

Vatican Library 2002 Report to CENL

1. Management of the Library

The Vatican Library is an Institution whose main task is research and the promotion of studies. That mission concretely leads to a specialization, determined by the treasures it preserves: the large collections of manuscripts. The major efforts of the management are actually concentrated on those treasures, with a precise action on the ancient documents and on the spaces where they are preserved.

2. Digital publications

Jus Commune, reproduction in CD-Rom of several ancient printed law books (in coedition with “Sub Signo Stellae”)

3. Legislation

According to the rules instituted by the “Law on the guardianship of the cultural goods” (25 July 2001), requesting the administrative inventory of all the cultural goods of the Holy See, the Library is finishing the work on its property, archival materials, manuscripts, and it will have soon another tool for the reference work, the *General Inventory of non-catalogued manuscripts* that will be in the future available on-line; it will certainly help the research work on our manuscripts.

4. Buildings

Space is a big worry. The building is ancient and very difficult to make it be in accordance with the regulations in force; besides, the space available is absolutely insufficient. We have recently transferred the store of the Printing House out of Vatican City; the *Vatican School of Library Science* was also placed outside, in a beautiful building not far from St. Peter's, and we hope to transfer soon, to be catalogued, a collection of 100,000 volumes (De Luca Collection). Beyond the search for spaces outside the City walls, we are preparing projects for the improvement in order to make those changes in the structures which are necessary to be in conformity with the law against fire and humidity.

5. Staffing matters

The inclusion in the staff of people specialized in the different fields that a library like the Vatican Library needs, proves to be more and more necessary. There are now qualified schools in Library Science, Archival matters, Conservation of cultural goods, where we can and will find personnel competent in specific matters.

6. Information technology and networks

- We are working on the development of the local system. The project provides for the installation of two server UNIX AIX, the first in Cluster P660 IBM and the other in IBM 40-143 of front-end. Moreover, a server in Windows 2000 has been installed for the management of multimedia data, and two dedicated lines in FDDI, 10 Mbits for the linking to the Internet. The work is almost ready and our data base is available for the users in the reading rooms; the tuning of the processes of cataloguing and acquisition is going to be finished.

- The interactive multi-media room in the new School of Library Science has been realized; it has 48 working seats that can be controlled by the teacher, who can decide to intervene in the workplace of each student from his place. The server of the room is linked to the servers of the Library and through this connection, it receives services from the Internet and access to the different information catalogues.

- The project for security, dealing with people and materials coming and going from the Library, is being realized and several satisfactory tests have been made. Chips transponder will be used to individuate electronically books and objects in the Library.

- An important undertaking is the computerization of the inventory of manuscripts, at present on paper cards. Between 1991 and 1995 the catalogue of the printed books was computerized and made available on the Internet, even if with many gaps and imperfections, while the catalogue of manuscripts remained neglected. So, the project is extremely important. The card catalogue is the result of a work of sorting on 10,000 manuscripts, which produced 300,000 titles and 50,000 incipits. The final product is 208,000 cards. The project includes microfilming, the transferring of the information on digital support, and the movement of the data from CD on the computer to a cataloguing program, available first internally and afterwards on the Internet. The last phase will be the checking and revision of the registered information.

- The *Gabinetto delle Stampe* (preserving prints, engravings, drawings, matrixes, etc.) is being computerized and we have just started a similar project in the “Medagliere” (preserving coins, medals, moulds, ecc.). The catalogues, on-line, interact among themselves.

- The restyling of our Website has been prepared. In the WebOPAC there are images of the prints and engravings associated with the descriptions.

7. Digital library

The Library does not have any project at the moment.

8. Copyright & property rights

No news on this front, the problems are still the same, and have to deal with individuals who still seem not accept the property rights of the images and most of all with Institutions: publishers, universities, libraries, etc. not always respecting the law in force.

9. Acquisitions

In 2002 was continued the fitting and estimate of new periodicals for 348 titles and 168 administrative records of series were activated, with many monographic volumes. The registration of the bulletins counted 2,355 insertions. From the beginning of the year the complete registrations of the gifts was initiated, followed by a brief correspondence with the donors of the volumes.

There were 2,818 inventoried monographies, purchased, exchanged and donated, transmitted to the Cataloguing section.

10. Preservation & conservation

The usual work of the Restoration laboratory counted more than 200 manuscripts repaired (partially or entirely), and 80 printed books.

It was completed the disinfection of a collection of 100.000 volumes (“De Luca”; see

§4) through VELOXY (Very Low OXYgen) system. With the same method it was concluded the disinfection of the following collections: “Membranacei”, “Incunaboli” and “Raccolta Prima”. We are now working on the disinfection of the collection “Stampati Barberini”. Small collections of manuscripts were also treated (“Cappella S. Maria Maggiore”, “Cappella Sistina” and few volumes belonging to the “Ottoboniani greci”); they presented serious problems caused by the infestation of xylophagous insects.

With the help of four temporary workers, in eight months, 150.000 volumes were dusted in a wing of the Periodicals section.

The collection of copper plates in the “Gabinetto delle Stampe”, 1100 pieces ca., was properly treated, because of the oxidation state of them, restored and protected with a varnish (Akeogard).

11. Services to the readers

During the year, 1,676 annual passes were granted, 1,505 temporary passes and 1,023 daily passes.

Almost 20,000 visits were made in the Printed Books reading room, and more than 27,000 requests were made for volumes from the stacks. 15,000 visits were made in the Manuscripts reading room and ca. 21,000 requests for manuscripts were made.

The *Bibliografic Information Service* replied to 200 ca. requests for information by letter and 300 ca. by e-mail, beyond the usual service in the Reading room.

The reproduction service section processed 1,906 requests of images and texts; microfilms, reprints, slides, electrostatic reproductions, ektachromes were produced; in addition, 74,160 reproduction in CD-Rom format were realized.

More than 500 requests for publications and for special purposes were processed.

12. Cultural events, exhibitions & publishing

The *Commissione Mostre* meets four times a year, had a hard work to do and decided to accept many important loans: manuscripts, rare books and prints. The Commission helped also the Institutions giving them scientific support.

The Library has directly organized just one exhibition, in Tokyo, at the Toppan Printing Museum, from 25 April to July 2002, “*The Invention of the Book. An Exhibition of Manuscripts and Incunabula in the Bibliotheca Apostolica Vaticana*”.

The requests for loans were 60 ca.; part of them were accepted and, in the end the Library participated to 6 exhibitions in Rome, 9 in Italy, 9 in Europe and 1 out of Europe.

Publications:

- - *Miscellanea Bibliothecae Apostolicae Vaticanae*, IX, Studi e testi 409.
- - *Bibliografia dell’Archivio Segreto Vaticano*, VIII.
- - K. Pennington (ed.), *Proceedings of the Tenth International Congress of Medieval Canon Law*, Monumenta iuris canonici, s. C, Subsidia 11.
- - P. Piacentini, *La Biblioteca di Marcello II: i libri a stampa*, Studi e testi 404.
- - Facsimile of the *Bibbia di Ripoll*, cod. *Vat.lat.* 5792 (coedition with Bispat de Vic).
- - Commentary to the facsimile edition of the *Bibbia di Ripoll*, cod. *Vat.lat* 5792, Studi e testi 408.
- - P. Vian, *Tavole e indici generali dei volumi 301-400 di Studi e testi*, Studi e testi 400.
- - R. Sorice, *Distinctiones Monacenses*, For Monumenta iuris canonici,

serie A: Corpus Glossatorum.

- C. Grafinger, *Ausleihe vatikanischer Handschriften und Druckschriften, 18. Jahrhundert, Teil II: Archivio Segreto Vaticano*, Studi e testi 407.
- *Hermeneumata Vaticana* (Codex Vaticanus Latinus 6925), ed. by G. Brugnoli-M. Buonocore, Studi e testi 410.

In print:

- S. Lilla, *I codici greci del Fondo Vaticano Greco presso la Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana*, Studi e testi 411.
- D. Wright, *The Lost Late Antique Illustrated Terence*, Documenti e riproduzioni.
- T. Schmidt, *Die Originale der Pastkunde in Norddeutschland (Bremen, Hamburg, Meckleburg-Vorpommern, Schleswig-Holstein)*, Index Actorum Romanorum Pontificum ab Innocentio III ad Martinum V electum.
- P. Vian, *Carteggi del Card. Giovanni Mercati. I (1889-1936)*, Studi e testi.

To be printed:

- D. Williman-K. Corsano, *Early provenances of Latin manuscripts in the Vatican Library*, Studi e Testi 405
- N. Mattioli-Hary, *Vatican Library and the Carnegie Endowment*, Studi e Testi.
- P. Vian-F. D'Aiuto (edited by), *Guida ai fondi della Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana*, Studi e testi.

13. Other notable information

- The *Sala di consultazione dei periodici* opened to the public on 30 September 2002; there are now available 1556 periodicals, distributed on three levels of shelving. A few members of the scientific staff are regularly present in the room.
- **It is at its last phase the project for the restauration of the frescoed vault of the Vestibule of the Library (*Sala degli Scrittori*) which presents cracks and damages; it was prepared with the technical support of the Vatican Museums and will be completed during 2003.**
- It has been reduced the number of the participants to the annual course to the *Vatican School of Library Science*, from 100 to 48, which is the number of the working seats in the school (§6), in order to better arrange the lessons according to the most recent teaching procedures.

14. Organization Chart

Governing Body of the Library

Cardinal Librarian and Archivist
of the Holy Roman Church
Prefect of the Vatican Library

S.E.R. Card. Jorge M. MEJÍA
Don Raffaele FARINA SDR

Manuscripts department

Dir.: Paolo Vian

Sections:

Printed Books department

Dir.: W. Sheehan

Sections:

Acquisitions

Catalogue

Reading Rooms and
storage Ancient Books

Prints Cabinet

Periodicals

Manuscripts

Numismatic cabinet department

Dir.: G. Alteri

Secretariat

Exhibition services

Restoration Laboratory

Photographic Laboratory

Center for Data Processing

Publishing Service

Finance Office

Dir.: S. Righetti

School of Library Sciences

Reproduction and Copyright Office