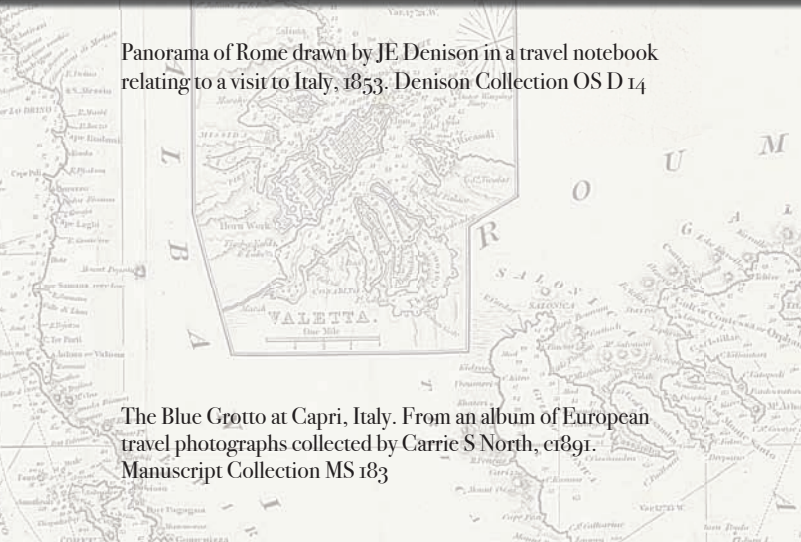




Panorama of Rome drawn by JE Denison in a travel notebook relating to a visit to Italy, 1853. Denison Collection OSD 14



The Blue Grotto at Capri, Italy. From an album of European travel photographs collected by Carrie S North, c1891. Manuscript Collection MS 183



ART, NATURE AND PARTIES!

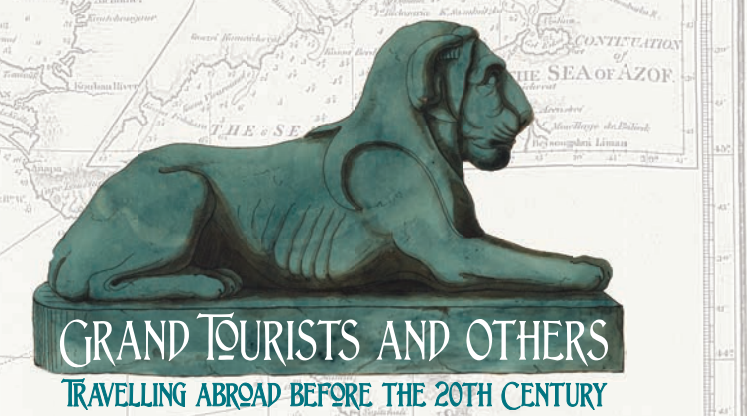
One of the main objects of a Grand Tour was to experience art – pictures, drawings, and statues – in person. Weeks were spent visiting galleries and buying artworks to decorate rooms back home. Tastes changed. Throughout the 18th century, classicism prevailed, ancient Greek and Roman styles were fashionable and the medieval and baroque were mostly disliked.

As the Grand Tour faded away fashions in art changed and ‘art appreciation’ became a favourite pastime for middle-

class travellers. Guidebooks catered accordingly, with often interminable lists of works to be seen, and what to feel about them. Some tourists sketched what they saw. Some bought cheap engravings of the pictures and sculptures collected by the very rich. By 1900, photographs and postcards were beginning to dominate this market.

Grand Tourists also enjoyed nature, especially the Italian volcanoes of Vesuvius and Etna. The fashion for nature developed further in the 19th century: mountains, romantic lakes and countryside walks were all extremely popular. Collecting plants (‘botanising’) was commonplace, and treasured specimens were often pressed within the pages of journals to be taken home.

Diaries and journals reveal, however, that most travellers did not follow the advice of the guidebooks and spend all day looking at art or walking in the countryside. Instead they had fun at parties and carnivals, where they gambled and embarked upon illicit affairs. Men often went hunting while women shopped for the latest fashions.



‘Shopman and Purchaser’, from A Comyns Carr, *North Italian Folk* (London, 1878). From private collection of Ross Balzaretti.



‘View of the Great Eruption of Vesuvius 1767 from Portici’, from William Hamilton’s *Observations on Mount Vesuvius* (London, 1772). Special Collection QE523.V4 HAM