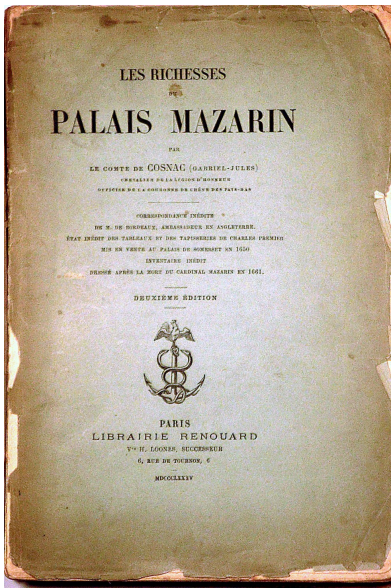


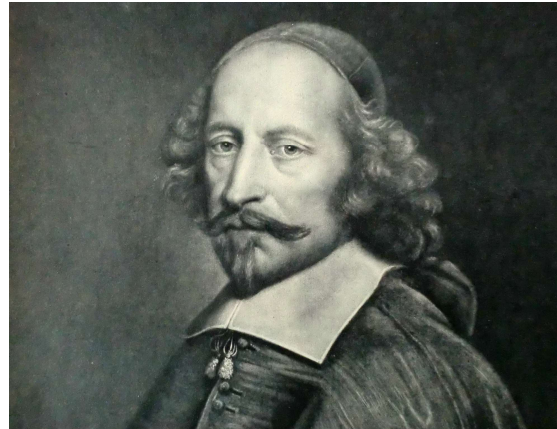
LES RICHESSES DU PALAIS MAZARIN – STUDY OF THE FINE ART COLLECTION OWNED BY THE FABULOUSLY WEALTHY CARDINAL JULES MAZARIN, CHIEF MINISTER TO LOUIS XIV AND CHOSEN SUCCESSOR OF CARDINAL RICHELIEU



Cosnac, Gabriel-Jules, Comte de. *Les Richesses du Palais Mazarin*. Paris: Librairie Renouard, 1885. 2nd edition. Softbound. 430 pages. Illustrated.

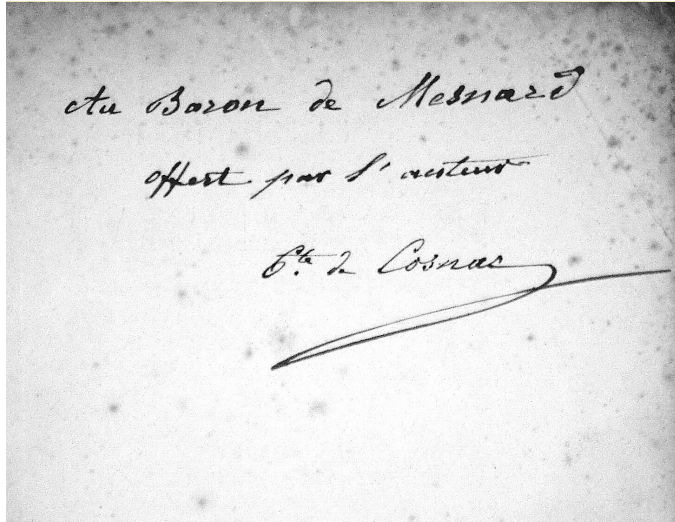
Cardinal Jules Mazarin, né Giulio Raimondo Mazzarino (1602-1661) was an Italian-born cardinal, French diplomat, and art collector. He was born into a noble Italian family, was educated in both Rome and Spain, and eventually found his way into the employ of Pope Urban VIII. During his time of service to the Pope, Mazarin met and made a strong impression on French Cardinal Richelieu. Richelieu brought him to Paris, where he quickly gained prominence in the courts of Louis XIII and XIV of France, deriving much of his power through the favor of Richelieu and Queen Anne. He became Chief Minister of France upon Richelieu's death in 1642.

Mazarin's accumulated wealth as much as he did power, and he collected profusely. In addition to his holdings of fine arts dating from ancient times through his own era, he also acquired a vast library of books and manuscripts, and a set of eighteen diamonds called the "Mazarin Diamonds". The books and manuscripts are now housed in the Bibliotheque Mazarin in Paris, the diamonds are now scattered, with the whereabouts of many still unknown. The art collection was inherited by Mazarin's nieces, much of it remaining in the luxurious Palais Mazarin in Paris, and has since ended up in many prominent museum collections as befits such significant works.



Written over two hundred years after the collector's death, Cosnac's book talks about Mazarin and his collection of paintings, sculpture, and tapestries ranging from ancient to seventeenth century and including works by Mantegna, Titian, Raphael, Corregio, Romain, Rubens, van Dyck, Rembrandt, Durer, Holbein, Velazquez, Vouet, Poussin, and Lorrain. The book also reproduces the inventory made after Mazarin's death and a collection of letters between Mazarin and Antoine de Bordeaux, the French ambassador to England who assisted Mazarin in his collecting efforts. Although it includes an inventory, the book is more of a scholarly work than a simple catalogue, consisting

mainly of a substantial discussion on the objects and the collection and the process by which Mazarin acquired them. The book has numerous in-text illustrations supplemented by a select few plates. The book's binding is in very poor condition, completely separated into several sections, and the pages show some foxing. However, the text is still clearly legible and the images are quite clear. The book is inscribed in French and signed by the author on the first page. "*To Baron de Mesnard Offered by the Author Le Comte de Cosnac*". A new binding is all that would be needed to return this important work to its former prominence.



\$300.00

Sources:

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<http://www.adam-williams.com/ANDREA-SACCHI-Nettuno-1599-1661-Rome-San-Andrew-DesktopDefault.aspx?tabid=6&tabindex=5&objectid=198370&backflag=on&&categoryid=0>. Accessed Nov. 2, 2014.