The Danish sculptor Bertel Thorvaldsen (1770–1844) was not only one of Europe’s most sought-after artists; he was also a collector. Thorvaldsen lived most of his adult life in Rome. Here he built extensive collections of paintings, prints, drawings, books and of ancient artefacts, which today can be experienced at Thorvaldsens Museum in Copenhagen. Among the collections is also a large collection of casts after sculpture and bas-reliefs from antiquity to Thorvaldsen’s own lifetime, less known to the general public.

In this extensive new publication on the cast collection we are getting close to the artist Thorvaldsen. The collection offers us important insight into the sculptor’s working methods and the development of his work as it served a clear function as an image bank of forms, motifs and subjects for Thorvaldsen’s own endeavours. Furthermore, the dual fact that the collection is so well preserved and was established over a relatively brief period of time makes it a valuable example illuminating the trade and distribution of plaster casts during the first half of the nineteenth century.

JAN ZAHLE

Arising out of many years of study of Thorvaldsen’s cast collection conducted by the author, the classical archaeologist Dr.phil Jan Zahle, these books contain comprehensive source material from the period, much of it previously unknown.

FOUNDATIONS THAT MADE THIS PUBLICATION POSSIBLE:
Fonden for Kontorchef E. Spang-Hanssens legat
Konsul George Jorck og Hustru Emma Jorck’s Fond
Landsdommer V. Gieses Legat
Lillian og Dan Finks Fond
Novo Nordisk Foundation
Overretssagfører L. Zeuthens Mindelegat
The New Carlsberg Foundation
The Velux Foundations
15. Juni Fonden

THORVALDSEN
Collector of Plaster Casts from Antiquity and the Early Modern Period

by Jan Zahle

ISBN 978 87 7184 359 0
828 pages
Illustrated
PRICE: 699,95 DKK/560 DKK EXCL. VAT; £84; $102
TO BE PUBLISHED 20. AUGUST 2020

CONTACT
Kristine Bøggild Johannsen
Curator
Thorvaldsens Museum
kriboe@kk.dk
tel. + 45 33 32 15 32

PRESS
Amalie Heidmann
marketing coordinator
ahe@unipress.au.dk
tel. +45 28 70 70 19