

The 2009-2010 Klopsteg seminar series in SCIENCE IN HUMAN CULTURE presents:



DANIEL MARGOCSY

SHC and History, Northwestern

“THE CAMEL’S HEAD: PICTURING EXOTICA IN SIXTEENTH-CENTURY EUROPE”

Monday, November 9
Hagstrum Room
Evanston Campus

4:00 - 5:30 pm
university hall 201
reception to follow

This talk explores how images of exotic animals traveled between different pictorial genres in Europe around 1600. We will focus on how artists and naturalists dealt with the problem of picturing animals that they had never seen. Taking camels, giraffes, rhinos and hippopotami as examples, we will examine how credible representations could be created by mixing a limited dose of imagination with a good knowledge of comparative anatomy. An analysis of these images offers avenues to rethink the boundary between fiction and truth in early modern visual culture.

Daniel Margocsy is a postdoctoral fellow at the Science in Human Culture program. He received his PhD in the history of science from Harvard University. His research interests include the history of science and art history in early modern Europe. His current book project investigates the impact of global trade on science in the Golden Age Netherlands.