The Clerkenwell district of London was certainly worth a picture, especially if you were a fan of Kodak. It is unknown who took this picture or in what year, but from the clothing and the horse-drawn characters, it is clearly before the days of digital. The changing face of London from the air. Also revealed today were pictures of what is believed to be the first aerial survey of London - from the pages of an old family photograph album. They were found after being kept in storage for years by Alan Richardson, a retired RAF helicopter pilot, whose grandfather Albert Richardson, an Army Fusilier "Pictures for the Nation: Conceptualizing a Collection of 'Old Masters' for London, 1775-1800" (PhD Dissertation, Queen's University, 2009), pp 48-107.

Through the respective lenses provided by the case studies, it is demonstrated that the envisioning of a national gallery for Britain pitched competing perspectives against each other, as different kinds of people jockeyed for cultural authority. The process of articulating and shaping these ambitions with an eye towards national benefit was only beginning to be explored, and negotiations of private ambitions and interests surrounding picture collections for the public was further complicated by factors of social class and profession. This thesis demonstrate that the boundaries of participation in matters concerning art for the nation were not fixed regarding Old Master pictures and the value placed on them in late eighteenth-century London.