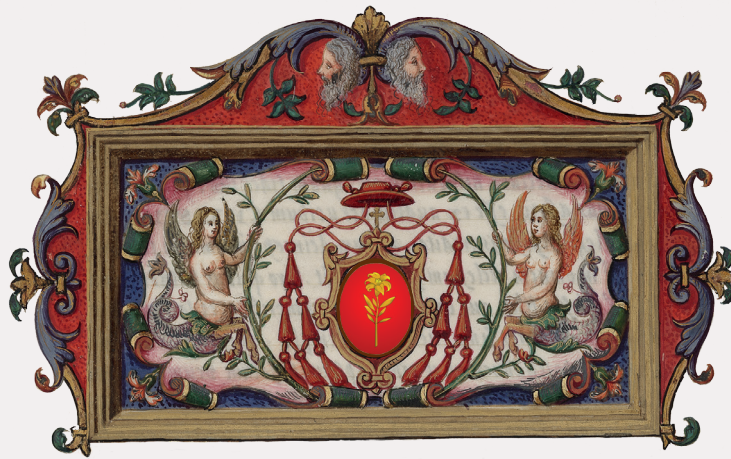




«Avvisi» dalla Vaticana

### The Librarian of H.R.C. raised to the Cardinalate



Dear all,

I am pleased to share the news that our Archivist and Librarian of the Holy Roman Church, Msgr. José Tolentino Calaça de Mendonça, has been appointed as cardinal.

We express our joy for this “good news.” On August 30, when Pope Francis read the list of names, he asked us to pray for the new cardinals, that in “confirming their adherence to Christ,” they would help him in his “ministry as the Bishop of Rome for the good of all the holy faithful People of God.” I wish to assure our Librarian of the affectionate support of our prayer; and I feel that I must now recognize, through the appointment he has received, an even stronger ecclesial bond that unites us with Pope Francis and the “holy faithful people of God.” This is one more reason to recall the profound meaning of our mission at the Vatican Apostolic Library.



Msgr. Cesare Pasini  
Prefect

CONSIDERATE LILIA AGRI

## IFLA satellite meeting in the Vatican



On August 30th, ninety years from the first international conference of the IFLA (International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions), convened in Italy precisely when the Vatican Library was implementing a vast modernization process involving its structure and services, the venerable Papal Institution hosted a satellite conference of the IFLA annual conference dedicated to professional training, entitled *Transforming LIS education for professionals in a global information world: digital inclusion, social inclusion, and lifelong learning*.

This choice of the Papal Library was more than fitting, as it addressed an important topic in the context of a profession that welcomes the challenges of a world that is changing at an increasing rate. The conference was prepared with the strong support of Anna Maria Tammaro, a longtime professor at the University of Parma, and important associate of IFLA. It was also organized with the collaboration of the Vatican School of Library Science. This School was founded 85 years ago, after an experience that some of our catalogers had in America during the late Twenties, as recalled by Paul Gabriele Weston and Raffaella Vincenti, teachers of the School, who retraced the main moments of its history. Paul Weston's talk, entitled *The Vatican School of Librarianship in a time of change. Current organization and future perspective*, focused on the organization of the school and its evolution over time and through the people who worked there.

The presentation by Raffaella Vincenti reviewed the events of an extraordinary collaboration between institutions that are geographically quite far, but which, by sharing the same ideals, erected a twenty-year old project that allowed the Vatican quickly to become one of the most modern libraries in Europe. The experience still remains a formidable example of collaboration, one of the most significant that ever occurred.

The initiative that gave rise to numerous changes in the papal library at the end of 1927 was propelled by contact with a country that was one the most advanced in library sciences, the United States. The project was promoted by the organization which had distinguished itself particularly in the reconstruction of libraries that had

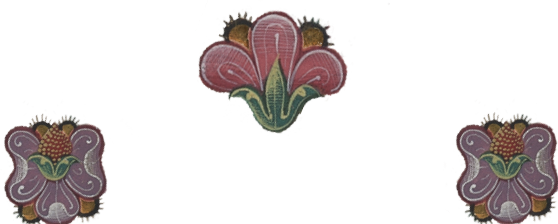


been destroyed or damaged during the First World War, and which aimed to promote peace through free access to culture: the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

A group of Vatican librarians went to the United States to research the cataloging tasks of library science. This led to the general reorganization of locales and services that constituted a model for the libraries of several other countries, whose representatives came to observe the work that was being set in motion.

This experience, which also led to outlining a system of cataloging rules for printed books, gave rise to the Vatican School of Library Science, inaugurated on November 15, 1934, with thirty students of eight different nationalities.

The mission of the School still today, as evoked during the meeting, "is based on the deep connection that exists between the present and the past, and its task is to train well-informed, professional librarians who are able to take care of the heritage that is received and entrusted to them." As underlined by the Secretary of State, Card. Pietro Parolin, in his discourse right in the classrooms of the School: "it is only through the active memory of our past that we may face the reality of the present and the problems of the future."





## The Appian Way: Franco Bevilacqua's journey

On July 4, Franco Bevilacqua gifted the Library with 152 polychrome watercolors of his own creation, executed between 2018 and 2019. The paintings depict places and monuments of the Via Appia, the *regina viarum* that connects Rome to Brindisi. Bevilacqua produced these drawings by repeating the same journey as the Roman painter Carlo Labruzzi (1748-1817), who, while making his way along the Appia as far as Benevento in the autumn of 1789, executed 226 monochrome watercolors now preserved within the manuscripts of the Library.

Born in Rome in 1937, Bevilacqua became a journalist, graphic designer, illustrator, and cartoonist. In 1976 he became one of the founders of the newspaper *La Repubblica*, and took responsibility of its graphics section until 1982.

The idea of retracing a journey down the Via Appia starting from Porta San Sebastiano to Benevento came to him while leafing through the volume of drawings by Labruzzi published in 2013 (*La Via Appia nei disegni di Carlo Labruzzi alla Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana*); it is the "path of the longest open-air museum in the world, 560 km of wonders: mausoleums, amphitheatres, villas, temples, aqueducts, bridges, triumphal arches."

We will soon see the arrival of a new work in print, we hope, that will exhibit the watercolors of Bevilacqua alongside those of Labruzzi, displayed in a smaller format, precisely to highlight the changes that the ancient Roman road has undergone over the last 230 years. "I wanted to repeat the same route by going to discover the places and monuments illustrated by Labruzzi and redesigning them at the same angle, comparing the road as it was and as it is," the artist said. "In the watercolors of Labruzzi, the Road runs through deserted countryside, is traversed by infrequent wayfarers and some carts; many sumptuous monumental splendors are enveloped in bucolic serenity. Then comes oblivion, abandonment, degradation, looting



disappearance in several places. Or worse, burial under the asphalt."

Bevilacqua's is not just an illustrative work, but represents true research; many of the Road's ruins appear to have disappeared under vegetation, or have been incorporated into later structures. He managed to rediscover them through the assistance of enthusiastic resident experts in the various locations visited along the way, cities whose historical memories do not cease to fascinate visitors.

A deep passion and almost boyish enthusiasm accompanied Franco Bevilacqua as he walked the Appian Way. "Sometimes the comparison is unforgiving: it highlights all the brutality and human stupidity, the lack of culture and memory, the loss of the sense of beauty, the spread of a building mentality: street signs, traffic lights, billboards, neon signs with stroboscopic effects everywhere. As it flows away from the cities, in the countryside, the Road is buried in vegetation, tall grass, a thick bush. Fortunately, in some cases, the fascination of the road imposes itself on the ugliness of modernity." Fortunately, there is still widespread interest and sensitivity, and in this case it is more evident than in others, where historical and artistic work becomes almost a social protest.



Countryhouse above the Tomb of the Scipios



S. De Crescenzo, F. Bevilacqua e A. Piazzoni



Cecilia Metella's Tomb - Capo di Bove

## Ambassadors to the Holy See meet at the Library



In the morning of September 4th, the diplomatic representatives of fourteen countries at the Holy See had an informal gathering at the Vatican Library to visit the venerable institution with some female employees of the Library.

The initiative originated from a previous meeting between the ambassadors and some female representatives of the Library, graciously organized last June by H.E. Mrs. Callista Gingrich in honor of the employees of the Vatican Library at the American Embassy on the Janiculum.

The guests were received by H.Em. Card. José Tolentino De Mendonça, who addressed his most cordial greeting to all the participants: "The Vatican Library gives abundant testimony to how women are truly protagonists in cultural creation. On our shelves lie fascinating books by women theologians, women mystics, women philosophers, women scientists, women scholars, women writers. For this reason, your affection and your support for the vitality of an Institution like this is so necessary. As Pope Francis said on his visit here last December, knowledge of the past helps us to look after the future. But the presence of women at the BAV is not confined merely to our precious archives. We are proud to have a very considerable number of women in all sectors of our staff and, of course, also with a leadership

role in several of our departments. For all these reasons it is a great joy to receive your visit, Lady Ambassadors, and to count on your friendship and your interest. Please feel at home."

The lady ambassadors and functionaries of the embassies of the United States, England, Peru, Austria, the Netherlands, the Philippines, Australia, Morocco, Spain, Panama, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Ukraine, Liberia, Georgia, accompanied by some representatives of the Library, were able to visit the ancient and more modern locales of the Library, in which the activities of reproduction and conservation of the manuscripts take place. Also, a small exhibition of manuscripts was organized for the beautiful occasion: a manuscript containing the lives of saints entirely written by female hands, but also some letters from female figures preserved in the autograph collections, such as a letter from Edith Stein.

It was a significant encounter, which ended with the promise to meet again in the Library at the end of the work that is being carried out in the Wing of Julius II for the air conditioning of the rooms. Our friends will be able to learn more about different activities that take place in the Library and be "librarians" for a day.





## On the moon

Fifty years have passed since July 21, 1969, when a human being walked on the lunar surface for the first time. Apollo 11, the NASA spacecraft to reach the moon, had left Kennedy Space Center on July 16. Neil Armstrong was the first to touch the lunar soil, followed a few minutes later by Edwin Eugene (Buzz) Aldrin; the pilot's third astronaut, Michael Collins, remained in the spacecraft, in lunar orbit.

When he took that first step, Armstrong said, "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind."

Since then we have felt our pale satellite closer, not only to our dreams, but to our lives.



Vat.lat. 5796, 9r

*"In order to be a great person, be an integral one; don't overdo it and don't leave out anything of yourself. Be everything in everything. Put all that you are in the least that you do, just as the Moon shines brilliantly on every side because it lives on high."*

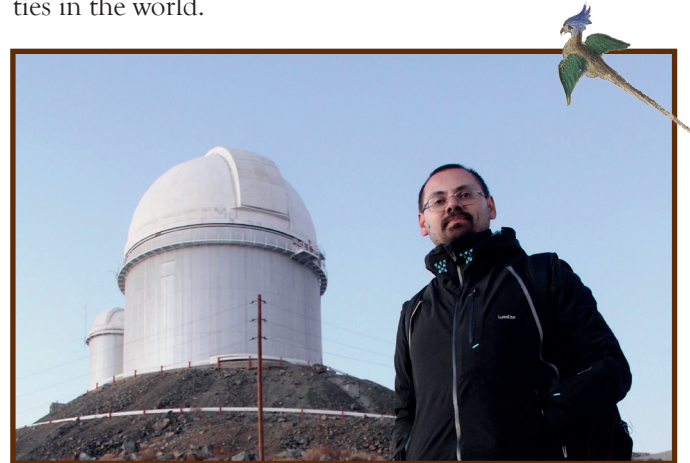
Fernando Pessoa (1888-1935)



## The Vatican Library at a conference of the ESO in Chile

On July 5, Giuliano Giuffrida, of the Data Center of the Vatican Apostolic Library, held a seminar on the Library's digitization project at the ESO (European Southern Observatory) in Santiago de Chile.

After having traveled to Chile to watch the total eclipse of the Sun from the ESO Astronomical Observatory in La Silla, Dr. Giuffrida had the opportunity to give an account of the work that the Library is doing to preserve its great heritage through the most modern technologies, to one of the most important and renowned astronomy communities in the world.



His talk emphasized in particular the elements concerning the validation procedures of digital reproductions of BAV manuscripts which the Library's Photographic Laboratory produces. The work regularly involves the Conservation Workshop as well (both before and after the images are produced). Giuffrida also stressed the importance of the FITS format (Flexible Image Transport System) for the long-term preservation of our digital heritage. The conference presented and highlighted the advanced techniques for analyzing images of palimpsests, and was supported by the research conducted by András Németh, a member of the scholarly staff of the Library, illustrating the example of work carried out on sheet 21v of codex Vat.gr.73, with the spectrographic procedure on the then unreadable folio that was photographed. The discovery and recovery of an unknown text by Polybius was thus possible.

The intervention received a very positive response and aroused interest and many questions. Maria Eugenia Gomez, librarian of the ESO, remarked: "We have learned how an impressive task is to start a digitization project in such a magnificent library. The possibility to give us all an easy way to reach some of their treasures is a wonderful gift."

"This is not surprising," says our colleague. "The wonder and emotion that one experiences standing before a starry sky are the same as those inspired by the vision of an illuminated manuscript." Science and humanist culture are part of a single *corpus*.



## People and services in the Library. II: Acquisitions



Accessions Office

The Accessions office, formally established in 1935, deals with the acquisition of printed volumes, monographs and periodicals, as well as digital publications which contribute to the study of the manuscript collections. Most of the purchases come from new editions of volumes or works, while many acquisitions take place through gift and exchange. The Office avails itself of the collaboration of several members of the staff, who examine the gifts and the books in exchange, during meetings of the Accessions Commission. Reports of the *desiderata* are addressed to the Office by Library staff; suggestions for new acquisitions also come from scholars, through the Library's web interface.

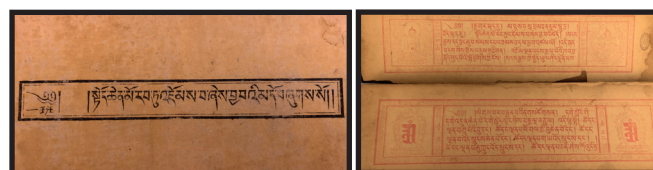
The activity of acquisition is vital to a Library, for the sake of being kept up to date and to offer new research objects. At the Vatican Library, this service is closely linked to the mission of universality that has characterized it since its foundation more than five centuries ago. From the beginning it has aimed to acquire documents that comprise the civilizations and cultures of each country and of every "human" discipline.

Over the centuries, it has done its utmost to achieve its mission through its representatives who have been sent everywhere to buy manuscripts, to make a copy of them when not available on the market, to exchange publications,

to produce them for the promotion of knowledge, to learn from history, to spread culture.

Over time, entire collections have been received into the Library, mainly by purchase. In more recent times, there have been many bequests, often by scholars attending the Library, the names of whom are often known: to name a few, De Rossi, Steinmann, Ashby, De Marinis, Ferrajoli, Patetta. These people have considered the ancient papal institution the safest place to keep their book collections, and at the same time the most auspicious place to entrust them, a place that is open to the world, where their precious documents would surely produce encounters with other cultures and promote further research.

Among the prints recently acquired was a collection of Tibetan texts donated to the Holy Father, delivered by H.E. Msgr. Alfred Xuereb, the apostolic nuncio in Korea and Mongolia, in June 2019. *Tripitaka. Sūtrapitaka. Dhāraṇī Pañcarakṣā*, are magic formulas in a 19th-century edition, in loose sheets, collected between two wooden planks.



R.G.Oriente.VI.276



Franco Bevilacqua, Maxentius' Villa, 2019



The acquisition of other types of documents directly involves the participation of the respective departments. The Prints Cabinet has received several donations in recent years, as has been recounted here; the most recent is a collection of watercolors made by Franco Bevilacqua for a volume that we hope will be published soon, which revisits the journey along the Appian Way traveled by Carlo Labruzzi (1748-1815) for the discovery of Roman archaeological sites (see p. 3).

Among the recent acquisitions of the Vatican *Medagliere* is the collection of cast bronzes made and donated by Maria Adele Piccirilli (b. 1930). These cast bronzes are derived mainly from personal inspiration and in a better position (than the ones that are commissioned) to express the artist and his love for nature and life in his simple everyday life.



Md. Piccirilli.12

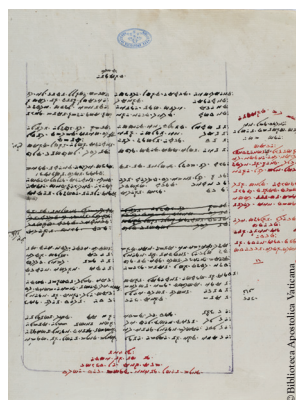


Md. Piccirilli.15



Md. Piccirilli.43

Acquisitions of manuscripts are less frequent, but manuscript material continues to be acquired as much as possible. Recently, seven Tibetan and six Samaritan manuscripts, some on palm leaves, were purchased from two different antique dealers. The documents have become part of the *Vaticani* collection according to the alphabets / languages of the texts.



Pentateuch, Samaritan and Arabic  
(Vat.sam.6)



Aksara Bali (Vat.estr.or.169)



Ms. in Tibetan dbu med script  
(Vat.estr.or.171)

## The president of Malta visits the Vatican Library



On 16 September the Library received the President of Malta, George Vella, for a visit.

Accompanied by the diplomatic representative to the Holy See, Ambassador Frank Zammit, and some officials, the President arrived from the Lapidary Gallery where he was welcomed by the Librarian, H.Em. Card. José Tolentino De Mendonça, by the prefect, Msgr. Pasini, and by the vice-prefect, Ambrogio Piazzoni.



The welcome guests and their companions were able to visit the Sistine Hall and admire some precious manuscripts under the guide of Antonio Manfredi, *Scriptor Latinus* of the Library, including a splendid Bible from the beginning of the 15th century and the Ptolemy's *Geographia* in a Latin codex also from the 15th century.



Joshua Roll, Pal.gr 431, f. XIIIr



year the Society of Biblical literature chose Rome as the site of their annual meeting, which was organized at the Pontifical Gregorian University. From July 1st to 5th, the event was attended by many specialists and offered them the opportunity to study aspects and contents related to biblical studies in depth. A session of the work took place in the Barberini Room of the Vatican Library on July 2nd, with talks by Ambrogio Piazzoni, vice-prefect of the Library and Paola Manoni, manager of the Coordination of IT Services. The vice-prefect illustrated a selection of documents produced from the end of the second century to the present day. The *Hanna Papyrus* (*Mater Verbi*), made around 200 a.D., represents the most ancient and nearly complete witness of the Gospels of Luke and John. On the other hand, the most recent manuscript is a beautiful edition of the seven-volume Bible created by Donald Jackson between 1998 and 2012, which implemented ancient techniques and contains the new standard edition of the English translation of the Bible. The Vatican Library holds a precious facsimile of this work.

The earliest printed version is a copy of the first Bible by Johan Gutenberg, that of 42 lines, published immediately following the first half of the fifteenth century. Without taking into account the digital versions, the most recent Bible was produced in 2017. This is not exactly a “printed” version: it contains the Latin text of the *New Vulgate*, the official Latin translation for liturgical use in the Catholic Church, in an analogical and non-digital format produced in the laboratories of the University of Southampton. This format known as “5D optical data” takes the form of a disc that measures 25 mm in diameter, and its makers believe that it can be kept for millions of years.

The talk by Paola Manoni entitled, *Manuscripts in the digital era: a path of the Bibles through the web* highlighted the issue of publishing digitized manuscripts online, and presented the project for the digitization of the Vatican

manuscript collections.

With regard to conservation, the speaker introduced the high definition format of FITS (Flexible Image Transport System) for storing digital images, with features that guarantee the sustainability of the format in the long run.

With regard to the web publication of the images Dr. Manoni presented the online service DVL (DigiVatLib) of the Vatican Library (at <https://digi.vatlib.it>), which enables the search for and consultation of digital manuscripts, along with the comparison of images of manuscripts belonging to different collections. This feature was created by the application of technology regulated by the IIF (International Image Interoperability Protocol) standard. To this end, the experimental project of the Vatican Library was also presented. This project, also realized according to IIF, carried out by the Stanford University Libraries and financed by the Mellon Foundation: a three-year research project (2016-2019) which produced over 26 thousand annotations (analysis of contents, transcriptions, descriptions of miniatures, etc.) of manuscript folios (the results of which are published at <https://spotlight.vatlib.it>).

A small illustrative exhibition was set up in the Sisine Hall with important biblical texts that the participants of the event could visit at the end of the work.



Vat.arm.1, ff.1v-2r



## BAV Agenda 2020

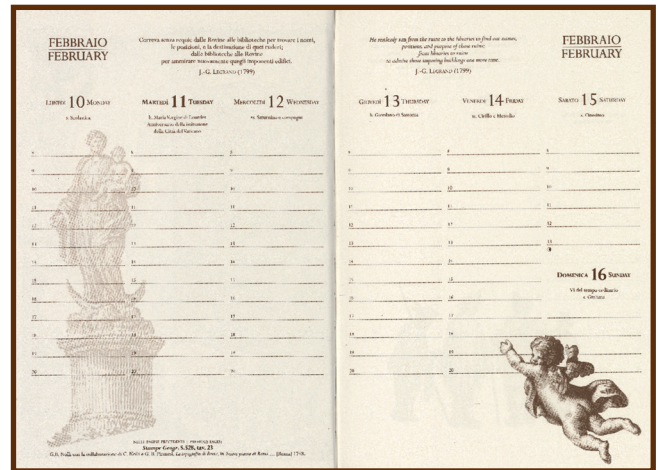
The *agenda* of the Vatican Apostolic Library for 2020 is dedicated to Giovanni Battista Piranesi (1720–1778) on the occasion of the third centenary of his birth. Piranesi was a famous engraver, architect, and architectural theorist, one of the most influential figures on the graphic scene of the 18th century. The collection of his works preserved in the Library is distinguished by its extraordinary numerical and qualitative substance.

His production is presented here in chronological order (albeit within the limits of the available space). Among the works featured are two drawings attributed to Piranesi, an architectural *Capriccio* and a sketch for the decoration of the Pantheon, and the counterproof of the engraving, *View of the Piazza della Rotonda*, published here for the first time.



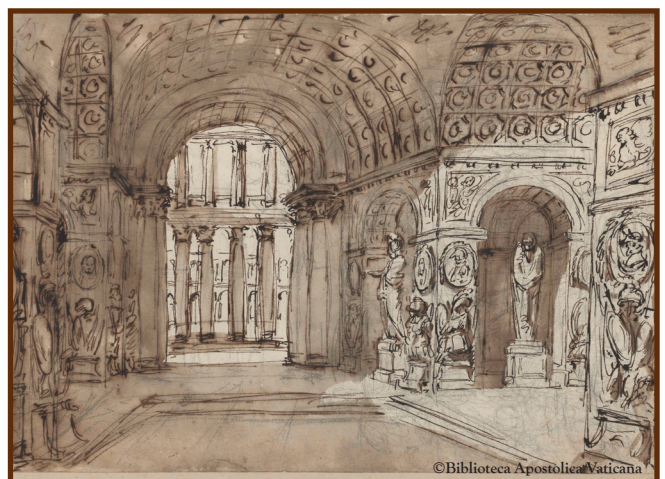
The binding selected for the agenda is the reproduction of a recently donated volume, and represents the friendship between Giovanni Battista Piranesi and the Rezzonico family, and therefore Pope Clement XIII, to whom the artist dedicated several works.

A diary is a book that, in its own way, preserves time: it spells out time, syllable by syllable, subtly opening it up as if it were a piece of fabric, making us more aware of its passage and its mysterious meaning. In fact, a year can be represented as a long road made up of days. What we wish to those who come into contact with this agenda is the same aspiration of the beautiful prayer of Psalm 90(89): “Lord, teach us to number our days, that we may reach wisdom of heart.”



The sentences selected to accompany the weeks of 2020 illustrate the thought of Piranesi and the noteworthy opinions that scholars and artists contemporary to him and subsequent intellectuals had towards him. The contribution of Marguerite Yourcenar is particularly meaningful, who commented on the *Carceri* (Prisons), one of Piranesi's most famous works in this way: “The real horror of the *Carceri*, greater than any mysterious scenes of torture, is the indifference of those human ants roaming about in immense spaces, in which different groups almost never seem to communicate with one another, or even notice the presence of the other, and do not even notice that a condemned man is being tortured in a dark corner.”

Precisely to highlight the human factor that is so strongly present in the Piranesian prints, but often overshadowed and almost crushed by the daunting images of architecture, the characters that “inhabit” the engravings have been extrapolated as details to appear, where they can, in the pages of each week.



G.B. Piranesi (attr.), “Capriccio architettonico”, pencil, pen and watermark drawing, ivory paper, [1764-ca 1770] - Ashby Disegni 281r



## Last Respects for Davide Borgonovo (1947-2019)



On the day of his 72nd birthday, our retired colleague Davide Borgonovo passed away. He had been ill for some time, but up until the last moment, he maintained the good spirit and optimism that have always characterized him. We had recently seen him again at the Library, on the occasion of the farewell reception for Paolo Vian, director of the Department of Manuscripts, who had to leave the Library upon being appointed vice prefect of the Secret Archive. That afternoon Davide was smiling and slightly wistful, pleased with the opportunity that offered him the chance to see his former colleagues again. He had worked in the Photographic Laboratory, which he directed in the last years of his career.

The funeral celebration was officiated by S.E. Msgr. Paolo De Nicolò, who was longtime Secretary of the Library, and who has developed a strong friendship with many employees including Davide. Msgr. De Nicolò recalled his meekness, his willingness always to offer a smile and his deep attachment to the family, for which he did everything without much concern for himself.

"I taught him to swim both in the ocean and in life," said the bishop, remembering Davide warmly.

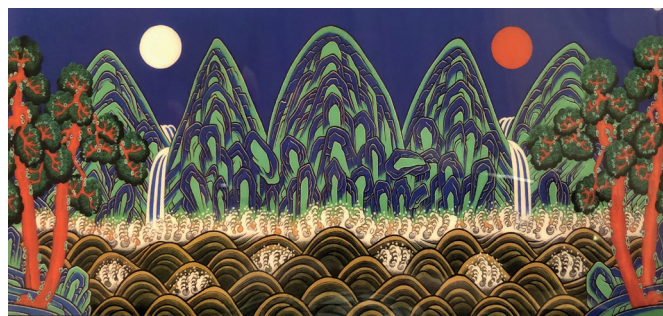
Many retired colleagues and employees, even young people, were present at the ceremony to pay their last respects to Davide and to embrace his spouse, Mariella, their children, Daniele, Serena, and Daniele Lisci, Davide's son-in-law and employee of the Library. We extend our affection and our thoughts to them all.



## Collaboration Agreement with Korea and the Korean Conference of Bishops

Thanks to the gracious initiative of the Korean Ambassador to the Holy See, H.E. Giuseppe Park Lee, and to the commitment and spirit of initiative of the Korean Conference of Bishops, along with the support of the government of the country, a project was developed for the study, evaluation, and dissemination of Korean or Korean-related documents kept at the Vatican Library.

The study of "Korean" documents has been underway for several months and will continue in the near future. The digital reproduction of different types of documents linked to the history of the country and its link with the Holy See will soon begin, and other initiatives by the parties that could come to life in the future are also being considered.



The President of the Episcopal Conference of Korea, H.E. Msgr. Hyginus Kim and the Librarian of H.R.C., H.Em. Card. José Tolentino de Mendonça have recently signed an accord that provides for a four-year collaboration. The agreement entails the insertion of metadata for digital images of manuscripts from the Far East; a fundamental activity for finding documents through online catalogs.



This is the first initiative aimed at providing information on digitized Eastern manuscripts in the challenging digitization campaign of the Library's collections. We are grateful to H.E. Msgr. Kim, to Korea, and to its representatives for the interest in our collections and for the commitment they are making to accomplish such an ambitious and fascinating project.



## Pietro Querini and conservation initiatives in Norway

Pietro Querini was born around 1402 to an important Venetian family involved in the trade business.

On one of his journeys undertaken in 1431 that had led him to Heraklion to load up the malmsey stocks produced there, he was shipwrecked while sailing towards Flanders, where he was supposed to deliver the goods. The sea currents then brought the boat to the Canary Islands. Upon departing from Lisbon, the crew headed for the Channel. Bad weather arose unexpectedly. The ship was for a long time prey to the high waves and was eventually destroyed. But a few people survived by climbing on the two small boats available, the first of which sank almost immediately. The surviving boat continued sailing north and arrived, unwittingly, to the Norwegian Lofoten islands. The few inhabitants of one of the nearby islands saw the fires lit by the survivors and came to their aid. A few months later the survivors were able to embark and return to Venice after several intermediary stops.

The account of the adventurous journey composed by Querini is preserved by the Vatican Library in a manuscript with the shelfmark *Vat.lat.5256*.

On July 8th, a small group that included the director of the Norwegian Seafood Council and diplomat of the Royal Embassy of Norway, Trym E. Gundersen, Maurizio Tuccio, CEO of Piql Italia, the well-known photographer Valentina Tamborra, and Alessio Guerrini, production manager of the FISH-EYE digital video creation, visited the Library and were able to see the famous report by Querini, who had the opportunity to observe the method of conservation used in Norway during his stay there.

The “journey” is a source of inspiration for other types of initiatives related to Norway. Due to its geographical position, the country has become the world center of seed conservation, an essential source of nourishment, but the same place is becoming an ideal site for the conservation of “cultural seeds.”



Other journeys, other projects can be undertaken and accomplished, which unite and perhaps also combine the different elements of conservation, a crucial practice for human life, food for the body and for the mind.



The Vatican Library, with its own century-old cultural vocation, has already adhered to the Piql initiative to preserve digital copies on tape of sixty Vatican manuscripts in the ice deposits of the Svalbard Islands in Norway. The hope is that other initiatives will help us sail towards the future, with other expressions of the cultures of the world represented in the Library that find room in the same place that salvaged Querini.



Photo by Valentina Tamborra





## On the fifth centennial anniversary of the birth of Tintoretto (1519-1594)

Five centuries after the birth of Jacopo Robusti, better known as Tintoretto, as he was the son of a fabric dyer (the diminutive comes from his small stature), we offer our readers the image of a print engraved by Agostino Carracci (1557-1602) preserved in the Graphics Cabinet. The print interprets the painting of the Venetian artist: *Mercury and the three Graces*. The work is part of a set of four canvases created in 1576 for the Atrio Quadrato di Palazzo Ducale in Venice (later transferred to the Sala dell'Anticollégio in 1716).

The work constitutes a highly expressive reading of one of the most representative painters of the Renaissance. Tintoretto was a precursor of Baroque art, an artist who fully interpreted the spiritual and cultural climate of his time, which was imbued with dramatic vitality and refinement.

“Each of the canvases painted for the Atrio Quadrato indicates a season and an element that corresponds to the depictions of the Seasons represented on the ceiling of the hall. Thus, the sprouting of plants, the blossoming of flowers, and the movements of the female figures in the act of rising would here evoke spring and the element of air.”

The same year that he produced the engraving of *Mercury and the three Graces*, Carracci offered a graphic interpretation of another very famous work by Tintoretto, *The Crucifixion*, probably the most famous graphic work by Agostino Carracci. The work inspired profound admiration in the artist himself of the famous painting preserved at the Great School of San Rocco in Venice.



Agostino Carracci after Tintoretto, [Mercurio e le tre Grazie], engraving, 1589. Stampe V.2(30)

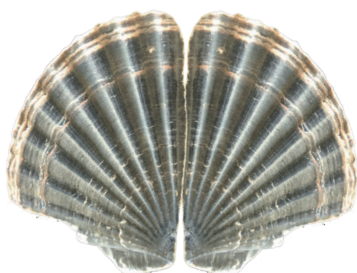


## Executive representatives of Dell visit BAV



Nicolai Moresco, Senior Vice President and General Manager of the Dell company, responsible for the Technologies Sales Western Europe, accompanied by Eelco Kalf, Vice President Senior-Data Center Sales Western Europe, Filippo Ligresti, Country Manager, Fabio Funari, Commercial Director-Public Administration, and our contact person with the Company, Daniele Cerasoli, visited the Papal Library on July 30th, after going to see the locales for the machines used for the conservation of data. The Vatican Library is currently turning to Dell for the tools it needs to store the digital data that is produced daily.

Dr. Moresco was very interested in the history of the Library, which was briefly illustrated to the small group, as well as in the most beautiful places of the Library. He stated that he was particularly struck by the role that the venerable Institution has played in the great work of conservation and dissemination, enabled by technological tools, to spread the patrimony that it preserves in an ever expanding direction.

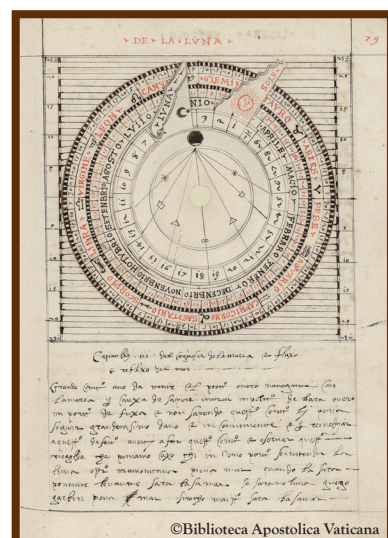


## “De Cosmographia, geographia et navigatione libri I-VII”

Splendid manuscript of 16th cent. recently published online, that contains: “Ch. I, Of the world that reveails in particular its order; Book. II, On the sea and its functioning; Book III, On the winds with the names of each of them; Book IV, The height of the Sun; Book V, The height of the Pole; Book VI, On the ‘bosolo’, the most precise instrument to navigate; Book VII, On the Moon, the Moon is one of the seven planets. The end: the 32 winds of navigation in the 24 hours complete their entire daily cycle.”



«Cap. I del mondo del quale se mostra particolarmente de l'ordine suo; (f. 16): lib. II, del mare e del suo movimento; (f. 24): lib. III, del vento con il nome de ciascheduno; (f. 41): lib. IV, de l'altura del sole; (f. 63): lib. V, de l'altura del polo; (f. 71) lib. VI del bosolo da navigar: lo instrumento che più precixo e de mazor perfection; (f. 76): lib. VII, de la luna: la luna è uno dei sette pianeti. Des. li 32 venti de la navigacion in 24 ore, ne le qual fan el suo movimento diurno».



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