

Roman Antiquities as a Source of Inspiration for Henryk Siemiradzki's *Nero's Torches*

Summary

Antiquities found in museum collections were often a source of inspiration for nineteenth-century painters, and so were books with illustrations showing newly discovered ancient artefacts and even the reconstructions of the no-longer existing buildings. The aim of the paper is to show, first of all, the sources of inspiration used by Henryk Siemiradzki while painting *Nero's Torches* and, secondly, to what extent the painter used exact copies of motifs taken from Roman architecture, painting and decorative arts and to what extent he transformed them, creating his own idea of the ancient world.