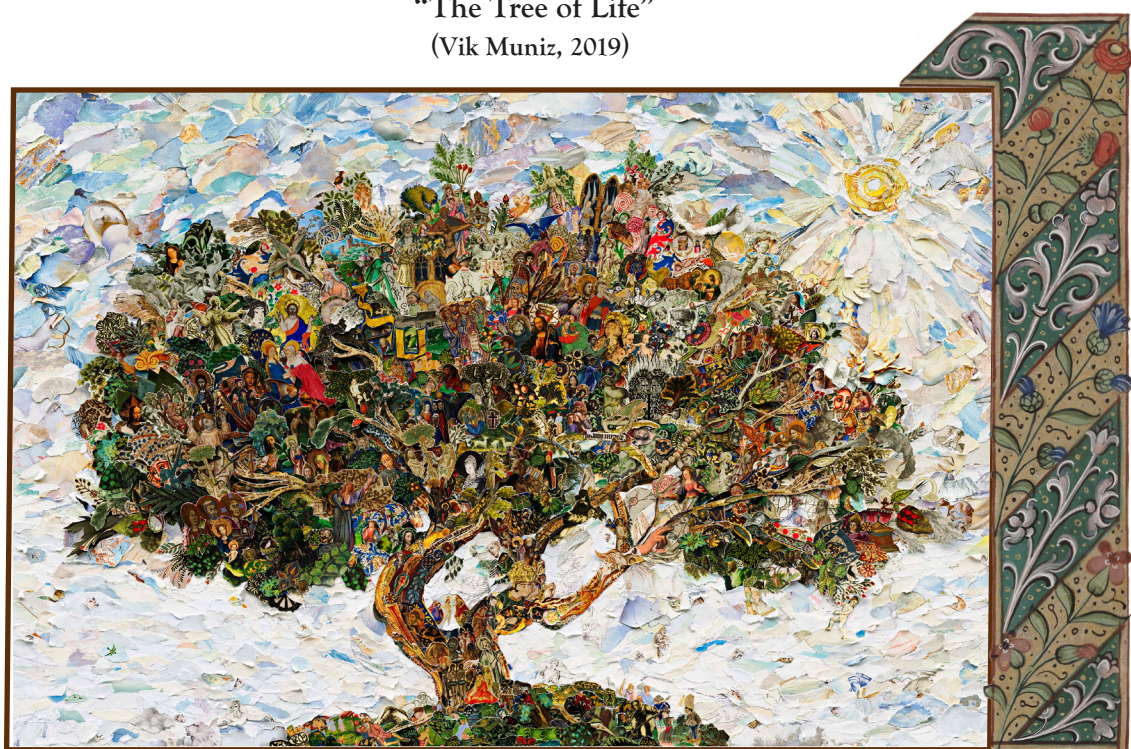




Online Window into the Library

«Avvisi» dalla Vaticana

“The Tree of Life” (Vik Muniz, 2019)



The Special Assembly of the Synod of Bishops for Amazonia, called *Amazonia: New Paths for the Church and for an Integral Ecology*, took place from October 6 to 27. As Pope Francis had announced, it was dedicated to “finding new ways to evangelize that portion of the people of God. Special attention was paid in particular to the indigenous, who are often forgotten and who live without any prospect of a tranquil future, also due to the crisis of the Amazon forest, an element of vital importance for our planet.” The assembly provided the occasion for the realization of a particular piece of artwork, strongly inspired and orchestrated by our Librarian, H.E. Card. José Tolentino de Mendonça. The work entitled *The Tree of Life*, is accompanied by an introductory volume, *The Tree of Life, Archetype for the future*. The Brazilian artist Vik Muniz designed and created the work with the collaboration of the Library. The work was made of a large print made with permanent ink (121.9 x 180.3 cm). In the background, small items, like bits of paper, intermingle creating a milky sky wherein a sun rises that breaks the frenetic motion. The tree is composed of countless “tiles” taken from tree images taken from manuscripts, archives, illustrations from printed books, engravings, paintings, designs and photographs, as well as from the numismatic collections, and works from other institutions.

The selected elements give life to an intensely colored and dense tree, invigorated by the lifeblood produced from centuries of history and culture.

In the words of the artist: “The form of the tree continuously permeates the history of knowledge, perhaps because it correctly models the way in which we develop and structure this knowledge [...]. Every artistic process is in some way a mimesis of the human way that we look for answers, and for this reason the tree will continue to be an especially important archetype of experience and creation [...]; its trunk, its branches, narrate the common history of man and of trees throughout the ages, through many hands of so many artists and people who have passionately dedicated themselves to preserving this knowledge. Our Tree of Life is a human tree, since it is from this feeling of belonging that the fruits of a more balanced relationship with the nature that surrounds us will emerge.”

The work was on exhibition in the Synod Hall during the period of the meetings, and afterward came to the Library. It found its home on a wall along the steps of the Library, a welcome sign to readers and guests. The work expresses how the Library preserves the roots of the world and that these can produce lymph for the growth of new branches.

The Marega Documents, a bridge with Japan



Vatican Apostolic Library - Sala degli scrittori. Paul Bril (1554-1626), Landscape "with bridge", 1588-89

In the last week in October the prefect of the Library, Msgr. Cesare Pasini travelled to Oita, Japan for a conference dedicated to the "Marega documents," focused on the enduring presence of Christianity in Japan from the 16th to the mid-19th century. During this long period of time, baptized Christians had to practice their faith in secret. The contribution of Msgr. Pasini, *The Marega collection at the Vatican Apostolic Library: building a bridge between the people of the past toward the future*, charted the path of the documents that arrived to Vatican City in 1953. They had been collected in the 30s by the Salesian Mario Marega (1902-1978) while he was on mission in Japan. For many decades the documents had remained unstudied. The twenty-one bundles of paper were finally examined in 2011, and in 2013 a collaboration between the Vatican Library and other Japanese institutions began. Coordinated by the Inter-University Research Institute Corporation, the group gathered *ad hoc* worked on the inventory, digital preservation, and study of the documents. The Library also preserves an important letter in Japanese (*Borg.cin.520*) from Fr. Diego de San Francisco, Superior of the Minor Franciscans in the country, addressed to various communities in Japan. The document remained in Japan from 1628 to 1886, when it was sent to Rome by Msgr. Pierre - Marie Osouf (1829-1906), Apostolic Vicar in northern Japan. In the letter, Fr. Diego called for building a bridge for the Christian communities at risk of division, during a time of ongoing persecution. According to Msgr. Pasini, "this contin-

ued presence of the letter in the Japanese land, enduring for those 260 years or more [...], is like an arch of extraordinary meaning, unique in its genre: from the first decades of the first evangelization of Japan, it has formed a connection, a bridge, to the times in which missionaries were able to set foot again in this land." The Marega documents will enable historians to understand better the presence of Christianity in Japan from the seventeenth to the nineteenth century, and to learn about Japanese history. And as for the present time, "the symbol of the bridge is particularly meaningful to describe the project that the Vatican Apostolic Library has undertaken with many Japanese institutions with respect to the Marega documents. It stands as a bridge that crosses over centuries of the past and continues until today and reaches toward the future; moreover, it is a bridge that through fruitful and constructive collaboration approaches realities that have undergone serious obstacles throughout the centuries."

The work of preservation that was completed for the documents was illustrated in a workshop called, *Preservation and Conservation of Japanese archival documents in the Vatican Library: The Marega Collection as a Case Study*. The workshop took place at the Vatican School of Library Science on October 5, 2016, and its proceedings have been recently published by Mutsumi Aoki, of the National Institute for the Humanities of Japan (National Institute of Japanese Literature), and by Angela Núñez Gaitán, who is responsible for the Conservation Laboratory of the Library.



Encounter with Prof. Michael I. Allen, scholar and friend of the Library

Michael I. Allen, a professor from the University of Chicago and assiduous scholar of the Apostolic Library, visited the Institution on October 23 and presented a special program of interest to the Library. A software called D-Stretch, created for “reading” prehistoric pictorial documents, has been successfully applied to the reading of palimpsests, stratified texts on medieval parchment (of which the Vatican Library has a large number of examples), and other texts that challenge legibility. D-Stretch effects the mechanical separation of different color schemes of a particular image in order to read it more clearly and precisely than the human eye can naturally decipher from the image in its natural state. Such an instrument, which is also usable on a cellphone, has been instrumental to Prof. Allen in his research, as was shown in the encounter, allowing him to distinguish different hands, inks, erasures, and even leading to the discovery of a spurious authorship of a text. The curious and especially attentive audience included specialists representing the Computer Science Department of the Library, the Photographic Laboratory, and the Department of Manuscripts. These departments are particularly attentive to developments in technology and new instruments that can assist academic research.

The visit from Prof. Allen offered the occasion for an exchange of ideas through a couple of questions:

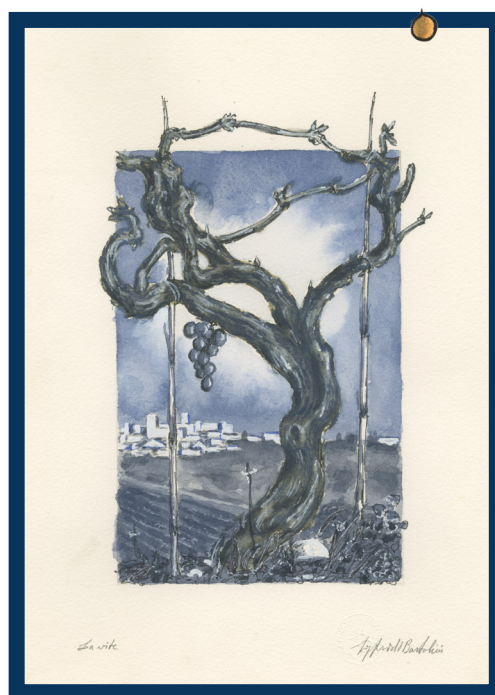
Because of your work you visit many libraries, and they are, from a certain point of view your “homes”, each of them in its own special way. What is the Vatican Library for you, what does it mean to you?

When I come to Rome, I spend all my week time with the *manoscritti* at the Vatican Library. The room is bright, quiet, and calm. I can walk there and back from Piazza Cavour, no matter what chaos is afoot elsewhere. There is, for me, no need to go anywhere else. I feel at home, because very little has, for me here, changed over the past 30 years. There are no metal detectors. The magnetism that matters is what brought the books together here. The collections are rich and diverse, totally beyond my limited experience and imagination. Still, this is my museum, the place of my muses, thanks to Queen Christina, Dom Wilmart, Fr. Leonard Boyle, among innumerable others reaching back nominally to Pope Nicolas V, but, as we all know, much further. The visitors here are all serious and informed about their work. They tread with respect, carefully and quietly, because there is no carpet, and happily also less dust. This is, yes, a clean library. We all appreciate the huge privilege it is to bend before the fragile supports that take us into the real presence of our guides and teachers from the past. There are also the living friends and idols one meets or observes. Their presence confirms the uniqueness of where we are. I would not expect to meet them anywhere else on earth, and here we are not surprised. To recognize a philologist is a god, said Euripides. Here, in this library, among the *manoscritti*, every hour is numinous. *Stat Roma pristina numine*. That is much better than the world outside.



What would you say to young people to encourage them to study the ‘artes liberales’, now that the needs of society seem to suggest them to be trained instead of being educated?

Training is something that others fit us with. Education is our own self-transformation. We give ourselves to it, and it makes us new. Training affects the surface; education, the mind and heart. Education enables humanity, openness, acceptance of things as they are, and it sparks desire for what is other and maybe better, not just more of what we know or have. It is easy to focus on what we know and have; much harder to be open to what we or life could be. The liberal arts invite us to potential that we muster from within. Trained skills are tools. The arts question and imagine anew in dialogue with experience. Set skills without questioning imagination are a limitation. Many prefer the security of limitation. Society needs leaders who can imagine beyond the limitation of present security. Education enables that.



La vite - The Vine
Sigfrido Bartolini, 1932-2007
Disegni generali 86

Four events from the cultural agenda of the Library



Benedetta Craveri and Antonio Manfredi,
Vice-director of the School

* *The art of conversation and its metamorphoses in the European civilization of the Old Regime* is the title of a conference that was presented on October 8, in the Barberini Hall of the Library, by Professor Benedetta Craveri, who teaches French literature at the University of Suor Orsola Benincasa in Naples. The talk inaugurated the second cycle of lectures for the Chair of Pope Francis for higher studies in Library Science, promoted by the School of Library Science and supported by the Sanctuary of Culture foundation.

The scholar offered her reflection on a society that created an ideal of sociability, the art of being together, the pleasure of civil life, which until then had been the privilege of Italian humanists, through the elaboration and development of its own cultural model. The French society of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries made conversation into a subtle, refined, and cultured art, capable of observing the world, even in its psychological and moral aspects, sometimes with irony, while also highlighting its contradictions. Women played a decisive role in the development of this art: they presided and guided the conversation, and it became an instrument of cultural and political diffusion, a place for the open exchange of ideas before the arrival of newspapers.



* On November 7 at the Library a session of the following conference was held: *The Christian East in the Latin West – Assemani's Bibliotheca Orientalis 1719-2019 - 300th anniversary*. The conference was dedicated to the main work of Giuseppe Simone Assemani (1687-1768), a figure who had been the Library's *scriptor* and prefect for approximately three decades. In addition to the authorities of the Library, the event hosted H.E. Card. Leonardo Sandri, prefect of the Congregation for the Oriental Churches, H.E. Msgr. Rafic Warcha, Procurator of the Maronite Patriarch to the Holy See, H.E. Msgr. Youssef Soueif, Maronite Archbishop of Cyprus, H.E. Farid el Khazen, Ambassador of Lebanon to the Holy See.

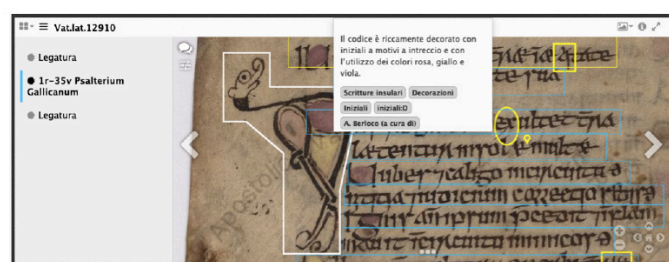
In the Barberini Hall, which was full of scholars and experts in the field, the day began with the greetings of the authorities and continued with the presentations. Paolo Bettolo's talk dealt with the *Cartography of Syriac literature between the 4th and 7th centuries in the "Bibliotheca Orientalis"* by Giuseppe Simone Assemani, a reading proposal; Prof. Martin Tamcke's talk entitled, *How and why German Protestants used Assemani's "Bibliotheca Orientalis"*, highlighted the interest of Lutheran theologians in Assemani's work; Andreas Ellwardt presented *Josephus Simonius Assemani und seine 'Bibliotheca Orientalis' in der 'Geschichte der christlichen arabischen Literatur' von Georg Graf*, the impact of the text on the Christian-Arabic literary work by Graf; and Rev. Giacomo Cardinali closed the session with the *Il 'Museo di monsignor Giuseppe Simone Assemani', una prima ricostruzione delle carte d'archivio*, which featured the collection of antiquities and coins and medals that had belonged to the scholar.



As Card. Sandri pointed out, "in the *Bibliotheca Orientalis* we can find representations of Armenian, Syriac, Arab, Maronite, Coptic, Greek, Ethiopian texts, as well as historical, theological, cartographic, and linguistic sources that help us reconstruct a world made of many worlds, of men who intended to leave the traces of their own people, of their own culture, of their faith. It is our task to know and to spread knowledge about the rich culture from which we come." Assemani had an encyclopedic and erudite knowledge, but he also had a humble and personal style that invites scholars today to emulate his good example; he shows the way for each person to be of service to the common good.

* On October 17th at the Library, the fruits from a three-year period of research was presented, called: *Thematic Pathways on the Web: IIIF annotations of manuscripts from the Vatican's collections*.

Funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and carried out in collaboration with Stanford University Libraries, the project is based on the technology of the International Image Interoperability Framework (known as IIIF), a standard for digitizing the cultural heritage that defines web interoperability rules and digital information content. The results as well as the developments that have come about thanks to the work of the project can be seen online at: spotlight.vatlib.it.



[Esempio di annotazione, Vat. lat. 12910, f 28v]

Over two sessions of conferences, the Stanford and Vatican experts discussed the management aspects of the project and the further developments of the IIIF standard in the digital age of the Humanities. Although all of the pathways are of great interest, we will here mention just one of the thematic pathways expounded: that dedicated to palimpsests: manuscript parchment sheets that have been erased and rewritten on. The pathway for palimpsests is entitled: “Vatican palimpsests: the Digital recovery of erased identities,” and presents the work carried out on twenty-four Vatican manuscripts of the 380 hitherto identified manuscripts that contain palimpsests.

Digital reconstruction makes the palimpsests and their writings more accessible, both the upper and the lower script. It also allows the possibility of reading the *scriptio inferior* that the simple observation of the originals as well as the ordinary method of publication do not allow. Certainly there will be new developments in this field and other research topics as new pathways are made available to scholars.



* The publication of the 25th volume of the *Miscellanea Bibliothecae Apostolicae Vaticanae* provided the occasion for an event that commemorated the birth, development, and topics proposed over the entire lifespan of the periodical.

The Librarian of H.R.C. opened the encounter with formal greetings, and was followed by speeches from Marco Buonocore, *scriptor latinus* and Director of the Archives Section of the Library, and Marco Guardo, Director of the Library of the Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei and the Corsiniana.

The series of the *Miscellanea* was begun in 1987 in order to present the fruits of research on the Library, its collections, of scholars both in-house and external. Until then, these works on the Library's collections had been published elsewhere. It has an annual frequency and an independent numbering in the series of *Studi e Testi*. Marco Buonocore was the pioneer of the *Miscellanea*, and has been its editorial secretary since the first issue. Having spent thirty-eight years in the Library, Dr. Buonocore is to leave his service in December, but he will certainly not leave the world of study in a context which he called a “mythical and ineludible place of encounters and dialogue, an ocean of culture and a place of excellence for the progress of study.”

Prof. Guardo stressed that one's gaze should be directed at the same time both forward and backward, that is, toward the future and toward the past: *traditio* and *renovatio* walk together. Technological knowledge, with its frantic search for the present, must coexist with the past, which has so much to tell and teach us. Technology alone is not enough, but combined with the humanities, together they make the heart beat.

Many themes have been presented by almost three hundred authors of over seven hundred articles within the periodical: from paleography to liturgy, from music to art, codicology, technology applied to studies, contributions that feature man and his essence, according to Terence's adage, “*Homo sum, humani nihil a me alienum puto.*”

Donation of Prof. Fagiolo (2018-2019)

In the summer of 2018, Prof. Enzo Fagiolo donated to the Vatican Apostolic Library some volumes and a group of loose prints, about a hundred items, all made by Giovanni Battista Piranesi (1720-1778). Piranesi's works are contained in the following volumes: *Several ways of adorning the chimneys* (Rome 1769), *The Capitoline Lapidés* (Rome, imprimatur 1761), *From the Castle of Acqua Giulia* (Rome 1761), *The Trophies of Octavianus Augustus* (Rome post 1753), *Campus Martius antiquae urbis* (Rome 1762).

The loose prints include *Roman antiquities* (Rome 1756), *The Antiquities of Albano and Castelgandolfo* (Rome 1764), *Trophy or magnificent spiral column* (Rome 1775), *On the Magnificence and architecture of the Romans* (Rome 1751), a plate of the *Prisons* and many *Views of Rome* from different years.



Recently Prof. Fagiolo made a second donation, an *incunabulum*, *Legenda aurea sanctorum, sive Lombardica historia* by Jacobus de Voragine (Milan, U. Scinzenzeler, April 15, 1497), several volumes, mostly of engravings only, and another exceptional group of loose prints. The *incunabulum* has been incorporated into the Ancient Books Section, while the remaining works have instead been taken to the Graphics Department and will be added to the already existing collection named after the collector.

Among the works in volume given to the Vatican Library are: *The gardens of Rome with their elevated plants and views in perspective drawn and carved by Gio Battista Falda* (edition G.G. de Rossi, 1676-1689); *Collection of the most beautiful ancient and modern views of Rome* by Giuseppe Vasi (posthumous edition published between 1747 and 1761), the *New map of Rome* made by Giambat-



tista Nolli in the year MDCCXLVIII and some works from the first half of the nineteenth century by Bartolomeo Pinelli, including the *Collection of thirteen picturesque costumes from the outskirts of Rome*.

Noteworthy pieces from the group of loose prints are two plates engraved by Natale Bonifacio by Domenico Fontana related to *The transfer of the Vatican obelisk and of the "workshops" (fabbriche) of our Lord Pope Sixtus V* (Rome 1590, printed in the eighteenth-century edition of Mortier), Giovanni Battista Falda's *Fountains of Rome* (1691), the *Façade of the Papal Palace at the Quirinal known as Monte Cavallo* by Gomar Wouters (1692), some *Machines for fireworks for the presentation of the China* by Giuseppe Vasi (Rome 1766-1767).

The Fagiolo collection clearly focuses especially on the history of Rome and its sights from the 16th to the 19th centuries, and on the practices and customs of the city and its surroundings. It greatly enriches the collections of the Library.

On November 21, Prof. Fagiolo and the kind lady Maria Teresa personally delivered the works, which had been collected over long years of painstaking research. The meeting with Mr. Fagiolo was a very pleasant one: a brief and intense conversation, a meaningful moment that, as often happens, has no need for very many words. Prof. Fagiolo told us: "let the works speak for themselves: they are the real protagonists." This is correct, but it is also true that the works may continue to talk to us still today only thanks to the dedication of those who have patiently gathered them and stored them with love.





T. Marangoni
Mame e Ritratto di bambino

*Scopriamo che la vita di Dio
scorre nelle vene dell'umanità*

*We discover that the life of God
can enter into our hearts and dwell there*

*Descobrimos que a vida de Deus
corre nas veias da humanidade*

Papa Francesco
Santa Messa della Natività,
24 dicembre 2018

From our happy home
Through the world we roam
One week in all the year,
Making winter spring
With the joy we bring
For Christmas-tide is here.

Now gay trees rise
Before young eyes,
Abloom with tempting cheer;
Blithe voices sing,
And blithe bells ring,
For Christmas-tide is here.

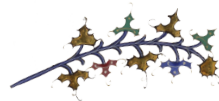
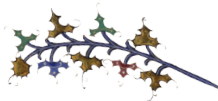
Now the eastern star
Shines from afar
To light the poorest home;
Hearts warmer grow,
Gifts freely flow,
For Christmas-tide
has come.

Oh, happy chime,
Oh, blessed time,
That draws us all so near!
"Welcome, dear day,"
All creatures say,
For Christmas-tide
is here.

Louisa May Alcott



People and services in the Library. III: Conservation



Conservation Laboratory

Conservation has been the primary activity of the Library since its origins; efforts to both maintain and protect its great heritage of books went hand in hand beginning from the sixteenth century. This was accomplished by preparing spaces and conditions suitable for the purpose. The work included the removal of dust, the preparation of the glues according to specially designed recipes, and the implementation of other devices that have evolved over time.

In 1898 the Library began the process of restoring deteriorated materials with scientific instruments and innovative methods, in particular from the field of chemistry. The same year, upon the initiative of the Library, the first international conference dedicated to conservation and preservation was organized in St. Gallen, Switzerland, in particular for papers damaged by corrosive inks and schedules damaged in previous decades by chemical reagents used to allow the reading of the lower texts. It turned out that the causes of the deterioration of the materials had to be scientifically assessed and considered in order to carry out the restoration work properly, such as the verification of the duration and reversibility of the works performed.

At the end of the nineteenth century, a fully equipped Conservation Laboratory had been set up; one of the first of its kind to be built in a library. Its permanent staff have not ceased their conservation work with manuscripts ever since that time. They also work with ancient prints in need of proper care, oxidized coins, parchments that have been bent or folded irregularly, damaged bindings, all according to the knowledge received from experience on the international level. The Vatican Library became a model and a point of reference for many libraries that began to turn to our Laboratory for advice and help, sometimes directly entrusting the Vatican Library with commissions for preservation work to be carried out on particularly valuable documents of theirs that had been damaged.

Conservation and prevention (including pest control and dust removal) involve many hands at work and considerable economic resources. Other instruments such as digitization are now also assisting the effort of conservation.

The activity of the Photographic Laboratory, officially established in 1937 (even if photography was widely used from the second half of 19th cent.), today uses almost exclusively digital technology, introduced in 1994. Digital images of manuscripts and other documents accessible online (digi.vatlib.it) allow consultation from afar. This service becomes useful when it is not necessary to use the originals, and it is particularly so when the fragility of the documents puts them at risk for survival. For example, we can think about the products of *herbari vivi*, that is, materials prepared centuries ago with real plants and flowers, or certain writing surfaces damaged by wear, chemical agents, and so on. By reducing the consultation, it increases the possibility of better preserving documents over time. The greatest task is to find the balance between usability and conservation.

Furthermore, digitization “fixes” the status of the document at a precise moment in time and the digital copy hence remains unaltered, regardless of what changes may occur in the original from that time on. Digital preservation presents another new challenge and involves the use of particularly advanced technological tools for long-term data storage of images.

Although the main operations take place in the Restoration Laboratory and in the Photographic Laboratory, other sectors of the Library are involved and contribute to the conservation activity and to the care of the collections of each type of material. The research scholars on staff, the IT specialists and employees with other types of skills; the scholars who have the original documents in their hands also become part of the process. The interaction between the different agents of the conservation process is crucial to handing down the assets received to future generations in the best conditions.



Photographic Laboratory

“Cor ad cor loquitur”: the canonization of Card. Henry Newman



John H. Card. Newman

During the synod for Amazonia, the canonization of Card. Henry Newman (1801-1890) took place. A philosopher, theologian, and writer, he converted from Anglicanism to Catholicism in 1845 and was created cardinal by Leo XIII in 1879. Benedict XVI beatified Card. Newman in Cofton Park in Birmingham, during the apostolic journey that the pontiff made in Great Britain, from 16 to 19 September 2010, the first of its kind in history.

In 1846 Henry Newman came to Rome with other companions who had, like him, embraced the Catholic faith. Here he was able to come to know and appreciate the Congregation of the Oratorians, founded by San Filippo Neri, so much so that he asked to be able to found an Oratory in England, which he did in Birmingham in 1849. His cardinal motto was “Cor ad cor loquitur,” the heart speaks to the heart, and this brief phrase illuminates the life, thought, and the work of Card. John Newman.

On the happy occasion of his canonization, we offer our readers a short prayer written by the cardinal and a letter of his which is kept at the Apostolic Library (Autographs Paul VI, 424), with which he expresses his heartfelt sympathy to Charlotte Wood for the loss of her mother. Inspired by the example of Newman, Charlotte Wood also converted to Catholicism, despite the opposition of her Anglican friends.



May He support us all the day long, till the shades lengthen and the evening comes.

And the busy world is hushed and the fever of life is over and our work is done.

Then in His mercy may He give us a safe lodging and a holy rest and peace at the last.

Henry H. Newman

The 07 13^m
Aug^r 24/67

My dear Miss Wood

I feel for you in your extreme trial - and will not (please God) lose a day before saying Mass for your intention concerning your dear Mother. If all is well, I will say Mass for your intention, Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday.

Realize the Mass has its own real power & that, in some way or other, help or for death, he has a vast benefit. This is our great consolation. What a mercy that he should have so great a gift left to us!

Yours affly in Chr
John H. Newman



Autografi Paolo VI, 424

An artistic edition of the “Tikkunei Zohar” donated to the Vatican Library

The gift of a special edition of *Tikkunei Zohar*, a Kabbalistic text that contains mystical teachings, prayers, and comments on the opening word of the *Torah*, provided us with the opportunity to meet Mrs. Sandra Gering, an art dealer from New York. Mrs. Gering is the promoter of an initiative to create the work, along with the collaboration of three artists, dedicated to “women of the world, of any race, religion, or creed.”

The sculpture on the cover of the book was made by the American artist Leo Villareal, illuminated by LED bulbs and with metal inlays, refers to the Tree of Life. An Israeli sculptor named Ghiora Aharoni designed *The Tablets*, the elaborate aluminum case, upon which a text taken from the book of Genesis was engraved in Hebrew. The volume, printed on silver paper, also includes a drawing of a woman with a child by the artist Ryan McGinness. Light in the work forms a metaphor for knowledge.



“This work of art from the 21st century contains texts that were written over 2000 years ago,” Mrs. Gering told us. “In carrying out the work I intended to demonstrate that although these texts were written a long time ago, they are particularly relevant to the times in which we live. The idea of beauty, unity, harmony and peace have always been present in my life. This *Zohar* contains 70 comments from the book of Genesis. When I was three, I had a dream that I should try to foster the unity of peoples, and this became the purpose of my life. The treatment and teaching of *Tikkunei Zohar* are aimed at helping peace and unity prevail. Men and women, finally equal, will work together to achieve peace.

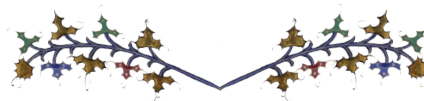
I wanted to make four copies of the book contained in the work of art to be given to four institutions: first, the Morgan Library, for the creativity and diversity of New York; the second to the Vatican Library for my deep connection with the Catholic faith; the third, for the Louvre in Abu Dhabi to bring the “Light” to the Muslim people in unity; the fourth will be donated to the Israel Museum in Jerusalem.



I feel that these four places are the spiritual centers of the Universe. And I hope and dream that the “Light” of this text will help bring peace in our times. I am grateful to all those who helped me realize my dream. Kabbalah Center International, Ghiora Aharoni, Leo Villareal, Ryan McGinness, H & H Papuchyan Book Services.

I am very grateful to Vincent LeVie, Gary Krupp, Meredith Krupp of the Pave the Way Foundation for bringing the *Tikkunei Zohar* project to the Vatican Apostolic Library.”

The Library thanks all those who have made this meeting possible and expresses particular gratitude to Mrs. Gering for her generosity and her touching sensitivity.



Visiting Guests

* Among the visits recently hosted in the Library, we are pleased to announce the *Canadian Patrons of the arts* of the Vatican Museums, who came in large numbers and enthusiastically to the venerable Papal Library on October 21st. The group has shown itself to be particularly interested in the history of the institution and its projects, and has made a donation that will help fund the work of cataloging a series of important archival documents, thus making them known to the community of scholars. We are particularly grateful to the Canadian friends and their president, Debra Mauro.



* A group of retired Swedish diplomats came to visit the Apostolic Library on October 22nd. A deep bond unites our Institution to Sweden, on account of the fact that the Vatican Library preserves the book collection of Queen Christina (over 2350 manuscripts), who was obliged to leave the country following her conversion to Catholicism in 1654. Queen Christina came to Rome, where she died on April 19, 1689. The collection was then put up for sale and bought by Pietro Ottoboni, Alessandro VIII, and the Library received most of it in 1690.

In recent years, several figures of the country and its diplomatic representatives to the Holy See, especially the ambassador emeritus Fredrik Vahlquist, have supported the Library with appreciation, commitment, and a spirit of true friendship.



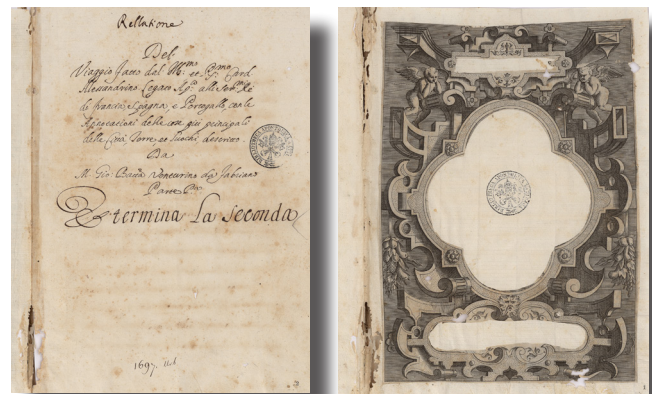
Discoveries even among small restorations

Recently an entrepreneur from the Marche, Italy, Mauro Cipriani, financed conservation work on two paper manuscripts from his region; one of which required particular attention, *Urb. lat. 1697*.

The work mainly concerned the corrosion of Iron gall inks that have weakened the writing surface, and also damaged the sewing. The fragile papers have been deacidified and reinforced with a layer of Japanese paper, and the sewing has been redone only at the breakage points, so as to preserve the original seam as much as possible.

The examination of paper n. 1 revealed a frontispiece that had been separately attached to the original arrangement of the quires. The frontispiece most likely had been added to enhance the volume's decoration, and under good light, it was possible to see part of its printed text on the back of the added sheet.

During the restoration it was decided to detach the frontispiece and leave it hanging in the same position where it was attached, in such a manner as to allow the reading of the original text on the paper.



The manuscript contains the *Relation of the journey made by the Illustrious and Most Reverend Card. Alessandrino* [Michele Bonelli, 1541-1598], *Apostolic Legate to the Serenissimi kings of France, Spain and Portugal, with remarks on the most important items of the cities, countries, and places described by Giovanni Battista Venerino da Fabriano.*



A visit also from Switzerland



* Every year the Swiss Embassy to the Holy See organizes a visit to the Vatican for the administrators and scholarship holders of the Swiss Institute in Rome. This year the members specifically asked to visit the Vatican Apostolic Library. On last November 5, the members of the Institute's administration, including the director, Dr. Joëlle Comé, and eleven young Swiss people participated in the visit: four researchers in the humanities and social sciences and seven artists (from the visual arts), connected to cultural institutions or Swiss research groups. The group was accompanied by the assistant of the Ambassador of Switzerland to the Holy See, Veronika Novak.

Best wishes to all of them and until next time.

Twenty years from the death of Leonard E. Boyle OP, Prefect of the Apostolic Library (1984-1998)

On October 25, the twentieth anniversary of the death of Fr. Leonard Boyle was celebrated in the Basilica dedicated to Pope Clement I. Fr. Boyle was Irish by birth, Canadian by adoption, and a Vatican citizen by his obedience and profound devotion to culture.

Officiated by the Cardinal Librarian and Archivist of the Holy Roman Church, H.E. José Tolentino de Mendonça, the Eucharistic Mass celebrated in suffrage for Fr. Boyle included the participation of various representatives from his "worlds": religious brethren, students, and colleagues of the Library. Fr. Boyle's relatives in Ireland were also remembered in prayer by all those present. The Mass was followed by two brief presentations in remembrance of the figure of this son of St. Dominic, two private and intense chronicles: one from Fr. Michael Carragher, confrere of Fr. Boyle; the other from Ambrogio Piazzoni, Vice-Prefect of the Library.

Following the Mass, it was possible to visit the Dominican's tomb in the lower, medieval basilica, and pray for him all together.

Lastly, the community of Irish Dominicans, which has for centuries preserved the cultural jewel of San Clemente, invited all those present to share the evening meal in the convent's refectory. It was a particularly touching moment to gather around the table like old friends, in a cordial and familial atmosphere.

We thank the prior of San Clemente, Fr. Stephen Hutchison, for having hosted such a beautiful moment, a gesture that was certainly appreciated by Fr. Boyle as well.



Meeting of the Library's retirees

The Library's retired employees met on Saturday, October 19, to spend a day together at Castelli romani, on the shores of Lake Nemi. On a bright sunny day from a spell of an Indian summer, these "people in their golden years" found themselves sharing the same bond that had connected them for most of their lives to the venerable papal institution. Gathered around a splendidly set table, they recalled episodes, both small and large, of life under the same secular roof. Being together with such an intensity of experiences and memory was quite touching for those participants who are still active in their service to the Library. All together, the years spent serving the Holy See by the 27 retirees equaled a total of 1,016, almost double the history of the Apostolic Library. On average each one of them spent almost 38 years in his library: a good goal. Heartfelt thanks to each and every one of them.

Ad multos annos!



*We greet our colleagues who
have retired in 2019:*

*Giuseppe Ruggia
Ufficio Accessioni*

*Marco Buonocore
Director of the Archival Section*

Repairs on the roof of the Library
carried out during the month of October





*Merry Christmas
and Happy New Year
from the Vatican Apostolic Library*



Thanks to The Sanctuary of Culture Foundation!

We are also grateful to:

- Pina Bartolini
- Franco Bevilacqua
- Mauro Cipriani
- Heather Daily
- Enzo Fagiolo
- Simona Giampaoli e familiari
- Frank Hanna
- Warren Kirkendale
- Aldo Marangoni
- Edwin Mok
- Chiara e Giovanna Montauti
- Paolo Portoghesi
- Bill e Ann Marie Teuber
- Patrizio Turi
- Scott & Lannette Turicchi



- Canadian Patrons of the Arts of the Vatican Museums
- Catholic Bishops' Conference of Korea
- Fondation Avita Novare, sotto l'egida della Fondation de Luxembourg
- Dedagroup S.p.A.
- Generali Italia S.p.a. - Agenzia Generale di Acquiterme
- Heydar Aliyev Foundation
- IAPS-Istituto di Astrofisica e Planetologia Spaziale, Roma
- INAF-Istituto Nazionale di Astrofisica
- Jacob Wallenbergs Stiftelse
- Von Mallinckrodt Foundation
- NTT Data
- Panduit Corporation
- Piql AS
- Polonsky Foundation
- Samuel H. Kress Foundation
- Metis Systems
- SCG Chemicals
- SemAr s.r.l.
- Seret S.p.A.
- Stiftelsen Konung Gustav VI Adolfs fond för svensk kultur
- Stiftelsen Marcus och Amalia Wallenbergs Minnesfond
- Fritz Thyssen Stiftung
- Universitätsbibliothek Heidelberg



If you would like to make a contribution
to the projects of the Library,
please contact:
Luigina Orlandi
Office of Institutional Advancement
(orlandi@vatlib.it)