

16th-century Italian drawings in the Dresden Kupferstich-Kabinett

Pre-release version of the collection catalogue

Albums

First published

This chapter: 31 December 2025

This version: 31 December 2025 (1)

A large proportion of the Italian Old Master drawings in the KKD were – and in many cases still are – kept in eighteenth-century albums. The volumes concerned have largely survived, albeit often in a fragmentary condition, since from 1816 onwards sheets were removed on a large scale and mounted separately.

Annotations and other traces on the album pages recording the removal of formerly mounted sheets, as well as inscriptions on the drawings themselves and remarks in archival records and the database, often provide evidence of the former location of works within the albums. As sheets were evidently transferred repeatedly between volumes over the centuries, and in some cases drawings were also added at a later date, a degree of uncertainty remains.

The following section lists the groups of albums relevant to the sixteenth-century Italian drawings. Of particular importance in this context are albums Ca 24 and Ca 13, both of which were specifically devoted to Italian works. For further details, see Wätjen 2024.

Albums with drawings from the Gottfried Wagner collection

Drawings from the collection of Gottfried Wagner (1652–1725), Leipzig. Acquired for the KKD in 1728 from his widow, Clara Catharina Wagner. The albums were compiled for the KKD in 1728–38 to include the drawings concerned (with the second- and third-class albums bound only after 1738).

First Class: Ca 17, Ca 18 (missing since 1945), Ca 19, Ca 20, Ca 21, Ca 22 (missing since 1945), Ca 23, Ca 24 («Tome de Maitres Italiens»), Ca 25, Ca 26, Ca 27, Ca 28, Ca 29 (missing since 1945).

Second Class: Ca 9, Ca 10 (unlocated since 1974; possibly dismantled after the removal of all drawings).

Third Class: Ca 1, Ca 2, Ca 3, Ca 4, Ca 5, Ca 6, Ca 7 (missing since 1945).

Albums with drawings from the court library

Compiled in 1725–38 for the KKD to include batches of drawings from the court library, which were transferred to the KKD in 1725: Ca 11, Ca 12, Ca 13 («Originalia von den besten Italiänischen Meistern», all drawings removed), Ca 14, Ca 15, Ca 16.

Album for drawings of different provenances

Originally compiled in 1720–38 for the KKD to include prints. Rededicated before 1764 for the storage of drawings: Ca 8.