

Spring 2009
AH 463 Constructing Colonialism
Mondays, 6:00-9:00, 303 Henry Hall
Professor Ellen T. Baird

Colonialism is and has been a globally and temporally widespread phenomenon. Often initiated through military incursions or conquest, the traditional defining characteristics of colonialism have been provincialism, the exploitation of the colonized by the colonizers and, in the material products of the colony, characteristics deemed naïve, “idiosyncratic and quaintly expressive” (Edward J. Sozanski, *Philadelphia Inquirer*, “Riches of Latin America,” Sept. 17, 2006 review of “Tesoros, Treasures, Tesouros,” Philadelphia Museum of Art).



America. Meissen Porcelain Factory. Germany. 1745

Through intensive reading and questioning historical and theoretical studies as well as popular perspectives, this course will investigate colonial art, architecture, and urban planning in Mexico and Puerto Rico within a conceptual framework of colonialism. Case studies (selected in part by students) will form the basis of our examination. There will also be several guest lecturers who will address colonial and postcolonial issues in their own areas of research.