***Chancellery of the Universities of Paris***

**Sorbonne Inter-University Library**

**Heritage, Philanthropy and Patronage, 19th - 21st Centuries.**

**Donations and legacy gifts to education, research**

**and conservation institutions**

**International Seminar**

**Grand Salon of the Sorbonne**

**12th and 13th December 2019**

Building on the legacy of the great patron of higher education the Marquise Arconati Visconti, the Chancellery of the Universities of Paris, in collaboration with the Archive Department and Inter-University Library of the Sorbonne, is organising a seminar entitled “Heritage, Philanthropy and Patronage, 19th - 21st Centuries. Donations and legacy gifts to education, research and conservation institutions”.

This seminar discusses the role played by philanthropy in France from the 19th to 21st centuries in building educational heritage, specifically within higher education and research, but also in museums, libraries and archives. Several recent studies have emphasised that during this period museum collections of all kinds (within archaeology, the arts, science, etc.) grew considerably as a result of donations of private collections or through legacy gifts, and that patronage played an important role in enriching the national heritage in general.

Many educational institutions, whether in Paris or in the regions, have also benefited from donations and legacy gifts, allowing them to enhance the transmission of knowledge. However, until now few studies have focused on educational institutions, even though patronage of educational, research and cultural institutions can be seen in the construction of buildings, in the establishment of research institutions, or in the foundation of prizes or educational and travel bursaries for students and researchers, encouraging the transmission of knowledge.

We are looking for contributions focussed on the impact of patronage in the setting up or enhancement of the heritage of institutions of teaching or research, museums, libraries and archives throughout the country. We are also looking for papers providing further background to the political, economic, intellectual and social context of donations, as well as the personality and motivations of benefactors and philanthropists, and to contribute evidence of possible networks of donors. The question of female patronage, from historical and current perspectives, could be a particular focus of attention.

Equally, comparisons with other countries could help to identify potential French characteristics or idiosyncrasies in this context.

This seminar is part of a campaign of events encouraging the development of patronage in favour of teaching and research, and public cultural institutions more widely. In particular, it will be followed by an exhibition about the Marquise Arconati Visconti at the Museum of Decorative Arts. This physical exhibition will be accompanied by a virtual exhibition. The digitisation of correspondence received by the Marquise which is preserved in the Sorbonne’s Inter-University Library will form part of this campaign, allowing researchers to gain access to this primary source of the cultural and political history of the late 19th century.

The seminar will take place before the awards ceremony of the Chancellery, will take place in the Grand Salon of the Sorbonne on the 12th and 13th December 2019.

**Scientific committee**

* + Françoise Banat-Berger, Heritage Curator (Archives), Director of the National Archives and Catherine Mérot,Heritage Curator (Archives), Head of the department for education, culture and social affairs at the National Archives;
  + Geneviève Bresc-Bautier, Emeritus Heritage Curator (Museums), former Director of Sculpture at the Louvre;
  + Laurence Bobis, Curator of Libraries, Director of the Inter-University Library of the Sorbonne, Jacqueline Artier, Head Curator of Libraries, department of manuscripts and ancient books;
  + Michelle Bubenicek, Director of l’Ecole Nationale des Chartes ;
  + Anne-Elisabeth Buxtorf, Curator of Libraries, Director of the library of the National Institute of the History of Art;
  + Thérèse Charmasson, Honorary head Heritage Curator (Archives), scientific consultant;
  + Olivier Gabet, Heritage Curator (Museums), Director of the Museum of Decorative Arts and et Anne Forray-Carlier, Chief Heritage Curator of the department of the Middle Ages and the Renaissance and of the department of the 17th and 18th centuries;
  + Adrien Goetz, Lecturer, University of Paris-Sorbonne, Member of the Académie of Fine Arts;
  + Dominique Kalifa, Professor of Contemporary History, University Paris-I Panthéon-Sorbonne, Director of the Centre for 19th Century History;
  + Stéphanie Méchine, Head of Archive Service of the Education office and Chancellery of the Universities of Paris;
  + Dominique Poulot, Professor of History of Art, University Paris-I Panthéon-Sorbonne.

**Call for papers**

Proposals for papers, in the form of a synopsis of 15 lines maximum, accompanied by a short bio-bibliography, should be addressed to Stéphanie Méchine, Archive Service of the Education office of Paris, before **15 December 2018** (ce.archives@ac-paris.fr).