

Vatican Library 2004-2005 Report to CENL

1. Management of the Library

In 2004 the Vatican Library planned the reorganization of the spaces in the different departments; a project was provided in order to rearrange the reading rooms in the Department of printed books; energies were also devoted to the description of manuscripts, so inventory and the cataloguing of manuscripts that belonged to Fulvio Orsini was provided, as well as the cataloguing of the dated Arabic-Christian manuscripts that are in several collections. Researches on palimpsests, with special regard to their preservation and conservation were also realized during the year.

2. Legislation

A new law on the Archives was instituted by the Holy See; the new *Statuto e regolamento della Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana* was published (five years validity). The *Regolamento per il prestito* (Rules for loan) was updated and integrated, with the introduction of some restricting conditions, according to the needs for conservation of the precious documents.

3. Buildings

Special attention was devoted to spaces of the Archives section, in preparation of future interventions on the collections of documents. The office of the Archivist was restored.

The restoration of the frescoed vault of the Vestibule has been completed, and it has now a new electrical system. The restoration of the ancient library's marquetry cabinets was also completed.

The C.E.D. (Centro Elaborazione Dati - Technical Center) section, together with the Administration Offices have been moved to other spaces, once occupied by the School of Librarianship.

4. Information technology and networks

The development of the software and hardware for the "Security project" is now completed. It uses wireless chips with identification technology through radiofrequency (RFID) which, thanks to a program called *Pergamon*, allows the checking of the "circulation" of the books inside the Library.

In the Manuscripts Department the transcription into electronic format of the paper cards of the "Index of the authors and works" continued to a number of 2.768 records.

5. Copyright & property rights

The office that is responsible for the requests for photographic reproductions and copyright of images taken from documents preserved in the Library, processed almost 2.000 requests, a quarter of which related to copyright.

6. Acquisitions

During the year, 3.167 monographic titles were accessioned and inventoried. About serial publications, 29 new titles activated; now there are 1.681 current titles registered.

It was also registered a meaningful increase in the manuscript collections: 48 documents all together.

The Department of coins and medals acquired an important collection of some hundred medals by the well known artist medallist Pietro Giampaoli; and the photographic collection acquired 16 albums of the photographs of the last travels of Pope John Paul II.

7. Preservation & conservation

The Restoration laboratory counted 102 manuscripts and 80 printed books repaired.

All the matrices in the Gabinetto delle Stampe were inventoried and digitally reproduced, after having been restored. Extraordinary disinfection works, planned in the previous years are still in progress (Veloxy system - VERY Low OXYgen).

8. Services to the readers

The Admissions Office granted 1.687 annual passes, 1.357 temporary, 974 daily, all together 4.028 passes have been granted. The Library had 23.580 readers during the year, coming from 60 different countries.

The Reference Service is very active; it processed some hundred requests for information, especially related to collections and single manuscripts in the Library, beyond the daily activities of reference and orientation on site.

The Copyright and reproduction office processed more than 1.800 requests of reproduction (total or partial) of 604 manuscripts and 970 printed books were processed. A diminishing number of requests for the traditional reproductions was registered, while there is an increase in the request for images on CD-ROM (from 60.000 to 83.000) and electrostatic reproductions (from 25.000 to almost 40.000).

9. Cultural events, exhibitions & publishing

During the year, 64 requests for loan were accepted by the Commission for the Exhibitions, while more than the double of them were rejected. The Library participated in the end to 18 exhibitions. The selection of the different manifestations, mainly for conservative reasons, contributed to the diminishing of the Library participation to them (95 requests accepted in 2003).

Titles published:

1. S. Lilla, *Il Fondo Vaticano greco della Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana* (Studi e Testi, 415).
2. O. Raineri, *Gli Atti di Qawestos* (Studi e Testi, 418).
3. Tedros Abraha, *The Ethiopic Version of the Letters to the Hebrews* (Studi e Testi, 419).
4. E. Cerulli, *Inventario dei manoscritti Cerulli etiopici 1-239*, introduzione e indici a cura di O. Raineri (Studi e Testi, 420).
5. B. Galland, *Les authentiques du Sancta Sanctorum* (Studi e Testi, 421).
6. *Miscellanea Bibliothecae Apostolicae Vaticanae*, XI (Studi e Testi, 422).
7. *Magistri Honorii Summa de iure canonico tractaturus* (Monumenta Iuris Canonici, Series A, 5).
8. A. Brackmann (†), *Papsturkunden in Deutschland*, Reiseberichte zur Germania Pontificia [a cura di R. Hiestand et al.] (Acta Romanorum Pontificum, 9).
9. G. Alteri, *Summorum Romanorum Pontificum historia nomismatibus recensitis illustrata ab saeculo XV ad saeculum XX* (Medagliere della Biblioteca Vaticana, 3); text in English and Italian.
10. T. Wedding, S. de Blaauw & B. Kempers, *Funzioni e decorazioni. Arte e cerimoniale nel Palazzo Apostolico Vaticano dal Medioevo al Rinascimento*, CASCAM 9 (Coedizione con Brepols).
11. *Facsimile del Dioscurides latinus Chigi F.VII.158* (Coedizione con Testimonio, Madrid).
12. *Bullarium Romanum*, riproduzione completa in DVD (Coedizione con Sub signo stellae).
13. G. Moroni, *Dizionario di erudizione storico-ecclesiastica*, riproduzione completa in DVD (Coedizione con Sub signo stellae).
14. G. Alteri, *Le medaglie barocche di Roma* (Coedizione con Ente Fiera di Vicenza).

10. Other notable information

In collaboration with the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art (S.F.Mo.Ma), The Library is realizing an editorial project illustrating the Vatican photographic collections.