Saint Michael the Archangel by Claudio Coello (Spanish, Late Baroque, 1660s)
Oil on canvas, 71 x 45 inches (180.3 x 114.3 cm)  
Accession Number: BF.1980.10

This late Baroque painting depicts a scene from the biblical book of Revelation (Revelation 12:7) in which Michael the Archangel casts Satan, the fallen angel, out of heaven. It is a theme frequently portrayed in Spanish painting throughout the 17th century. Saint Michael represents the Church’s victory over heresy and the righteous role of Spanish Catholicism in its confrontation with the Protestant Reformation.

Before researching a work of art from the MFAH collection, it is helpful to view the work first hand. The information in books and journals will be more meaningful if you have taken advantage of the opportunity to inspect the object itself.

“Reference” books you will find on the library’s main floor, and “Ready Reference” books are behind the information desk. Other books can be obtained by asking at the information desk.

**General Art Surveys**

Gardner’s Art through the Ages. 12th ed., 2005. (Chapter 24)  

Janson’s History of Art, 7th ed., 2007. (Chapter 19)  

Stokstad, Marilyn. Art History, 1995. (Pages 751-769, 776-780)  

**Claudio Coello**

N 31 .D5 v.7 1996 Ref.

(Npecially pages 96 and 112)  
ND 813 .C58 S85 1986

(Especially pages 11, 110-111, 113, 116)  
ND 804 .T66 1997

**Baroque and Spanish Art**

Sullivan, E.J. and N. Malloy. Painting in Spain 1650-1700, 1982 (Pages 72-73)  
ND 806 .S78 1982

NX 633 .S7 S25 1995

ND 806 .P47 1996

ND 177 .S5 1992
The Catholic Reformation (Counter Reformation)


Imagery of Saint Michael the Archangel


Scripture

*King James Bible*. BS 185 .C3 Ref.

Apocalyptic Art


While some Internet resources are not appropriate for scholarly research, the *Catholic Encyclopedia* website recommended above comes from a well-regarded public domain text published in 1911. It provides brief background information and useful, interactive references to other public domain sources. It is always advisable to examine all online and printed sources carefully.

This reference guide is just the tip of the iceberg on helpful resources in the library’s holdings. Many of the suggested resources above have their own bibliographies, which may lead you to other valuable resources. You may find that much of the additional scholarship on Coello is available in Spanish. Ask the reference staff to assist in identifying these resources.

To find additional books, use keywords such as “Baroque” and “saints” in the on-line catalog and in periodical indexes. Once you find a few relevant titles, pay attention to the subject headings to identify similar books. Keep in mind that there are other artists named “Coello.”

Examples of useful subject headings are:

*Counter-Reformation in art*
*Christian art and symbolism*
*Painting, Baroque --Spain*
*Painting, Spanish --17th century*
*Apocalypse in art.*

For guidelines about writing it may be helpful to look at Sylvan Barnet’s *A Short Guide to Writing about Art*, which includes tips for looking, reading, and writing about art. Ask for it at the reference desk.

At every stage of your work, please allow the library staff to help you. We can be reached at 713-639-7325.