ARITH 398
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Texts for objects in the NERC accompanying exhibition:
“The Art of Intellectual Community: Early Modern Objects and Pedagogy”
Due 18 October 2011
This assignment is meant to combine a careful visual analysis with research linked to understanding the objects in the context of the exhibit.

1. Look at the images of the objects posted online
Images of the exhibition objects and their placement within specific themes are accessible online via OnCourse. Please look at them carefully before and after you view the actual objects.

2. Make an appointment to see the objects
You will need to make an appointment as soon as possible with Professor Leah Niederstadt, Curator of the Permanent Collection (x-3319, niederstadt_leah@wheatonma.edu). In your email or phone call, please let her know WHICH objects you will be researching, so that she can have them set up properly for you. Professor Niederstadt will also give you an object file for each object. Unfortunately, many of these files are lacking or erroneous and while they will serve as guides, you will need to do additional research to understand the relevance and the narrative associated with each object.

3. Look at the objects
Please allow yourself a decent amount of time to look at and study the objects you will be researching. This means you may have to make several appointments to view them.

4. Think of how each object fits the exhibit, what your research has revealed, and how you can phrase it
In order to do so, I suggest you look at wall texts from different exhibits. I highly recommend you look at the current exhibit held at RISD on “Jacques Callot and the Baroque Print.” In fact, those of you working on our own Callot and Bosse prints will be required to look at the RISD labels on similar works.
Please keep in mind the divisions in which your objects fit:
- Families, Individuals, Identities
- Religion
- Commerce
- Knowledge

5. Write your preliminary labels
Please make sure your text is fully edited. Turn in your preliminary label text to me on 4 October. This will give me enough time to edit them and return them to you before you have to submit your final version.

6. Turn in your final labels
Please do so at the beginning of class on 18 October.

I look forward to working with you on this project!