

*Online Window into the Library*



«Avvisi» dalla Vaticana

*H.E. Msgr. Angelo Vincenzo Zani Librarian of S.R.C.*



With an unexpected phone call last Sept. 22, the Holy Father announced to H.E. Msgr. Angelo Vincenzo Zani his appointment as Archivist and Librarian of S.R.C., an appointment signed by His Holiness the following 26th.

On Oct. 5, the new Librarian made his official entrance into the Vatican Library and met with all Library employees in the Printed Books Consultation Room.

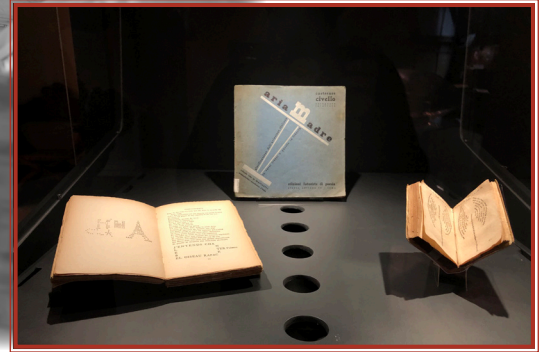
After having completed a doctorate in theology, H.E. Msgr. Zani dedicated himself to the education of youth, first as a teacher, then as director of the National Office for Education, Schools and Universities. Appointed undersecretary for the Congregation for Catholic Education in 2002, and in 2012 he became secretary of the same Congregation, succeeding H.E. Msgr. Jean-Louis Bruguès, who in turn became Archivist and Librarian of H.R.C.

According to the provisions of the Apostolic Constitution *Predicare Evangelium*, promulgated on March 19, the Congregation for Catholic Education and the Pontifical Council for Culture merged into the Dicastery for Culture and Education. H.E. Card. José Tolentino de Mendonça was chosen to lead the new Dicastery, after his four years in the role now assumed by H.E. Msgr. Zani, to whom the entire Library extends its best wishes.





*Book! Boom!*  
*An explosion of books and colors*



Friday, October 18 marked the opening of the *Book Boom!* exhibition, organized in collaboration with the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the Holy See.

For the third time, the Library hosts a contemporary artist, offering materials from its own collections to build a story that draws inspiration from two different histories, which here converge. "Contemporaneity is grafted into history and history is grafted into contemporaneity."

This time, the exhibition spaces of the Vatican Library display works by the well-known Dutch artist Irma Boom, a name that evokes an explosion, but which in the original means "tree," from which the book derives, a noble product of its material. Along with Boom's works are Vatican specimens of calligrams from different eras and cultures, Futurist books in their material experimentation, and graphic works by Bruno Munari, who, "moving from early Futurism, has traced a trajectory that comes very close to the past and current production of the artist from the Netherlands."

As soon as the visitor reaches the Library's entrance staircase, a swirl of colors from the Dutch graphic designer and book-maker's various works of art fills the view.

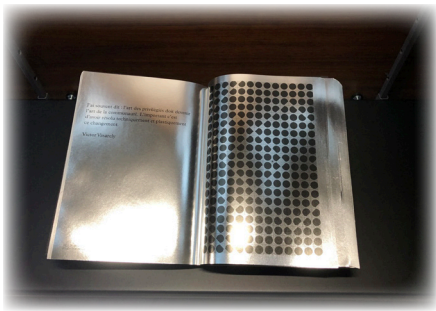
The artist's name, broken up into large and powerful vermilion dashes on the walls, seems to be in motion: the letters "explode" on the walls when seen from a distance, craftily blending the artist's name and the noun Book with a luminous metal letter "k" that slides into the "m".

Irma Boom's works in the exhibition are intended to offer multi-sensory experiences: tactile, acoustic, and olfactory. Her books are not only books to be read, but also objects to be experienced with the senses. The smell of meadows and moss reach the nose when reading *Bryophytes and lichens of Letterewe*, and one has the sensation of touching the moss by running one's fingers over the book edges.

There are also works commissioned by major companies, such as *Renault = Présent* (2016): "a book weighing 1.5 kg because it is printed on very thin and glossy aluminum paper, in which the pages are reflected by each other with monochromatic colors that recall those of the external parts of cars." Colors triumph in the volume *Kleur/Colour* (2004), which offers a new reading of the works of ancient and contemporary artists, from Van Gogh, Dürer and Rembrandt to Wahrol and Fontana, "translated into chromatic diagrams that in turn are expressed through vertical stripes."



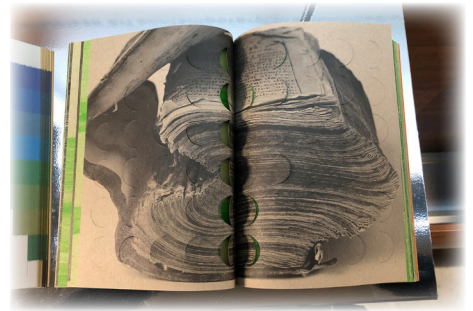




Renault = Présent - 2016



Kleur / Colour - 2004



Mutilaties - 2017

*Mutilaties* (2017) is made with semi-circular cuts on each page, so that as you flip through it, you make a sound, as if you were damaging the book. The artist has on each occasion succeeded in “transforming reading into a form of experiential learning.” And the content inspires the form of the book.

Irma Boom also found inspiration in the Vatican Library with the “bubble paper” commonly used to treat books with nitrogen for their disinfection. In ... *Boom!*, this material has become transparent cases that house works by the book designer. Several bubbles have been placed on the marble balustrades of the entrance staircase and in the other exhibition spaces, thus attracting visitors and inviting them to come closer to observe the contents more closely, and to understand the importance of preservation.

Here Boom has endeavored to show the superiority of books over digital books, which do not allow for the same sensory experience.

In the Sistine Library, the “Boomian” energy meets the graphic commotion of books related to Futurism, disarmingly experimental, which are here preserved in *De Luca* collection.

The library of Msgr. Giuseppe De Luca (1898-1962), scholar, founder of the series *Edizioni di Storia e Letteratura*, arrived at the Vaticana a few years after his death, and remained neglected and scarcely considered for a long time.

The *De Luca* collection includes over one hundred thousand volumes, catalogued during the period of the prefecture of Raffaele Farina (1999-2007), sdb. The collection held many first editions sent to the prelate, often to be reviewed or given in tribute, as well as some incunabula and ancient or rare texts. Also preserved in this multitude of diverse expressions are some four hundred works by Futurist authors or authors related to the movement, a selection of which material is now on display on the first floor of the Library until Feb. 25.

The books from the *De Luca* collection selected for the exhibition are of interest here not because of their content, but because of the experimental force of their materiality, initiated by the movement founded by Filippo Tommaso Marinetti in 1909. It is inspired by modern dynamism, with the exaltation of technology and regenerative force. But there is no shortage of books that come to us from the ancient world in the beautiful artistic renditions of the texts.







*"De laudibus Sanctae Crucis" - Hrabanus Maurus (789-856)*

*Calligram - Ott. lat. 88, ff. 22v-23r*

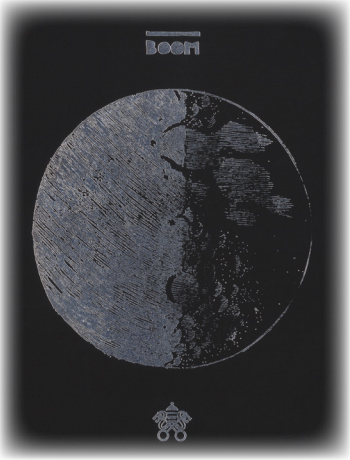
***"FuturMoon" the Vatican Library's 2023 agenda***

For the year of 2023, the Vatican Library offers an agenda created by Irma Boom.

The inspiration for the daily planner that will mark the time of the coming year comes from the past, that is, from Galileo Galilei's *Sidereus Nuncius*, a work published on March 13, 1610, a copy of which is preserved in the *Barberini* collection of the Vatican Library. Galileo's observations of our satellite through his "telescope" enabled him to revolutionize the entire Aristotelian-Ptolemaic astronomical and cosmological view and to propose a new vision of the heavens and the planets that inhabit them.

Observations of the celestial vault also gave rise to the representation of the Moon in the spectacular drawing that presents the morphological peculiarities of the satellite as we know them, while its surface was then considered smooth. And it was precisely the drawing of the Galilean Moon that inspired Irma Boom's work displayed on the cover, where the Moon "shines metallic against a background of intense blackness."

Inside the publication we find "a futurist-style reinterpretation of those lunar phases found in the treatise on astronomy that first revealed the surface, described as *aspera et inaequalis* [...], of the only natural satellite orbiting the Earth. Hence the title *FuturisMoon* given to the 2023 diary, also inspired by an autograph dedication by Filippo Tommaso Marinetti (1876-1944) to writer Achille Ricciardi (1884-1923), found on the exhibit copy of the work *Zang Tumb Tuuum*. Here, the author signs as 'Futuris Marinetti' within a sharp wedge that 'wounds' the waning course of contemporary literary passatism."



The Moon, made flat, has fluorescent colors that change every three months, according to the succession of its phases, thus marking time and days. Over the course of the year are the futurist works preserved in the Vatican Library, which also undergo a transformation in the agenda.

A reflection related to the use of time underlies the project. This diary "invites people to limit their commitments by making available only three lines a day, a number intentionally chosen by Irma for its symbolic and spiritual value. To get out of that allotted time and occupy the pages of the agenda with further commitments, one must 'force' the sheets, bound in the Japanese style, with a letter opener."

The invitation is to focus attention on the real priorities, on what really matters and thus return to giving the right value to "our" time, as much as possible.



## *“Lectio magistralis” by Card. Ravasi for the School of Library Science*

To an audience of School of Library Science students, faculty, scholars and Library employees gathered in the Sistine Hall, Card. Gianfranco Ravasi offered a master lecture entitled *The Bible as Library* on the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi.

Organized as part of the “Pope Francis Chair for High Studies in Library Science,” the *lectio* was introduced by three contextual premises both visually and textually speaking, related to the “marvellous” environment - as the Cardinal defined it -, that hosted the event.

The talk centered on the library of 73 books that constitute the Bible, presented through two distinct registers: the written text of the law and the word underlying the written text. The *Biblia*, an overarching title for a plurality of books, which is understood as “Book” in all fields, with an increasingly unified interpretation, is chronologically distributed over a millennium, to which vastly different authorial and editorial hands have contributed.

The Bible represents the prototype of all libraries generated by it with its richness in exegesis, theology,

philology, etc.

The text of the Hebrew and Aramaic Old Testament, without including the deuterocanonical texts (those books excluded by the Hebrew canon), consists of 305,441 words and has texts of widely varying lengths. The New Testament in turn contains 138,020 words, and consists in relatively large books. The Cardinal dwelt at length on distinct words, their sounds and the context in which they were used.

Certain individual terms were considered in their meaning and the different usage they adopt when translated. He also spoke about how writing becomes a divine act of communication: “The Lord writes his law on the tables of flesh of the heart.” And the word, which “rends the silence of nothingness and creates,” comes to constitute the principle of history and revelation.

All in all, it was a touching lesson, which offered new insights for reflection and for rereading the *Text* with new awareness, one which helps to find the divine in human life.

### *A conference on Federico di Montefeltro on the sixth centenary of his birth*



Three days, Nov. 16-18, were dedicated to the Duke of Urbino Federico di Montefeltro in his city.

The University of Urbino Carlo Bo and the Galleria Nazionale delle Marche organized a conference, edited by Tommaso di Carpegna Falconieri, Maria Grazia Fachechi, Antonello Corsaro, Luigi Gallo, on the occasion of the sixth centenary of the birth of the well-known figure. Participating in the conference were distinguished experts who exchanged views with each other within the framework of five sessions dedicated to the duke’s world: *Politics, Illuminated manuscripts, Culture and literary life, The Sources*, and a round table entitled *The presence of the Federico legacy: art and culture*.

For the Vatican Library, it was an opportunity to raise awareness of the ducal library’s collection of manuscripts, which it has held since 1657.

Claudia Montuschi, Director of the Manuscripts Department, presented a talk entitled *I manoscritti Urbinati in Biblioteca Vaticana: conservation, cataloging, digitization*.

Among the best-known codices that are part of the Urbino collection: the Bible, *Urb. lat. 1-2*:

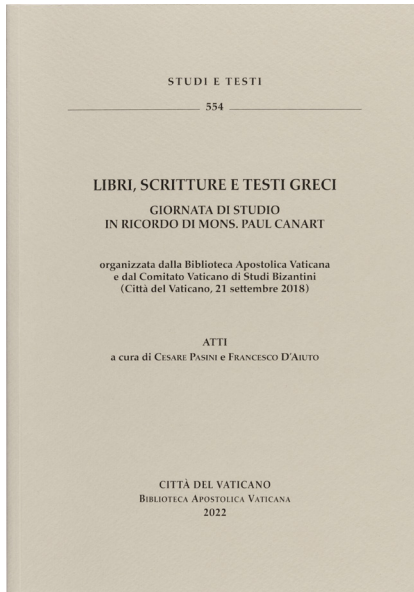
[https://digi.vatlib.it/view/MSS\\_Urb.lat.1;](https://digi.vatlib.it/view/MSS_Urb.lat.1;)

[https://digi.vatlib.it/view/MSS\\_Urb.lat.2;](https://digi.vatlib.it/view/MSS_Urb.lat.2;) and the *Dante*,

*Urb. lat. 365*: [https://digi.vatlib.it/view/MSS\\_Urb.lat.365](https://digi.vatlib.it/view/MSS_Urb.lat.365).



*The proceedings of a day of studies dedicated to Msgr. Paul Canart,  
"scriptor Graecus" of the Vatican Library*



On October 27 the presentation of the volume *Libri, scritture e testi greci, giornata di studio in onore di mons. Paul Canart* took place in the Sistine Hall of the Library. The volume contained the proceedings of a day of studies dedicated to Msgr. Paul Canart, celebrated on September 21, 2018, one year after his death on September 14, 2017.

It is a "choral miscellany" in thanksgiving for the Belgian monsignor who worked and studied at the Vaticana for sixty years. The volume contains nine contributions by talented scholars offering insights into the subjects dear to Msgr. Canart: paleography, codicology, library history, hagiography, Byzantinistics, bibliography, as well as insights into new strands of study unimaginable in the recent past, but newly made possible by the research tools available today.

Joining the Library in 1957, Paul Canart (1927-2017) began cataloging Greek manuscripts in 1961. A rather shy and reserved man, he devoted his entire existence to the study of Greek manuscripts and was an expert in Greek paleography, which he taught at the School of Paleography of the Vatican Apostolic Archives, from 1978 to 2000. The Archives have also dedicated a collection of studies to Monseigneur Canart.

Monseigneur Canart also taught at the Vatican School of Library Science; his subject was "The Manuscript Book." At the Library he was Director of the Printed Books Department from 1980 to 1987, then Director of the Manuscripts Department, and finally Vice Prefect from 1993 to 1998.

"Every five years he would publish a volume of the catalogue of manuscripts that had been entrusted to him, and more, of course," says Card. Raffaele Farina, who was Prefect of the Vatican Library (1997-2007) and Librarian (2007-2010). Card. Farina met the scholar in 1981 in the Pontifical Committee for Historical Sciences of which both were members. "He had an extraordinary and profound serenity, which was the secret of his success and his communication with others [...]. He was often alone for long periods at a time. He was a good priest, endowed with an intensely interior religiosity, that never disturbed anyone. He was a hard worker, motivated by his sense of duty, but also by his practiced efficiency, scientific formation and style of life."

Msgr. Canart said of himself, "I have been and remain essentially a cataloguer of manuscripts." He was gifted with a lively intellectual curiosity; he loved manuscripts, which he studied with deeply methodological rigor.

"Paleographer par excellence," a man of the highest science, Msgr. Canart was friendly and "generous in bestowing benevolence." He was always generous with his time; although he was very demanding as a teacher, he was always friendly and helpful to his students.

The volume, edited by the Prefect Msgr. Cesare Pasini and Prof. Francesco D'Aiuto is a gift; it is a worthy memorial and token of our deep gratitude to the scholar, the teacher, and the man.

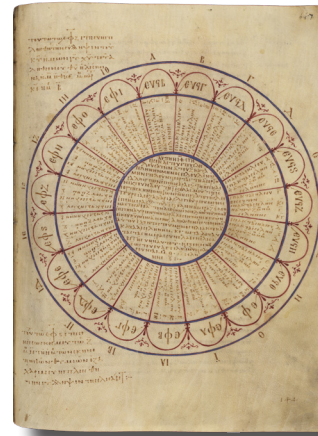




## Avita Novare renews its collaboration with the Vatican Library



Vat. gr. 1941, f. 208r



Vat. gr. 1941, f. 147r

For several years the Avita Novare Foundation, acting under the aegis of the Fondation de Luxembourg, has been collaborating with the Vatican Library by funding the digitization of Greek manuscripts.

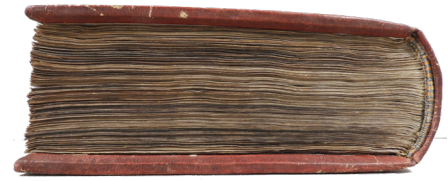
The initiative took shape in 2017 for a single manuscript, and in subsequent years contributions have been added to digitize several other codices, reaching a total of 27. The latest project has just been completed with codices *Vat. gr. 156*, *Vat. gr. 977*, *Vat. gr. 1038* and *Vat. gr. 1941*.

Over time, in addition to digitization, it has also been possible to carry out conservation work in order to be able to proceed with the photographing and thereafter the metadata of the digitized documents.

Recently, the Foundation, to which we express our gratitude, decided to renew this beautiful partnership for another four years, from 2023 to 2026, financing the costs of digitization and activities related to the preservation and description of another group of Greek manuscripts preserved at the Vatican Library.



Vat. gr.1646  
before and after conservation  
treatments on the spine



A Greek manuscript "peeks through" the doors and windows of the Library



## *The Manuscript Depository: its adaptation to the demands of modern conservation*

The Manuscript Depository of the Vatican Library is considered one of the best examples of location for the preservation of ancient collections. Dating back to the Prefecture (1971-1984) of (later Cardinal) Alfons Maria Stickler, its construction was made of reinforced concrete. In 1980 the idea of such an undertaking began to be outlined and in 1983 the work was completed.

In the Library Courtyard, also known as the "Courtyard of the Merangoli," for the citrus fruits that used to be grown there, excavations were carried out in order to build the so-called "bunker," without windows (as sunlight is a source of danger) and with a good ventilation system.

The space of the Depository is nearly 700 square meters for a total volume of just over 2,000 cubic meters, with 3,000 linear meters of shelving. Relative humidity (50-55%) and room temperature (20-22°) are kept at a constant rate to ensure the best possible preservation of documents. Thanks to the circulation of outside air (about 1,800 m<sup>3</sup>/h), air flow is guaranteed for 7,000 m<sup>3</sup>/h, that is, every hour the air in the Depository is moved more than three times, renewing it almost completely.

The Manuscript Depository also benefited from the last part of the major construction carried out between 2007 and 2010. The then prefect (1997-2007) Raffaele Farina, sdb, commissioned Prof. Carlo Federici, former director of the Institute of Book Pathology, then professor at Ca' Foscari University, who currently teaches "Principles and Methods of Book Conservation and Restoration" at the Vatican School of Library Science, to propose a project to redevelop the Depository.

When Prof. Federici was called to make improvements to the Depository, his first reaction was surprise, since he was already familiar with the characteristics of the and thought it was not only adequate, but an ideal place compared to many other important libraries. But the prefect told him that since it had been built more than two decades ago, it was beginning "to show some signs of senility which it would be advisable to remedy in a timely manner, before these signs translated into concrete risk factors."

Upon examining the rooms, Federici became aware of some critical issues, starting with the floor, which was covered with synthetic material and already showed obvious signs of deterioration, particularly in the spaces of greatest wear and tear. A proposal was made to replace the floor with more traditional materials that would ensure greater durability.

For the concrete walls, simple tests detected the release of dust, albeit a modest amount. This could be remedied with the use of a type of fixative (based on silicone or acrylic polymers), which would consolidate the substrate without

totally waterproofing the surfaces. Through a series of measurements, it was possible to verify that the air conditioning system showed clear signs of obsolescence. Moreover, the fact that the technical rooms that housed such equipment were adjacent to the Depository could have posed a risk to the manuscripts. And the ventilation, which implemented air from outside, was not as good as first imagined.

A space separated by grates within the Depository, the so-called "Reserve," houses the documents of the greatest value, delicacy or fragility. At that time, the papyri were also stored there; they were later on transferred. But since they require a very dry environment lacking in the Reserve, which has the same hydrometric parameters as in the rest of the Depository, the location was thus not ideal for this type of material. Although the Vatican papyri are not very numerous, they have different sizes, in some cases exceeding three meters. Therefore an adjoining space to the Depository with relatively lower humidity was arranged in the area formerly occupied by the air conditioning plant: the *Mater Verbi Papyrus Room*.

Card. Farina tells: "Only an exceptional acquisition could lead us to such an achievement: the *Bodmer Papyrus XIV-XV*," the most ancient document preserved, later on called *Hanna Papyrus*, after the name of the generous benefactor Frank Hanna who donated it to Pope Benedict XVI and his Library in 2006.

The air treatment plant was placed on the building's sunroof, next to the one for the Library's general air conditioning. This was done for greater safety and more efficient filtration of the air input, a factor of primary importance for conservation.

Small and large interventions to the improvement of the Depository, interventions which often escape notice, but which contribute to the better preservation of the treasures of the Vatican Library for future generations.





## *The second issue of The Vatican Library Review has come out*

We had already given notice of the publication of the Library's new journal, *The Vatican Library Review*.

The second issue of the first volume is now out. The various contributions mainly concern palimpsests, manuscript pages that have been refashioned to write new texts on them. The current number of shelfmarks for these manuscripts preserved in the Vatican Library exceeds 620.

In recent years several projects have been initiated with technical expertise to recover deleted texts; these have produced new results, further highlighting the need to work together. The articles in this issue are the result of the successful marriage of technology and philology and of scientists and humanists to recover the undertexts. Their restoration has made it possible to analyze details that have remained invisible for more than a millennium.

<https://brill.com/view/journals/vlr/vlr-overview.xml>

*History of Palimpsests Photography in the Vatican Library: A Case Study of Fronto in Vat. lat. 5750.* Irene Altamura, Emanuele Angelini, Roberta Massino, and Irmgard Schuler.

*Multispectral Imaging of Vat. gr. 73: Overcoming the Exuberance of Angelo Mai and the Gelatin Treatment of Franz Ehrle.* Michael B. Toth, and William A. Christens-Barry.

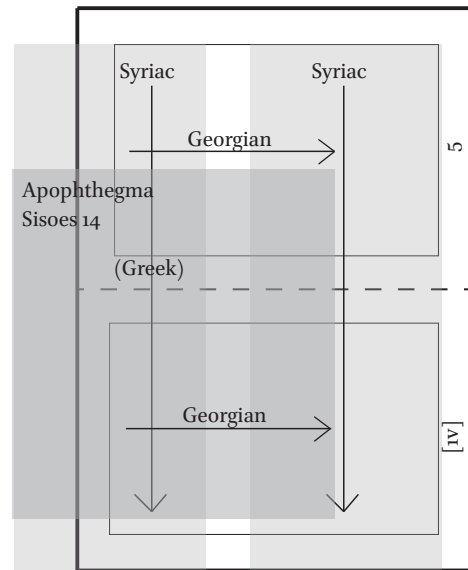
*Pour une relecture du palimpseste de Strabon.* Didier Marcotte, Pascal Cotte, and Aude Cohen-Skalli.

*Hoku - A Multi-spectral Software Tool to Recover Erased Writing on Palimpsests.* Keith T. Knox.

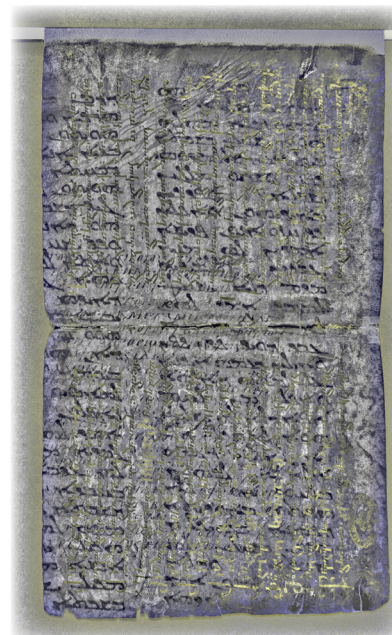
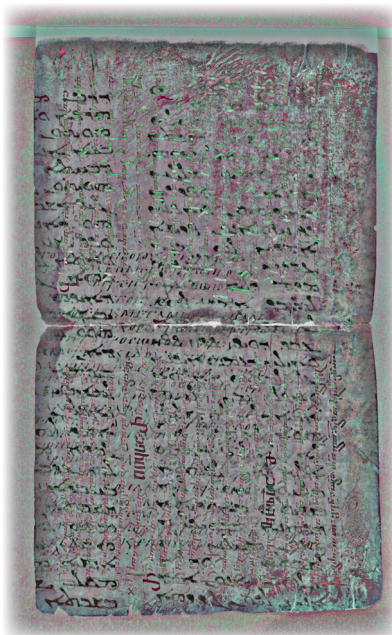
*Reconstruction et édition de deux cahiers retrouvés du ms. Sinäi, geo. 49.* Bernard Outtier

*Membra disjecta sinaitica III: Two (Palimpsest) Fragments of Sin. geo. 49 and Their Four Syriac Undertexts.* Grigory Kessel.

*The Greek Fragments of Apophthegmata Patrum in Vat. iber. 4.* András Németh.



*Schema of the three layers in Vat. iber. 4*



*Outline of the three layers of text in Vat. iber. 4*

*Vat. iber. 4, ff. 1v+5r. Two processing of the same page: multispectral images made at the Library*

*- postprocessing on Hoku by A. Németh -*

*Three layers of text: 1. (the oldest layer). Old Syriac translation of Matthew (6th cent. in.); 2. (the middle layer). "Apophthegmata Patrum" (6th-8th cent., Sisoës 14); 3. Georgian hymnographic collection (Mar Saba, mid-10th cent.).*



## Msgr. Enrico Carusi "scriptor" of the Vatican Library



Carusi

On Friday, Dec. 14, 1945, Msgr. Enrico Carusi, former *scriptor latinus* of the Library, passed away at his residence in Palazzo del Belvedere in Vatican City. He was known for his "authority and doctrine, one of the dearest and most domestic figures among us," wrote the once Prefect Anselm M. Albareda to the Monsignor's brother, General Antonio Carusi, on Dec. 17.

"Twenty days earlier he was still at his desk: though he was tired and suffering, he was still diligent and attentive, he seemed to have only left his work for a short leave."

Born in a small town of the province of Chieti, Pollutri, on Feb. 1, 1878, Carusi became a pupil of Ernesto Monaci and Giovanni Battista Monticolo. In 1902, he joined the Vatican Library at a very young age, or rather, the youngest *scriptor* the Library had ever had. He was, however, already trained in paleographic and historical studies, and well prepared to devote himself to the research that would lead him to produce his best works, such as the *Dispacci e lettere di Giacomo Gherardi, nunzio pontificio a Firenze e Milano* in the series *Studi e testi*, which was completed only six years after his arrival at the Vatican Library. He had already published *Il diario romano di I. Gherardi da Volterra in Rerum Italicarum Scriptores*.

Along with his colleague Marco Vattasso he prepared the two volumes of *Codices Vaticani latini 9851-10300* (1914) and *Codices Vaticani latini 10301-10700* (1920).

Luigi Berra, who was also a colleague of Carusi at the Vatican Library, remembered him as "balanced, courteous, smiling and witty; steady in his labors, fair in his collaborations, generous in his counsel; irreproachable in his manners, and an exemplary priest, even though with gentlemanly graciousness, he restricted his religious influence on others to the example of his life alone, avoiding verbal apologetics and doctrinal polemics."

From his initial interest in the historical investigation of the humanistic period and paleographical studies,

which he manifested in the *Monumenti paleografici degli Abruzzi* (1922), he was a delegate of the Deputazione abruzzese di Storia Patria, as well as in the Roman one, in the *Monumenti paleografici veronesi* (1929) and in the direction of the *Pontificum Romanorum diplomata phototypice expressa*.

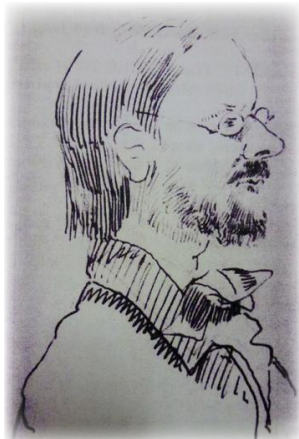
He broadened the scope of his interests so that some works remained unfinished due to his many obligations. This type of work includes the "Carte di S. Maria in Campo Marzio" or even the "Cartario dell'abbazia di S. Maria delle Tremiti", to which he had devoted many years of work. The manuscript descriptions prepared in 1926 for the volume on *Codices Vaticani latini 11414-11709* were later published by Jose Ruyschaert in 1959. And the work on the *Codices manu scripti Vaticani latini 11710-12344* remained at the preparatory stage of manuscript descriptions. "In short, he digressed from the Middle Ages to the nineteenth century, from St. Francis of Assisi to Gaetano Moroni, from Giordano Bruno to the statutes of the bagliava of Orsogna."

In 1919 he was invited to form part of the newly formed Vinci Commission, on the occasion of the four hundredth anniversary of Leonardo's death, to collaborate on the national edition of his works. He was elected a member of the Institute of Vinci Studies and secretary of the commission that edited it. He was in charge of the important series of facsimile editions, with transcriptions of Leonardo's codices such as the *Codice Arundel* (263), printed between 1922 and 1929, or *I fogli mancanti del codice di Leonardo da Vinci su'l volo degli uccelli nella Biblioteca Reale di Torino*.

For the Vatican Library, Carusi represented "the tradition of Fr. Ehrle: the tradition of the *scriptor* who is not the librarian in the common sense, but is an illustrator of the treasures of books belonging to the Holy See; he is the noble and courteous host, a lord of culture, a mediator of the liberality of the Roman Pontiffs toward the learned of all faiths, of all races, of the whole world."



*"A new life from Rome to London:  
the letters of Charles Willes Wilshere to Giovanni Battista De Rossi"*



Sixty-nine letters from wealthy English collector Charles Willes Wilshere (1814-1906) to archaeologist Giovanni Battista De Rossi (1822-1894) preserved in the Vatican Library were studied and transcribed by Susan Walker (Ashmolean Museum, University of Oxford) in February 2013. The work will be published in the Vatican Library's historic *Studi e testi* series.

The letters testify to Wilshere's support for De Rossi's publishing and research activities and his efforts to promote the image of the Catholic Church in England and in particular to disseminate the history and material culture of early Christianity to a wider audience. The main core of the Wilshere collection consists of late Roman gilt glass, sarcophagi, and funerary inscriptions, both Jewish and Christian, from Rome and southern Italy.

These letters have never been fully published in a critical and annotated edition. The Wilshere-De Rossi correspondence includes letters that shed new light on the history of archaeological studies in Rome and southern Italy, and in addition, on the interpretation of the history of early Christianity in Rome and beyond the borders of the peninsula.

The correspondence also constitutes a source of great importance for the study of the personalities of the two scholars and their circle of intellectual contacts. The project builds on the results achieved with the publication of the 2017 catalog, in which excerpts from the Wilshere-De Rossi correspondence were published with the aim of reconstructing the events behind the formation of the Wilshere collection. With this edition, the history of the collection is thus placed within its historical, cultural, and political context during years of political turmoil, a difficult period.

The correspondence sheds new light on De Rossi's role in the trade and export of antiquities to Rome and from Rome to England.

It also contains information regarding the return to the Vatican Library of two objects that had belonged to Wilshere, a generous act of devotion for which the English collector received a medal from Pope Leo XIII. Useful information emerges from the missives regarding Wilshere's efforts to support De Rossi also in his activities in the study of early Christian art and archaeology, a new disciplinary field which, at that time, was still taking shape in academia.

In December 2021 Susan Walker identified a previously unknown group of 237 documents belonging to Charles Wilshere and his daughter Alice. These documents had grown to a substantial size in 1935 in the archives of Dr. Darwell Stone, the headmaster of Pusey House in Oxford. This record holds three letters from De Rossi to Wilshere. One in particular is of extreme interest to the history of the collection now at the Ashmolean. De Rossi wrote this letter on May 30, 1870, in response to a letter from Wilshere regarding a ban on the export of a sarcophagus he purchased at the sale of the Sciarra collection, in which inscriptions from the Jewish catacombs of Vigna Randanini had also been purchased. Another document which is also preserved at Pusey House contains details regarding the sale and export of the same inscriptions.

The documents being published illustrate much more than the history of the collection. For example, in a letter from in 1904, ten years after De Rossi's death, his daughter Natalia sends Wilshere a touching message of good wishes and thanks the collector for his support of her father's and her family's activities.

In this way, the letters also represent a testimony to the friendship between the two and their mutual support.



## Visits



### *German Ambassador to the Holy See*



On Monday afternoon, October 3, H.E. Bernhard Erhard Kotsch, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to the Holy See since September 2021, visited the Apostolic Library in the company of his family.

Dr. Kotsch, Mrs. Regine, and the young Franziska, Benedikt, and Leonard showed great interest in the history of the papal institution. In particular, the children were able to observe up close some of the activities related to the preservation and restoration of ancient documents at the Restoration Laboratory while they were being carried out.

We were delighted with the visit of the Kotsch family and particularly impressed by the interest shown by Franziska, Benedikt and Leonard in the more scholarly aspects related to conservation of ancient documents.



### *The prime minister of Montenegro*



Mr. Dritan Abazović, Prime Minister of Montenegro, visited the Vatican Library last October 10, after meeting with the Holy Father and the Secretary of State, H.E. Card. Pietro Parolin.

Accompanied by a small delegation, the guest arrived at the Vatican Library from the Galleria Lapidaria and was able to take a closer look at the two manuscripts that he himself had asked to see.

The manuscripts involved were *Borg. ill. 2*, the second volume of the *Annalium ecclesiasticorum synopsis chronologica, legis gratiae seu novae, eiusque primi seculi temporum series*, written by Andrea Zmajević, archbishop of Antivari. The author, born in 1628 in Perast, present-day Montenegro, writes in Slavonic and Latin about the history of the Church from creation to the present time, and gives special attention to the history of the Church in the Balkan Peninsula.

The other manuscript he requested was *Vat. lat. 6923*, containing two letters from Pope Gregory VI. The first is dated Jan. 13, 1078 and is written to Mihailo Voislavjević, ruler of Duklja (1050) the historic Dioclea, now in Montenegro territory. The document calls Voislavjević king of the Slavs (*Gregorius episcopus servus servorum Dei sclavorum regi Michaeli salutem et apostolicas benedictiones*).

The second letter is addressed to the citizens of Ragusa, today's Dubrovnik. These transcriptions constitute important historical documents of the relations between the papal court and the present-day territory of Montenegro.





## From Sweden for Queen Christina

On the afternoon of October 19 and morning of October 21 two separate groups of guests from Sweden visited the Library.

In the first group was Johan Cederlund, director of the Zornmuseet in Mora, a museum which preserves the works of painter Anders Zorn. He was accompanied by Magnus Vahlquist and Mrs. Märta Christina. Magnus Vahlquist served as Ambassador to Japan and is honorary chairman of the Scandinavia-Japan Sasakawa Foundation, which strives to further improve friendly relations between the five Scandinavian countries and Japan.

Count Gustaf Trolle Bonde, Ms. Margareta and Bertil Hagman, Nina and Jan Eldh were also among the guests.



Members of the Board of the Swedish House of Nobility visited the Library on the 21st. Among them were Patrik Tigerschiöld, chairman of the Board, and Rebecka Millhagen Adelswärd, who is also a member of the Board of the Friends of the Swedish Association in Rome.

The House of Nobility is based in downtown Stockholm in a splendid 17th-century palace, also known as the Knights' House, where archival documents and records of the aristocracy of the Scandinavian country are preserved. The group was accompanied by the general secretary of *Riddarhuset*, Erik Drakenberg.

A small exhibit with manuscripts that belonged to Queen Christina, as well as other documents related to the history of Sweden, was prepared for the two groups, who were particularly interested in the *Reginense* collection preserved in the Vatican Library.



*Medals on display for the gracious guests*



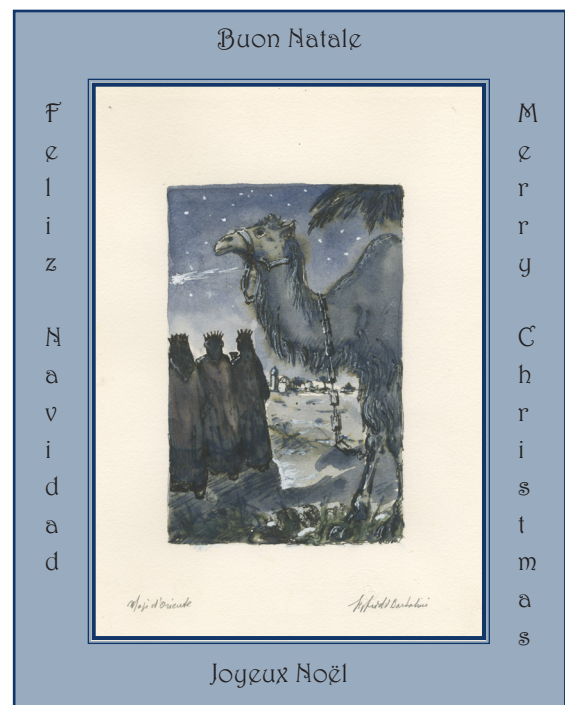
*Gasparo Morone Mola, Medal of Alexander VII commemorating the entry of Queen Christina into Rome, 1655  
Md. Pont. AlexanderVII. 20\_D-R*



*Giovanni Andrea Lorenzani Medal of Alexander VIII commemorating the acquisition of Queen Christina's Library by the Vatican Library, 1690  
Md. Pont. AlexanderVII. 46\_D-R*



*Giuseppe Ortolani, Extraordinary medal of Clement XI celebrating the monument in honor of Christina of Sweden in the Vatican basilica, 1705  
Md. Pont. ClemensXI. 43\_D-R*





## Guests from Portugal

H.E. Bishop Rui Valério, military bishop in Portugal, the military ordinariate established in 1966 by Pope Paul VI (1963-1978), visited the Library last October 27.

The prelate was accompanied on the visit by some welcome Portuguese guests: Admiral António Silva Ribeiro (Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces since 2018) and Mrs. Júlia Silva Ribeiro; Captain João Mateus; and Fr. Alfredo Patricio, rector of the Portuguese College.

Admiral Ribeiro, a lover of maps, was able to leaf through the volume reproducing the maps drawn in the Latin translation of the *Geography* by Ptolemy (*Urb. lat.* 274).



## The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Croatia

Gordan Grlić Radman, Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of the Republic of Croatia, visited the Library last November 9, accompanied by his wife and a small delegation.

A small exhibition with documents related to the history and culture of the country overlooking the Adriatic Sea was prepared for the gracious guests, who had asked to view some manuscripts.

The codex *Vat. slav. 3*, *Lectionary of the Gospels*, "Codex Assemanianus," 10th-11th centuries, one of the oldest - if not the oldest - preserved Slavonic-language manuscripts.



And the codices: *Borg. ill. 4*, *Missal*, mid-14th cent; *Borg. ill. 8*, *Missal*, 1435; *Vat. slav. 19*, *Breviary*, 1465; *Sire T. 1*, *Bulla Ineffabilis Deus*, in ecclesiastical Slavonic language.





## The Ambassador of Malta

On Tuesday, November 15, the Ambassador of Malta to the Quirinal, H.E. Mr. Carmel Vassallo, came to the Library. He was accompanied by his kind spouse Mrs. Mary Anne and a group of embassy staff and families.

The visit offered a nice moment to get to know each other, and was animated by a sincere interest of the welcome guests in the Library, its history, and its activities, also manifested by the very young Luca and Cedric.



## From Argentina

A delegation from the Latin American Rabbinical Seminary of Buenos Aires, accompanied by Fr. Andrzej Choromanski, a member of the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of Christian Unity, visited the Vatican Library on the morning of Dec. 1, welcomed by the Government of the Library. The following day the group had an audience with the Holy Father.

During the visit the guests were shown a number of ancient manuscripts, guided by Claudia Montuschi, director of the Manuscripts Department, and Delio Proverbio, *scriptor orientalis*: *Vat. ebr.* 66, probably the oldest extant Hebrew odex, dating to the 9th-10th centuries, apart from fragments in the Cairo *Genizah*; *Neofiti 1*, of the 16th century, the Palestinian *Targum* of the *Pentateuch*, the only extant copy of Aramaic *Targum* (the work of several scribes); *Vat. ebr.* 133, *Talmud*, 13th-14th centuries. Lastly, the visitors were able to view *Ross. 498*, Maimonides, *Mishne Torah*, first part: books 1-5.



This manuscript is thought to be the first part of an original unitary codex made in Italy around the year 1457; the second part was conserved in a private collection and later acquired by the Israel Museum in Jerusalem and the Metropolitan in New York.

## A collaboration with Australia

Recently the Department of Printed Books was involved in a research project on an *incunabulum* held at the University Library in Sydney, Australia.

Andreina Rita, Director of the Department of Printed Books, tells us about it: "The Vatican Library has accepted the proposal of Professor Jaynie Anderson of the University of Melbourne and Dr. Philip Kent, director of the University of Sydney Library, to deepen the material study of the incunabulum of University of Sydney Library, *Inc.* 97.1. The book transmits the text of the *Divine Comedy* in the Venetian edition of Pietro Quarengi, dated October 11, 1497 (<https://data.cehl.org/istc/id00035000>).

The investigation is ordered to broadening and deepening the framework of knowledge concerning this book. A drawing *a sanguigna* was recently identified in one of the exemplar's back fly leaves, with a note recording the date of death of the painter Giorgio di Castelfranco Veneto, better known as "Giorgione."

The Library offered its scholarly and technical advice, also availing itself of the collaboration of the Cabinet for scientific research concerning the Cultural Heritage of the Vatican Museums.

The Australian *incunabulum*, which arrived at the Li-

brary in early September, was the subject of bibliological, photographic, and diagnostic investigations. Study centered on the material, binding, and inks, specifically of the inscription and of other traces left on the volume and the drawing. The exemplar was also analyzed by comparing it with others of the same edition preserved in the Library. The results of these studies were presented and discussed on October 24 at a meeting held in the Sistine Hall. In addition to Professor Anderson and Dr. Kent, the Australian delegation consisted of Julie Sommerfeldt, librarian of the University of Sydney Library, John Gagné, director of the Medieval and Early Modern Centre at the University of Sydney, Professor Francesco Borghesi and Lillo Guarneri, director emeritus of the Italian Cultural Institute in Sydney. From the Vatican Library, the following people were present: Prefect Msgr. Cesare Pasini, Vice Prefect Timothy Janz, Andreina Rita, the director of the Department of Printed Books, Ángela Nuñez Gaitán, head of the Restoration Laboratory, and Irmgard Schuler, head of the Photographic Laboratory. Also present was Professor Ulderico Santamaria, who is responsible for the Cabinet of scientific research concerning the Cultural Heritage of the Vatican Museums."



*The Vatican Library preserves three exemplars of the Divine Comedy printed in Venice by Pietro Quarengi - October 11, 1497  
Inc. II. 671, Stamp. Ross. 1144 and Stamp. Barb. AAA .I. 22.  
The first is a gift from Count Bogdan Hutten Czapski (1851-1937) to Pope Pio XI, May 1923; the other two belong to the well known "fondi" Rossiano and Barberini.*



## Miscellanea Bibliothecae Apostolicae Vaticanae

Since their beginnings in 1987, the *Miscellanea Bibliothecae Apostolicae Vaticanae* have always been hosted by the Vatican Library's series *Studi e testi*, in an autonomous numbering which has now reached number XXVII.

In their more than thirty years of history, the *Miscellanea* have welcomed and continue to welcome original scientific contributions relating to all of the Library's collections - manuscripts, printed materials, and numismatics. The contents spring from the many disciplines that the Vatican holdings involve; among other things they examine codicological and paleographic aspects, philological and paratextual, literary and historical-artistic, bibliological and archival, with a particular and primary focus on the Vatican collections. There are contributions and essays exploring the different experiences of written production from West to East, which span from antiquity to the contemporary era.

The *Miscellanea* are meant to host and publicize the research results of the international scholarly community that attends the Library. They intend to offer a wide research space for analytical studies that can be expressed in various forms: surveys on individual subjects, multi-

disciplinary themes, editions of texts, as well as works with a scope of census and inventory, with an extensive collection of images. Submissions are subject to anonymous peer review.

Scholars wishing to propose a contribution can write to: [critelli@vatlib.it](mailto:critelli@vatlib.it).



Chig. C.VII.205, f. 3 (detail)

*A farewell to Alfredo Papalia  
who retired in 2022*



As we do every year, in the last issue of OWL we say goodbye to colleagues who over the past twelve months have left the Library for retirement. In 2022 only one colleague joined the group of retirees, Alfredo Papalia.

Born in Rome on June 26, 1961, Alfredo Papalia graduated in Numismatics from the University of Rome "La Sapienza."

From 1988 he worked at first as a volunteer, and then on scholarship in the Medagliere of the Vatican Apostolic Library. He was hired permanently as a technical officer in that section. He left the Library on September 1.

Our heartfelt thanks and affectionate farewell go to our colleague Alfredo, who was very timid and reserved, but always kind and willing to serve in other areas of the Library as well, especially in the Printed Books Department.

*Encounter of the retirees of the Library*

On the evening of December 1, the Library's retirees gathered in a restaurant near Vatican City to spend a joyful evening together, an event that has not happened since 2019.

It was an important occasion to be together, recalling episodes, anecdotes, and shared moments over the course of thirty to forty years of life spent within the Institution. Our retired colleagues are living archives to draw on in order to know even the minute history of the recent past of the Institution in its everyday life.

And from those with so much experience, much can be learned: our 'elders' still have much to say and give.





*The Vatican Apostolic Library  
wishes you all  
Happy Holidays*



### *Cradle Song*

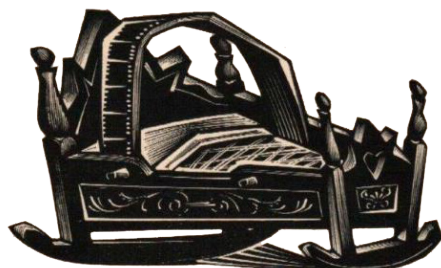
*Sleep, sleep, beauty bright,  
Dreaming in the joys of night;  
Sleep, sleep; in thy sleep  
Little sorrows sit and weep.*

*Sweet babe, in thy face  
Soft desires I can trace,  
Secret joys and secret smiles,  
Little pretty infant wiles.*

*As thy softest limbs I feel  
Smiles as of the morning steal  
O'er thy cheek, and o'er thy breast  
Where thy little heart doth rest.*

*O the cunning wiles that creep  
In thy little heart asleep!  
When thy little heart doth wake,  
Then the dreadful night shall break.*

*(William Blake, 1757-1827)*



*T. Marangoni, "Carnic cradle"*



*Urb. lat. 2, f. 201r (detail)*

*The*  
*Vatican Apostolic Library thanks*  
*The Sanctuary of Culture Foundation*  
*and*

- ADORA ITC s.r.l.
- Catholic Bishop's Conference of Korea
- Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the Holy See
- Fondation Avita Novare,  
under the aegis of the Fondation de Luxembourg
- Fondazione Italcementi Cav. Lav. Pesenti
- Fundação Gaudium Magnum -  
Maria e João Cortez de Lobão
- INAF-Istituto Nazionale di Astrofisica
- Jacob Wallenbergs Stiftelse
- Irmandade dos Clérigos (Porto)
- Von Mallinckrodt Foundation
- NTT Data Corporation
- Panduit Corporation
- Piql AS
- Polonsky Foundation
- Samuel H. Kress Foundation
- Metis Systems
- Santa casa da Misericórdia do Porto
- Stiftelsen Konung Gustav VI Adolfs fond för  
svensk kultur
- The Swedish Academy

- Stiftelsen Marcus och Amalia  
Wallenbergs Minnesfond
- UNIAPAC Foundation
- Universitätsbibliothek Heidelberg



- Michael I. Allen
- Pina Bartolini
- Franco Bevilacqua
- H.E. Åke Bonnier and Kristina Gustafsson Bonnier
- Irma Boom
- Simona Giampaoli and family
- Frank J. Hanna
- Warren Kirkendale
- Anthony Mandekic, Eric Esrailian and Lindy  
Schumacher
- Bill and Ann Marie Teuber
- Giovanni Tommasi Ferroni
- Scott and Lannette Turicchi



**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](mailto:orlandi@vatlib.it))**



© 2022 Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana

*ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. No part of the material protected by this copyright notice may be reproduced or utilized in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including storage and retrieval systems, without the written permission from the copyright holder.*