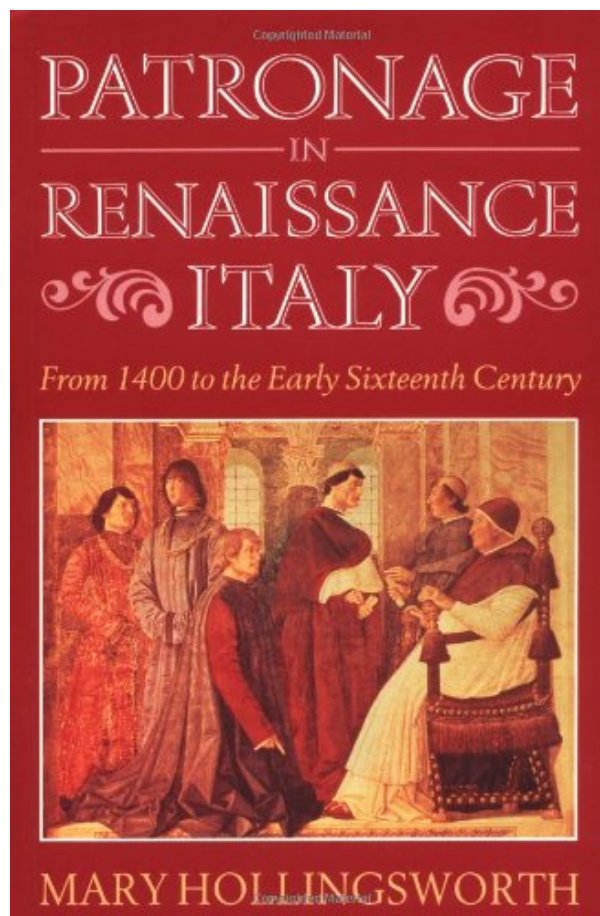


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"Hollingsworth pursues her subject from Florence to Venice, into five of Italy's independent princely states (Milan, Ferrara, Mantua, Urbino, and Naples) before ending with the papal court at Rome. She writes authoritatively, drawing on a vast store of knowledge." -- Sunday Times

"An absorbing study of fifteenth-century patrons and artists... A vivid, lively account of a complex society in which art was made to express the wealth, status, worldly concerns, and religious aspirations of its patrons." -- Art Quarterly

About the Author

Mary Hollingsworth is the author of A History of World Art and Architecture of the Twentieth Century. Currently living in Florence, she has taught Renaissance patronage and design on both the undergraduate and graduate levels.

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In this first comprehensive study of patrons in the Italian quattrocento, Mary Hollingsworth shows how the patron--rather than the artist--carefully controlled both subject and medium in artistic creation. In a competitive and violent age, she explains, image and ostentation were essential statements of the patron's power. As a result, perceived cost became more important than artistic quality (and buildings, bronze, or tapestry were considered more eloquent statements than cheaper marble or fresco). Artists in the early Renaissance were employed as craftsmen, Hollingsworth concludes, and only late in the century did their relations with patrons start to adopt a pattern we might recognize today.

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