



THE HALL OF PAUL V'S BUILDING PROJECTS

Until a few years ago this room was known as the Hall of the Piedmontese Wall Hangings, which referred to an 18th Century silk tapestry that had decorated the walls since the end of the 1800s. In 2005, conservation priorities dictated the removal of this fabric and led to the discovery and restoration of an important frieze from 1610 featuring fountains and buildings whose construction was ordered by the Borghese pope, Paul V. Among the buildings featured is a façade of the Basilica of St. Peter, three views of the Basilica of Santa Maria Maggiore and one of a corner of the Quirinale Palace as seen from the garden.

The ceiling retains the tempera painting decorations from the late 1800s, which masterfully simulate a silky surface effect, matching the style of the Rococo fabrics that had once been on the walls.

The room contains a significantly prestigious and valuable group of 18th Century armchairs, sofas and stools made in France and brought to Rome from the Royal Palace in Colorno. The unique pair of bronze, tin and Meissen porcelain candelabra are from the same period and represent a swan on water passing through a grove of reeds.

The 17th Century painting, attributed to Giovanni Andrea Sirani, depicts the *Triumph of Galatea*; the beautiful sea nymph is depicted as she sails over the water accompanied by Cupid.