

## Online Window into the Library



«Avvisi» dalla Vaticana



Gismondi.Disegni.120 (detail)

## “New” fragments of the Hanna Papyrus

Four small fragments from the Bibliotheca Bodmeriana (located in Cologny, Switzerland) and belonging to the oldest document preserved in the Apostolic Library, the *Hanna Papyrus 1* (*Mater Verbi*), were recently handed over to the Vatican Library to be inserted where they belong into the relic like a puzzle.

The *Hanna Papyrus*, purchased on November 22, 2006 through the efforts of Frank J. Hanna III, was presented by the Hanna family to Pope Benedict XVI in January of 2007 on a particularly poignant occasion. The *Papyrus* contains most of the texts of the Gospels according to Luke and John. It constitutes one of the oldest witnesses of those texts and the earliest example by which we may see the final part of one Gospel (of Luke, in this case) and the beginning of another (John) on the same folio, an occurrence which proves the canonical order of the books. In the *Hanna Papyrus* we also find the first version of the *Pater Noster* (Luke).



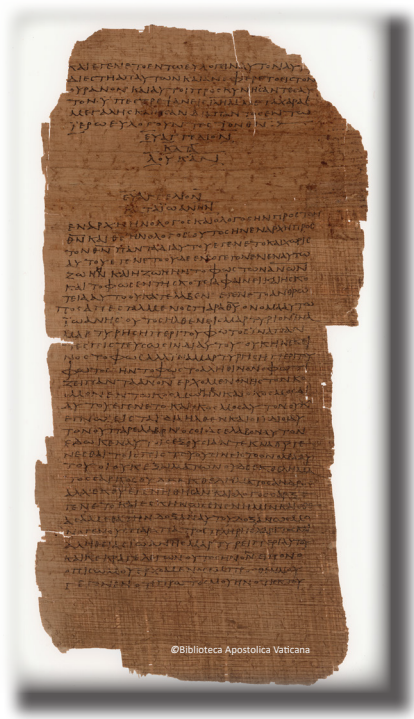
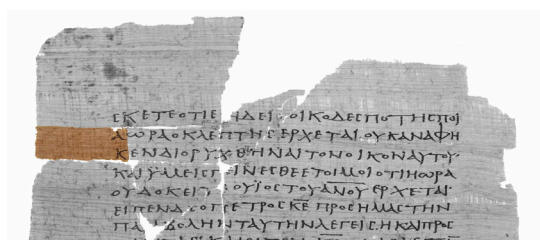
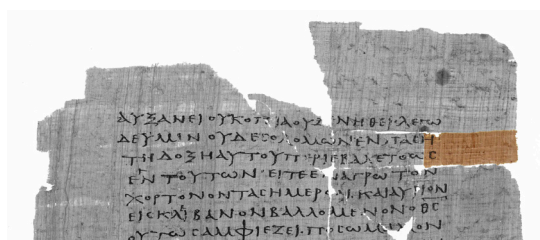


The “new” fragments were identified in 2020 as being part of *Papyrus Bodmer 14-15* (P75), which has since been named *Hanna Papyrus 1* (*Mater Verbi*) in honor of the benefactor.

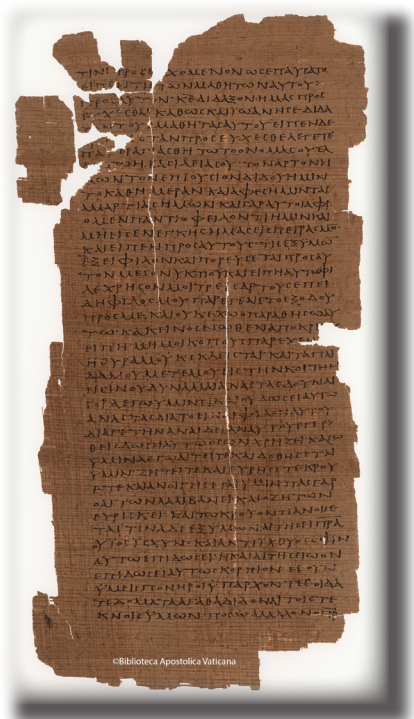
Three of them were found together with other loose fragments, but declared to belong to another document (*Bodmer Papyrus 2*). After careful examination, it was established that at least two of the three fragments could be added with certainty to the folios of the papyrus now at the Vatican Library, given the pattern of the plant fibers and the traces of ink. As for the third fragment, there was not as much certainty, but two small traces of ink indicate that it belongs to the page of the *Hanna Papyrus* that contains John 10:17-18. The fourth fragment, formerly regarded as part of *Bodmer Papyrus 20*, belongs instead to the page that contains Luke 12:27-53.

Although none of these placements add new passages of text, they may help eliminate some uncertainties in the readings of the published editions.

These small fragments remind us that memory is not a steady flow of information, it does not come to us in its entirety and with full precision; along the road, travelling from generation to generation, it often gets lost, in part or in whole. As it passes through the centuries, it comes to us in fragments, all the more precious because they allow us to read pieces of history better, to know and perhaps understand, even if only partially, some moment of our past, of the culture that belongs to us and of which we are a part.

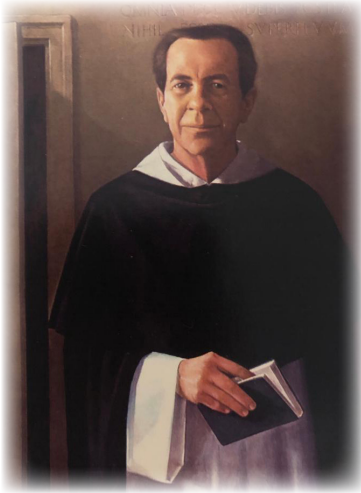


Pap.Hanna.1(Mater Verbi)





## *A day dedicated to Leonard E. Boyle on the centenary of his birth*



Last November 13, the Vatican Library and the Dominican Community of San Clemente organized a day dedicated to Father Leonard E. Boyle, Prefect of the Apostolic Library from 1984 to 1997, entitled *An Innovator in Tradition. A Hundred Years since the Birth of Leonard Eugene Boyle (1923-2023)*.

On the evening of Sunday, November 12, a solemn Mass in the Basilica of San Clemente opened the commemoration. The Master General of the Order, Father Gerard Francisco Timoner, the Provincial of Ireland, Father John Harris, the Prior of San Clemente's, Father Paul Lawlor, and the entire community also attended.



Also present were the Prefect of the Library, Don Mauro Mantovani, SDB, some of Father Boyle's family members coming from different places in Ireland, scholars, employees, and retirees of the Library.

Mass was followed by a visit to the tomb of Father Boyle in the ancient basilica, where everyone gathered for a prayer and the *Salve Regina* was sung.

We then gathered in the basilica's beautiful cloister that dates back to the 12th century, where we exchanged our greetings and memories in a much treasured convivial moment.

The following morning we gathered again in the beautiful basilica, where the event featured several talks: Father Vivian Boland spoke about Leonard Boyle's academic and religious formation; Father Paul Lawlor highlighted his confrere's involvement in archaeological research and excavations in San Clemente's and the history of that community; Prof. John Osborne delved into the topic of the location of St. Cyril's tomb on the lower level of the basilica, while Prof. Michael Allen spoke about the paleographic work of Father Boyle, whose example and influence endure throughout the ages.



*Fr. Boyle's family members, Fr. Boland and H.E. Frances Collins,  
Ambassador of Ireland to the Holy See*





Presentations continued in the afternoon at the Vatican Library where the Sistine Hall was packed with guests: family members, scholars, both past and present employees of the Library, and members of the Dominican community were welcomed by the Librarian, H.E. Msgr. Angelo Vincenzo Zani.

Ambrogio Piazzoni expounded on the innovations made by Prefect Boyle in the Library; Luigina Orlandi spoke about some moments of Father Boyle's life through the papers in his archives; Daniel Williman and Karen Corsano recounted their experience as students of Leonard Boyle, who had been their professor and mentor in Toronto.

Msgr. Charles Burns' talk (which was presented by Father Boland, as the monsignor was unable to be present) highlighted episodes of Father Boyle's character and *modus operandi*. Finally, Paolo Vian illustrated the figure of Leonard Boyle through the testimonies of his employees, or rather, his collaborators.

A distinct thread ran through all the talks of that day, that of the humanity and sincere availability that characterized the singular figure, who was "a man from another era," with a "truly austere, poor and frugal life," who sought "simply" to make his employees happy, and who lived a solitary life.



Photos in this page are by F. Sardella

The day ended with light refreshments to accompany a moment of warm conversation among the participants, in a spirit that Father Boyle would certainly have appreciated and shared.

We thank the San Clemente Community, especially Fathers Paul Lawlor and Vivian Boland, and members of Fr. Leonard's family of origin, for joining the initiative so enthusiastically. Heartfelt thanks to all who participated and made possible this beautiful day dedicated to "a teacher with a vision who dedicated himself to caring for others, for the image of God that is every human person."



*"There is something stronger than death, and that is the presence of the absent in the memory of the living."*



## *School of Library Science inaugurates a new academic year and a new location*



The new academic year in the Vatican School of Library Science was inaugurated with a lecture by Msgr. Cesare Pasini, former prefect of the Vatican Library, on the upcoming 90th anniversary of the founding of the School, established in 1934 by Pius XI (1922-1939), the pope who was a librarian, first at the Ambrosiana (1888-1914) and then at the Vatican Library (1914-1918). The initiative to establish a school came as a result of the “American” experience of the Vatican Library, by which the modernization of the papal library was being carried out through a new cataloguing method that had been tested and learned in the United States by young cataloguers and then teachers at the School. In those years, the same method was being applied to all book collections, with adaptations to the needs of the Vatican Library.

The experience gained from 1927 onward also gave way to the idea of a School of Library Science after the model existing in America, which was essentially practical (this was the novelty). It was intended to teach concretely what was being done in the Library, first to those who worked in ecclesiastical libraries, in order to urge and facilitate change in those institutions as well, and then to all those who wanted to learn the cataloguing method of the Vatican Library. In 1931, the Library had

already established its own rules, the *Norme per il catalogo degli stampati*, a manual of 400 pages that had three editions and was published in several languages.

On the morning of October 3, in the School’s new headquarters, now located at Via della Conciliazione, n. 7, Msgr. Pasini presented on “Achille Ratti the Librarian and the School of Library Science.” The talk highlighted the initiatives that the future pontiff undertook in the two libraries where he worked. As pontiff Pius XI always remained attentive and sensitive to the needs of libraries and the world of research.

The School’s new headquarters, the third in its history, was inaugurated on November 27 by Vatican Secretary of State Card. Pietro Parolin, who greeted and encouraged each of the 30 students of this year’s course. “The School has become biennial and has been enriched by the contact it has with high-level scholars; in this way it may also seek to give its own response to the general renewal of all structures of higher education in Europe and in the world,” the Cardinal stressed.

For ninety years the Vatican School of Library Science has ensured its contribution to the technical training of library service workers. It continues to refresh its courses and training proposals based on the needs and challenges of the present, which are more than technological.





## *"Misericordiae Vultus" on display at the Panorama Museum in Bad Frankenhausen*



The exhibition "Pierluigi Isola, la visione aurea," dedicated to the works of the Roman painter and engraver, opened last November 18 at the Panorama Museum in Bad Frankenhausen, northern Germany, where it can be visited until February 18, 2024. The Vatican Library is participating with the print *Misericordiae Vultus*, and two of the preparatory drawings for the work commissioned by the Library on the occasion of the celebration of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy convoked by Pope Francis in 2015.

The museum's location is unique in that it sits on top of a hill in the middle of nowhere, we might say, framed by the mountains and forests of Thuringia. Yet because of its singular location, it is the ideal place to admire the works on display in peace, far from the hectic environment that sometimes characterizes more typical museum locations.

Frankenhausen Hill is known for the decisive "Peasants' War" battle of the same name that took place there on May 14th and 15th in 1525, during which some six thousand rioters died.

Reaching the museum is a bit like making a pilgrimage to a secular shrine of figurative art: one basks in the beauty of the surrounding nature along the way, meditates, and after having reached one's destination, is inundated with the brilliantly colored and symbolic land-

scapes of Werner Tübke's (1929-2004) ) circular painting-depicting a *theatrum mundi*, a history of humanity as seen through the cyclical alternation of the seasons, depicted on 1,722 meters of a single canvas, 123 meters long and 14 meters high. The descent from the Schlachtberg (= Battle Mountain) after the visit is likewise bound to offer further sensory experiences and reflections.

This temporary exhibition is found on the first floor. Here Isola's many landscapes introduce another countryside, the Roman one, and several still life paintings contribute to "a refined contemporary analysis of the classical genre of painting."

In relation to Tübke's large painting, the *Misericordiae Vultus* proves to be a discreet response with its small size. It represents a chance for human beings to respond to the pessimism expressed in the giant painting of the "Sistine of the North" commissioned in 1976 by the GDR to commemorate the German Peasants' War of 1525, and which was later expanded by the artist toward a more symbolic depiction of the whole of human history.

Isola's graphic work, the only one in this exhibition, along with the two preparatory drawings, seems to take on a "meta-physical" function: its symbolic images in black and white are blended with luminous paintings inspired by reality.





## *A collaboration with the National Library of Georgia*



Last November 10, the “World Science Day for Peace and Development,” a three-year agreement of cultural and scientific collaboration between the Vatican Library and the National Parliamentary Library of the Republic of Georgia was signed in the Vestibule of the Library.

The document was signed by the Director of the National Parliamentary Library, Giorgi Kekelidze, and the Prefect of the Vatican Library, Don Mauro Mantovani, in the presence of HRH Princess Khétévane Bagration de Moukhrani, Georgian Ambassador to the Holy See, Hon. Givi Mikanadze, Chairman of the Parliamentary Commission for Education and Science, Mirian Khositashvili,

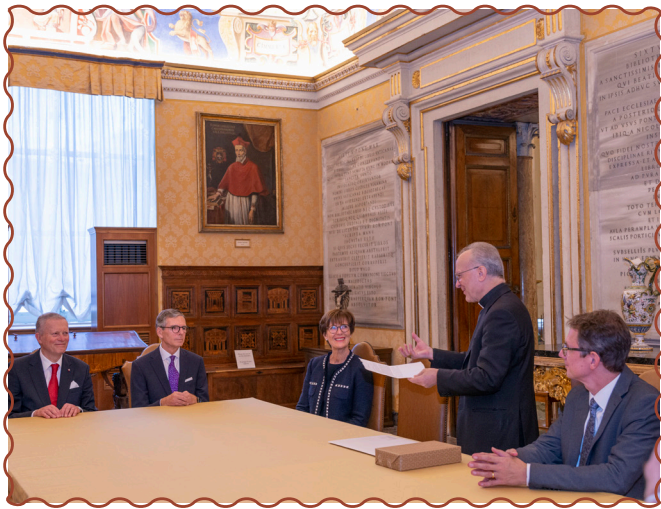
Deputy Director of the National Library, and a number of officials from the Embassy and the Parliamentary Library.

This is a partnership in the service of higher studies that promotes initiatives in areas of mutual interest in order to facilitate exchange and assistance to researchers and experts sharing their investigations and research. It is intended to help spread experiences and ideas from the mutual knowledge of manuscripts, printed books and documentary material. In virtue of this agreement, workshops, conferences, academic encounters, exhibitions, and conventions will be promoted in the fields of bibliography, library sciences, and information technology.





*Jan Erik Lindman  
made Knight of the Order of St. Gregory the Great*



The important honor of knighthood in the Order of St. Gregory the Great, was granted to Jan Erik Lindman on the morning of October 13. It was bestowed on him in the name of the Holy Father for his charitable activities as head of the foundations of the Royal House of Sweden, particularly for his support of initiatives concerning the Vatican Apostolic Library.

The title and related insignia were presented to him by the Librarian, H.E. Msgr. Angelo Zani in a small ceremony that took place in the Vestibule of the Library. In addition to Mrs. Ulrike, Jan Lindman's spouse, it was attended by H.E. Fredrik Vahlquist, former ambassador of Sweden to the Holy See, accompanied by Mrs. Elisabeth. Also present were Don Mauro Mantovani, Prefect of the Library; Timothy Janz, Vice Prefect; Claudia Montuschi, Director of the Department of Manuscripts; and Raffaella Vincenti, Secretary of the Library.

In an familiar and friendly atmosphere, warm congratulations were expressed to Dr. Lindman for the high recognition as well as many good wishes for the charitable initiatives he promotes and supports.





## Agenda 2024



*Courtyard of the Belvedere*



*Santa Maria in Trastevere*



*Courtyard of San Damaso*

The Vatican Library and the Vatican Museums joined together to produce an agenda for 2024. It proposes features views painted in 1854 by Filippo Cretoni on the cabinets that are in the Gallery of Benedict XIV (formerly of Urban VIII), and which formerly housed the Vatican Library's book collections, when the Gallery was part of the Library. The Gallery, which now belongs to the Vatican Museums, is the one that leads from the Museums to the Sistine Chapel.

There are twelve views selected and representing fountains in the Vatican and Rome: the Fountain of the Galea in the Vatican, the Fountain of the Barcaccia in the Spanish Steps, the Fountain of the Turtles in Piazza Mattei, the Fountain in Piazza di Santa Maria in Trastevere, the Fountain in the Courtyard of San Damaso in the Vatican, the Fountains in St. Peter's Square in the Vatican, the Fountain of the Triton in Piazza Barberini, the Fountains

in Piazza Navona, the Fountain in the Courtyard of the Belvedere in the Vatican, the Trevi Fountain in Piazza di Trevi, the Fountain in Piazza della Rotonda, and the Gardens of the Papal Palace at the Quirinale. Each image precedes a month of the year and is accompanied by a text taken from guidebooks of Rome, travel stories, or poetic compositions.

This special bilingual publication (Italian and English) aims to draw attention to a part of the heritage historically shared between the two Vatican institutions.

The agenda is a kind of small guide to a piece of the beauty of Rome and the Vatican as seen through the eyes and art of a little-known painter. We hope that it will inspire your days and stimulate the desire to wander around the city, finding and observing those architectural and sculptural works under a new light, and that, above all, it will accompany you every day of the new year.



*Ross.118, f. 33r (detail)*



*The square cover (20 x 20 cm) of the agenda has a light blue background reminiscent of Cretoni's paintings; it presents a sequence of years corresponding to the writing of the texts chosen as a repertoire.*

*In the center of the front plate, printed in gloss, the year 2024*



## *Visit of the Société des Bibliophiles français*



Last October 20, a large representation of the Société des Bibliophiles français, accompanied by the association's secretary, Olivier de Luppé, and by Régis Nacfaire de Saint Paulet, a member of the Société who lives in Rome, visited the Vatican Library. Before the visit, the guests were able to meet the Librarian, H.E. Msgr. Angelo Vincenzo Zani, and hold a brief meeting of the members in the Vestibule of the Library.

Bibliophiles are book lovers, those who love to collect books for their antiquity, rarity, or typographical beauty. The taste for bibliophilia, which goes as far back as classical antiquity, spread especially in Renaissance Europe. This was the age of the great bibliophiles, when the custom of using skilled artists to write and illuminate precious manuscripts became widespread among collectors, most of whom belonged to very wealthy families, or rulers.

The invention of printing gave rise to a new core of bibliophiles, who devoted themselves to collecting books by having them printed at their own expense on parchment or special papers, and adorning them with splendid bindings. Bibliophilia then spread among families both of the nobility and of the bourgeoisie. The dispersion of various private libraries allowed new collections to form, and alongside the aesthetic taste for books, an interest in rare and antique books also grew throughout the eighteenth century. The Société des Bibliophiles français, the oldest in France, was founded on January 1, 1820. The first bibliophile societies had already sprung up in England, and the Société is modeled after the English Roxburghe Club, founded in 1812 and is the oldest bibliophile society in the world.

Originally composed of 24 members, the Société des Bibliophiles français currently has forty members, including six women and five non-French associates. Its members are both collectors and scholars. *Bienvenue à vous tous.*





## *The Poetry Corner*



Gismondi. Disegni. 120 (detail)



### *Fall, Leaves, Fall*

*Fall, leaves, fall; die, flowers, away;  
Lengthen, night and shorten day;  
Every leaf speaks bliss to me  
Fluttering from the autumn tree.  
I shall smile when wreaths of snow  
Blossom where the rose should grow;  
I shall sing when night's decay  
Usher in a drearier day.*

*Emily Brontë, 1818-1848*

## *Autunno*

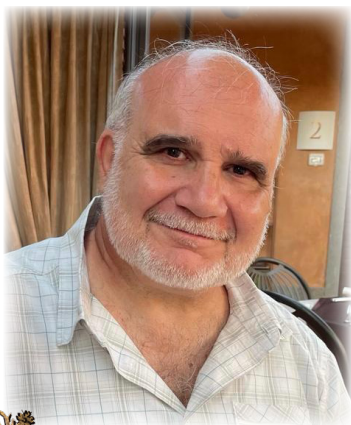


Ross.62, f. 2r (detail)





## *Retired 2023 ...*



**Mauro Mocavini**

Mauro Mocavini spent forty-two years of his life serving the Vatican Library, a service characterized by loyalty, frankness, and irony. Hired on September 1, 1981, after a brief period in the Library Museums he served in the Printed Books Reading Rooms and Stacks from 1982 until 1992, when he joined the team of the Catalogue of Printed Books, at that time made up of young collaborators. Since 2003 he has been in charge of the Security Project using RFID technology applied to printed volumes. In 2007, he was asked to return to direct service to scholars in the role of Head of Reading Rooms and Stacks while continuing to be in charge of the Security Project. He completed his service last February 16, the day of his 67th birthday.

Upon turning 70 last March, Msgr. Alfredo Abbondi left the Library to return to his priestly mission in the diocese of Fermo, Marche.

A law graduate, he studied at the Gregorian University from 1976 to 1982 and then served in the diocese for about 20 years. Transferred to the Prefecture for the Economic Affairs of the Holy See, he served there as assistant auditor and then as office head until the reform carried out by Pope Francis, when the Secretariat of State suggested he continue his service to the Holy See at the Vatican Library, where he began his collaboration with the Manuscripts Department in October of 2017.

His pastoral passion, at the beginning of what he called his "third and decisive youth," will not prevent him from seeking other ways in order to be useful to the mission of our Institution.



**Msgr. Alfredo Abbondi**



**Alessandro Lucarelli**

A veteran of the Photographic Laboratory group, Alessandro (known to all as "Sandro") Lucarelli was hired on November 1, 1983. He began working a month in the Bursar's Office, then as a cleaner and substitute in the Printed Books Reading Room and then in the Library Museums. In 1987 he was assigned to the Printed Books Reading Room, where he served until 1999, when he began a new stint in the Photographic Laboratory. There he worked on scanning printed books and manuscripts, microfilm and film development, and also managed the preparation of photographs for scholarly requests.

When necessary, he provided substitutions for colleagues in the manuscript rooms. Always good-humored and ready for a joke, over the years he garnered the sympathy of colleagues with whom he worked. He ended his service on November 1.

*The Library expresses its gratitude to the three retirees for their service in the Papal Institution; for Mocavini and Lucarelli, the period of their service saw the management of ten librarians and five prefects. We are sure they will remain close to the Institution, which is a second home for those who work there and experience its beauty and complexity; we wish them all a fruitful retirement.*





**Mariele Valci**

Since June, Mariele Valci has been on the staff of the Vatican Medagliere. She received her bachelor's degree from the University of Roma Tre in "History and Conservation of the Artistic and Archaeological Heritage," then obtained her master's degree in "Methodology of Archaeological Research," with a thesis in medieval numismatics.

She did her PhD at the University of Nottingham with a thesis dedicated to the economic and monetary system of Rome between the 12th and 14th centuries. Her post-doctoral topic was done at the Italian Institute for Historical Studies in Naples, with a project dedicated to the economic and monetary system of Rome between the 8th and 14th centuries.



Marco Demurtas was hired in July to join the Centro Elaborazione Dati (CED) team.

A computer science major, he also cultivated the humanities by graduating in Philosophy from the University of Cagliari. He then chose to put technology at the service of humanities by earning a Ph.D. on the topic "Computer Applications for the Ancient Book."



**Marco Demurtas**



**Martina Maiorino**



Martina Maiorino arrived in the Catalogue Section, within the Vatican Library's Department of Printed Books, last July.

A graduate in Archivistics and Library Science at the University of Salerno and a graduate of the Vatican School of Library Science, before joining the Vatican Library staff she worked at the Library of the National Monument of St. Scholastica, in Subiaco (Rome).

*A warm welcome to our young colleagues who have just embarked on their journey in the ancient papal institution.  
We extend our best wishes that they may work well and with passion, and that they may  
always feel proud to be at the service of the Holy See.*





Ross.177, f. 1r (detail)

Ross.62, f. 86v (detail)

*The Vatican Library wishes  
everyone Happy Holidays*





*The Vatican Apostolic Library thanks  
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and all its supporters*

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Schumacher
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- Scott and Lannette Turicchi
- Gianni Verna



V. Franceschini, "Nativity"



Ross. 118, f. 33 (detail)

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