

Vatican City, March 31, 2001 **CENL**

VATICAN LIBRARY - REPORT 2000

1. MANAGEMENT of the Library: performance indicators, planning, decision-making, evaluation, mission statement

The quality assessment has yet to be actualized. For now, waiting for qualified personnel and an increased budget, little by little, and for specific sections, work is being done. Personnel continue to be sensitized to the project.

The relinquishment of the Library's Department of the Museums to the Vatican Museums (October 1, 1999) is slowly serving as a means to define more clearly the primary goals of the Library according to the actual norms of the Vatican Library.

2. HANDLING of electronic publications and formats, including new legislation

In this area we are still in the phase of general projections. At any rate, some individual pilot projects have already been realized:

- 1) The digitization of copies owned by the Vatican Library of the Gutenberg Bible; in collaboration with Toppan Printing Company of Tokyo;
- 2) The reproduction on CD of important works regarding the origins of Common Law and the History of the Church; in collaboration with the Publisher "Sub Signo Stellae";
- 3) The reproduction on CD of the series "Studi e Testi" was initiated, beginning with the out of print volumes;
- 4) In order to serve the scholars' needs, the photographic lab is, beginning this year, offering the possibility of digital reproductions of printed books and manuscripts.

3. FUNDING

There were no budget cuts. Following the tendency of the last three years, there was an increase from the previous year (27%). That is owed to the increase in proceeds produced by the Vatican Library.

The total expense was Lit. 8.648.005.945. 71% of this was covered by "government" subsidy, and 29% was covered by proceeds of the Library.

The proceeds of the Library are primarily: proceeds from the Photographic Lab, Exhibition loans, sales of our publications, co-edition contracts, and registrations for the Library Science Course. Particularly notable is the increase of donations this year other than the usual annual one from the Association of the *American Friends of the Vatican Library*.

4. LEGISLATION

The Library Council has approved some modifications to the Library Statutes. The most relevant was the elimination of the Library's Department of the Museums and the enlargement of the Secretariat section.

5. BUILDINGS

Over the course of the year, air conditioning was installed in the manuscripts catalogue room and in the offices of the Prefecture. Not far from the Library, a new storage area was constructed for the deposit of the publications of our House Publisher, which thus freed up space for the realization of a computer room for the School of Library Science.

Work is almost completed for the opening of the new Periodicals room, the Protocol Office and the Library Archives.

The Library's restructuring project consists of three phases: 1) The restructuring and ordering of some of the sections: the electrical system of the printed books and periodicals storage rooms, of the Office and Catalogue building, the restructuring of the School and of the entrance to the Library, air conditioning throughout most of the Library; 2) the locating of new space in close proximity to the Library; 3) The modernization and computerization of access and security systems of the Library (movement of people and book materials, protection against fire, water, theft, etc.). The project for the access and security systems are in the process of being approved.

6. STAFFING MATTERS

There are no significant changes, except for the fact that the opening of the new Periodicals room required the shift in the work places of staff from cataloguing and printed books management, and of Assistants to the consultation rooms.

The Restoration Lab has acquired, for a period of three years, a specialist from outside the Library to implement a project to update and upgrade the structure and the service to the Library.

7. INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND NETWORKS

The new computerized network for the administrative management of the budget, the sell of books, the storage spaces, the management of the entrance of staff and scholars, and the management of requests for photographic reproductions. Some additional supplements to these areas are also in the process of being realized.

The Acquisitions Office has totally modified the computer program, updating it according to the best standards and in view of the change in European currency, and has made it through a start up period.

As is the case every year, the machines for the internal computerized network, both for personnel and for the scholars was partially updated.

With regard to the printed books electronic catalogue, revisions continue to be made for accuracy and the integration of computer systems already acquired, as well as the revision and updating of the cataloguing by subject in electronic form. The Commission for electronic filing of manuscripts has delivered the results of its work and next year the electronic cataloguing of the manuscripts will be able to be initiated.

With regard to the computerization of the access and security systems, see no. 3 above.

8. THE DIGITAL LIBRARY

Work has continued toward realizing the project of cataloguing and scanning prints, and, with hypertext links (Bookline-Geac program) and data entry into the main server, to use these images on the internal network, and soon in the Internet.

The work has also continued to transfer 60,000 digital images of miniatures of various manuscripts from tape to accessible digital support. In the next year they will already be partially accessible on the internal network of the Library.

See also no. 2 above.

9. LEGAL DEPOSIT OF MATERIALS

The legal deposit creates a serious problem yet to be resolved. The difficulty of our situation is primarily due to the following points:

*a)*the most frequent users, which are generally the scholars, don't always understand or don't accept the property rights of the images (miniatures of the manuscripts, prints, etc.) and they don't abide by copyright laws; nor are they always able to distinguish between the two;

*b)*the major difficulties come from institutions, that is, publishers, international organizations/institutions, including governments, universities, libraries, etc;

*c)*for the Internet sites, it seems obvious that every institution would use the images for which they have the copyright, instead, images are used, even by large institutions, which are owned by others (in this case, by the Vatican Library) without asking for authorization;

*d)*legislation varies from one State/Continent to another; but this is not where the problem lies, as much as it does in the fact that the legislation of some States interferes with that of other States and contravenes international accords.

*e)*despite international accords, to take precautions against piracy is very expensive and, no matter what recourse is taken to the national and international legal courts, it seems entirely ineffective;

*f)*the practice of not indicating the credits and copyright at the bottom of each image in publications, for the sake of not bothering the reader, does not help the observance of rights of propriety and copyright;

*g)*the distinction between commercial publications and non-profit publications is often a pretext, forgetting that not only the Publishers are part of the cost but, rightly so, all those have to pay that were involved in the production of the publications which, in spite of everything, are sold; one cannot forget additional printings and numerous reprints of many scholastic books, presumed to be non-profit; it's incomprehensible why the only ones not to be paid would be the proprietors of the images, in this case, the Libraries.

10. ACQUISITIONS

In spite of the considerable increase of the Balance in the last three years, the Library is not yet able to implement a project to purchase those things which would be required for updating of general works and incorporation of some more requested areas. The increase of the budget is for now used up by the increase in cost of books, the devaluation of the European currency, and by inflation.

The acquisition of audio-video material is limited exclusively to donations: the reason being the lack of space and adequate equipment for use of such material; the same problem exists for the use of electronic/digital texts, even if for this there are already some solutions which, though they have their limitations, are of good quality.

For still being in an experimental phase, the computerized management and administration for purchases, exchanges and donations of the publications works optimally.

11. PRESERVATION & CONSERVATION

The aspect of preservation was specifically considered in the project (presently in the process of being approved) for security and the computerization of the goings in and out of people and of materials from the Library(see no. 5 above). The restructuring and upgrading of the Restoration Lab is also focused in this direction (see no. 6 above).

In the past, important projects for microfilm were done, such as the *Saint Louis University Vatican film Library*, the *Bibliotheca Palatina/Saur*, and, in the process of being completed, the *Collezione Cicognara*. As soon as we have updated the equipment (hardware and software) in the Photography Lab, we will present a plan for the digitizing of manuscripts and incunabula.

12. SERVICES TO READERS

No taxes are required for entrance and consultation in the Library. The magnetic badge was introduced in order to be able to enter the Library; it is the idea to use it as well for other services, not yet determined, within the Library: in which case the payment of a small contribution would be required.

Every year small steps are taken to adjust the services to a higher standard, above all improving the environment (air conditioning, silence, extending the hours, a cafeteria, etc.). The lack of space impinges greatly upon this effort. The building projects to which no. 3 refer will help a lot in this respect.

A *Reference Librarian* is now available to those using the Library, and for requests for information through correspondence.

No changes have been made in the norms for admissions and for the loan of books.

13. CULTURAL EVENTS, EXHIBITIONS AND PUBLISHING

Throughout the course of the year, the Library has participated in a number of exhibitions, both in Italy and abroad. It organized a very noteworthy exhibition entitled, "The Gospels of the Peoples. The Word and Image of Christ in Culture and History", held at the Cancelleria in Rome, part of the events of the "Bimillenary of Christ". Also of great importance is the exhibition, "Botticelli's paintings of the Divine Comedy", organized by the Vatican Library and a Roman Agency in preparation for the jubilee, which was held in the "Scuderie papali" at the Quirinale. In the new site of the National Institute of graphics, the exhibition "A View of Rome. Panoramic drawings and prints of the City from the XV to the XIX century" was organized in collaboration with the Vatican Library.

The volumes published during the course of the year are as follows: D. De Jonghe - S. Daemen - M. Rassart-Debergh - A. De Moor - B. Overlaet, *Ancient Tapestry of the R. Pfister Collection in the Vatican Library*, 1999, pp.305; *Nicolò V nel sesto centenario della nascita*, edited by F. Bonatti e A. Manfredi, 2000, pp.704, tav.122; O. Raineri, *Codices Comboniani Aethiopici*, 2000, pp. 338; J.-M. Sauge, *Littératures et manuscrits des chrétientés syriaques et arabes*. Recueil d'articles publié par L. Duval-Arnould et F. Rilliet, 1998, pp. 314; H.-J. Winkler, *Die Tenormotetten von Johannes Regis in der Überlieferung des Chigi-Kodex*, I: *Kommentar und Analyse*, 1999, pp.223; *I Vangeli dei popoli*. Catalogo della mostra, Roma - Città del Vaticano, 2000 , pp. 494. Works in facsimile published as co-editions: *Dioscurides Graeco-Latinus*. Chigi F.VII.159, ed. Testimonio, Madrid 2000; *Evangelario di Lorsch*. Pal. lat. 50, Faksimile Verlag, Luzern 2000.

15. MAJOR CELEBRATIONS (anniversaries and events)

With the publication and presentation of the volume of the Acts of the Commemorative Congress, the celebrations for the sixth centenary of the birth of the founder of the Vatican Library, Pope Nicholas V, concluded.

16. OTHER NOTABLE INFORMATION

The Vatican Library School of Library Science completed the annual course for 1999-2000 as usual. This year the formal request was made for an undergraduate degree to be a prerequisite for admission; the number of students was reduced from 100 to 70.

The lessons were held from October 28, 1999 to May 18, 2000, with required attendance, every Thursday from 9:00 to 1:30, and afternoons of the others days for exercises.

73 students of seven different nationalities attended the course. In the June and October sessions of exams, 60 students received their diploma for that year, and 21 from the preceding year, for a total of 81 graduates.

17. ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

There are 85 employees of the Library, organized according to the following structure:

I.- Governing Body of the Library

- 1) Cardinal Librarian and Archivist of the Holy Roman Church
- 2) Prefect of the Vatican Library
- 3) Vice Prefect of the Vatican Library

II. - Offices

1) Secretariat

2) Finance Office

III. - Departments

1) Manuscript Department: Comprised of two sections (Manuscripts; Archives)

2) Printed Books Department. Comprised of seven sections (Acquisitions; Catalogue; Reading Rooms and storage; Ancient Books; Prints Cabinet; Periodicals; Non book materials)

3) Numismatic cabinet

IV. - Services

1) Exhibition services

2) Restoration Laboratory

3) Photographic Laboratory

4) Center for Data Processing

5) Publishing

6) School of Library Science