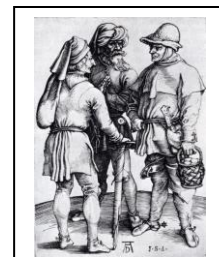
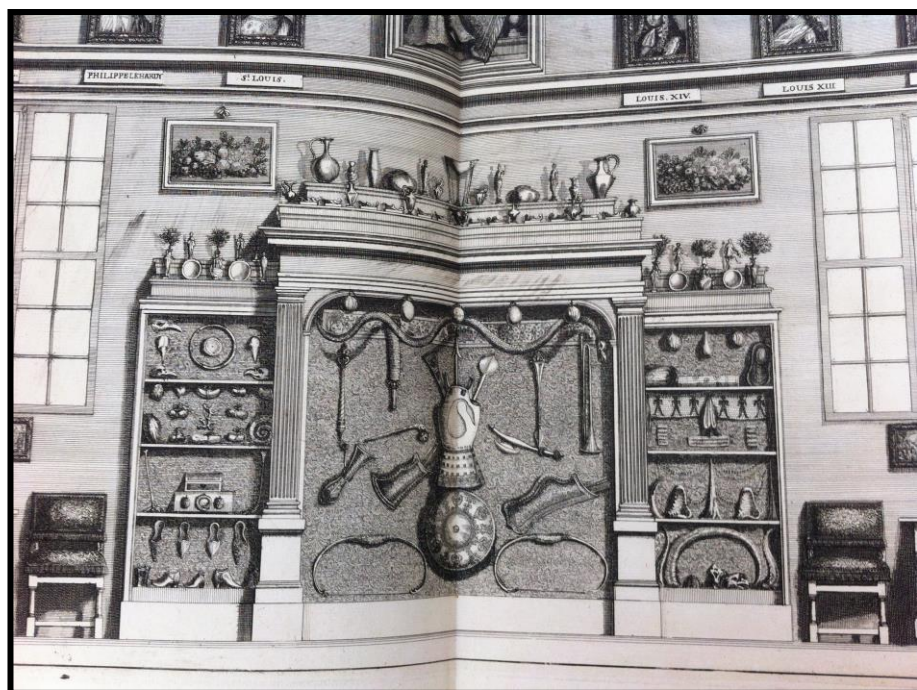


The Fifty-Third Season of the
**TORONTO RENAISSANCE AND
REFORMATION COLLOQUIUM**
Founded by Natalie Zemon Davis and James K. McConica in 1964



Surekha Davies (Western Connecticut State University)



**“New Worlds,
Indigenous
Technologies,
and European
Cabinets of
Curiosities”**

**Monday, 13 Nov. 2017,
5:00 p.m. in the Helen
Gardiner Phelan Playhouse, 79
St George Street**
(Please note that the time and
location are not our usual ones)

**This lecture is presented in partnership with
The Centre for Drama, Theatre & Performance Studies, University of Toronto**

In the early modern period, European perceptions of distant peoples shifted from curiosity and admiration to a growing conviction that Europe resided at the top of a cultural, technological, and racial hierarchy. Making knowledge about both humans and the natural world became increasingly visual pursuits. This paper explores descriptive methods and classificatory schemes for overseas artifacts through the close reading of inventories and catalogues of early modern curiosity cabinets. It argues that these texts were material and discursive objects that helped to constitute cultural hierarchy through typologies of objects. The processes of inventorying human variety also shaped European identities in relation to both classical antiquity and to the material antiquities of new worlds.

Dr Surekha Davies teaches at Western Connecticut State University. She writes on cultural encounters, visual and material culture, cartography, monster theory, collecting, and the history of mentalities. She is the author of *Renaissance Ethnography and the Invention of the Human: New Worlds, Maps and Monsters* (Cambridge University Press, 2016), winner of the 2017 Roland H. Bainton Prize in History from the Sixteenth Century Society and Conference and the 2017 Morris D. Forkosch Prize in intellectual history. She is currently working on a new book project, *Collecting Artifacts in the Age of Empire*, and is a Mellon long-term fellow at the Folger Shakespeare Library for 2017-18.

Image: Print by François Ertinger from Claude du Molinet, *Le cabinet de la Bibliothèque Sainte-Geneviève* (Paris, 1692), plate 4. (Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University)