We hope that we shall have the opportunity to offer such a seminar again in the near future. Carmela Vircillo Franklin, Director of the American Academy in Rome (2005)