

Contents

List of Illustrations vii

Acknowledgments ix

Making Sense of an Unusual
Contribution to Art History 1

Notes 67

KENNETH HALTMAN

The Evolution of Taste in American Collecting 85
RENÉ BRIMO

Preface 87

Introduction 89

BOOK 1:

Early Developments: From the Colonial Period to the
Philadelphia Centennial

Part 1: Colonial America

Looking Backward 96

Part 2: Science or Sentiment

[Historical Introduction, 1776–1840] 107

1 Encyclopedic Spirit 111

2 The Search for a National Style 121

Part 3: The Critical Era

[Historical Introduction, 1840–1876] 131

1 The Taste for Anecdote and Realism 135

2 The Discovery of History 151

BOOK 2:

The Triumph of Quality: Major Collections from
the Philadelphia Centennial to the Great War

[Historical Introduction, 1876–1919] 166

1 Eclecticism 171

2 The Notion of the “Old Master” 195

3 The Vogue for Archaeology and “Pre-History” 226

4 Staying in Touch with the Contemporary Scene 255

5 The Modern Art Museum 272

Conclusion 294

Notes 301

Bibliography 344

Index 371