

Online Window into the Library



«Avvisi» dalla Vaticana

Library, "medicine of the soul"

Tradition has it that on the pediment of the entrance door to the library of Ramses II, in Thebes, the ancient Pharaonic capital, there was an inscription that read *Medicine for the soul* (*psykhès iatrèion*), a place of healing for the soul. Many centuries later, in 1780, Frederick II of Prussia had the inscription *Nutrimendum spiritus* (*Nourishment of the soul*) placed on the pediment of the Royal Library in Berlin. The library was considered to be a balm, or a food that, with its therapeutic properties, nourishes and alleviates pain, fatigue and suffering.

Over the centuries the high regard for libraries and culture has been preserved and consolidated, but the "medicines" that can be found in libraries have also been considered dangerous, harmful and, according to a certain *Zeitgeist*, the spirit of the times that has characterized many historical phases, have been destroyed. Books have been burned at all times and in all places.

The oldest book burning in recorded history was that of the Theban Library in 1358 B.C. Pharaoh Akhenaten ordered the burning with the intention of eliminating all traces of the past and its religious history, in contrast to the one he imposed. Another example is that of 213 B.C., ordered by Emperor Shih Huang-Ti, the man who conceived the famous Great Wall of China; he wanted to eliminate all the works written before him, and thus erase three thousand years of history. In 1258 the Mongol leader Halagu Khan ordered his armies to destroy the 36 libraries of Baghdad.

There have been countless examples of books and libraries being destroyed throughout human history, mainly for political or religious reasons. Alexandria in Egypt, Savonarola's Florence, the Roman Inquisition, Nazi Germany; and more recently, in 1992, the destruction of the National and University Library of Sarajevo, the Vijećnica, which became the symbol of the devastation of the city and of the whole of Bosnia-Herzegovina;



"Catalogo della libreria Capponi ..."

Catal.Italia.II.Roma.Vaticano.Capponi.1.Cons.; Mai.XI.C.V.20;
Stamp.Barb.Z.XII.15; Stamp.Ferr.III.1745; Stamp.Ross.3616

and again, that of the Baghdad library and other Iraqi libraries, in 2003.

Yet libraries, though destroyed and rebuilt time and time again, stand the test of time, and continue to be a point of reference, despite the difficulties and adversities of the ages. They are peaceful places where peace can be cultivated, reservoirs of energy, inexhaustible sources of memory and science that can be drawn on to increase knowledge and self-awareness; places to meet, get together, exchange ideas and projects. For those who frequent them, libraries have been and continue to be extremely valuable "granaries against the winter of the spirit".

"I question books and they answer me. And they speak and sing for me. Some bring me laughter or comfort. Others teach me how to know myself."

Francesco Petrarca

*The departure of H.E. Msgr. Angelo Vincenzo Zani from the Library,
the new arrival of H.E. Msgr. Giovanni Cesare Pagazzi*

After reaching his 75th birthday, H.E. Msgr. Angelo Vincenzo Zani has left the post of Archivist and Librarian of the Holy Roman Church. He had assumed his position on Sept. 26, 2022, after having been undersecretary (2002) and then secretary (2012) of the Dicastery for Catholic Education.

Msgr. Zani led the Apostolic Library, one of the Holy See's oldest institutions, for two and a half years. During his tenure, he energetically supported every initiative aimed at increasing the openness of the papal library, even beyond its original mission, obtaining for our Institution very positive results.

With the words quoted by His Excellency, "behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it?" (Isaiah, 43, 19), we say goodbye to Msgr. Zani.

We thank him for his attention to our institution and for his enthusiasm. We wish for him to see the buds of such self-denial blossom.



On March 28, the Holy Father appointed H.E. Msgr. Giovanni Cesare Pagazzi Archivist and Librarian of the Holy Roman Church.

Born in Crema (Cremona) on June 8, 1965, for many years he was a professor in numerous academic settings. On Sept. 26, 2022, he received the post of secretary of the Dicastery for Culture and Education, and on Nov. 30, 2023, he was appointed bishop, becoming titular archbishop of Belcastro. He received his episcopal ordination from H.E. Cardinal José Tolentino de Mendonça in the Cathedral of Lodi on February 10, 2024.

We welcome His Excellency to the Library and wish him the best in his new position!



*“And all that is in between”
the second biennial of Islamic Arts in Jeddah, January 25 - May 25, 2025*

And all that is in between comes from a verse in the Koran: it appears there numerous times and “describes the absolute and all-encompassing majesty of divine creation as perceived and experienced by humanity”. This concept inspired the theme of the second biennial of Islamic arts in its various artistic and scientific expressions. Set up in the Western Hajj Terminal of King Abdulaziz Airport in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, and inaugurated on January 25th, the exhibition will remain open until May 25th. It presents the art of numbers in all its forms in multiple fields: astronomy, geometry, architecture, in the decorative arts, in illuminated manuscripts and much more.

Representing a crossroads of different histories and cultures, the exhibition venue opens its doors to the tens of thousands of travelers and pilgrims who go to Mecca, with testimonies that history, tenacity and the spirit of conservation have transmitted in every place, evoking countless emotions. At the same time, it presents works by contemporary artists who interpret the feelings and realities of our time.



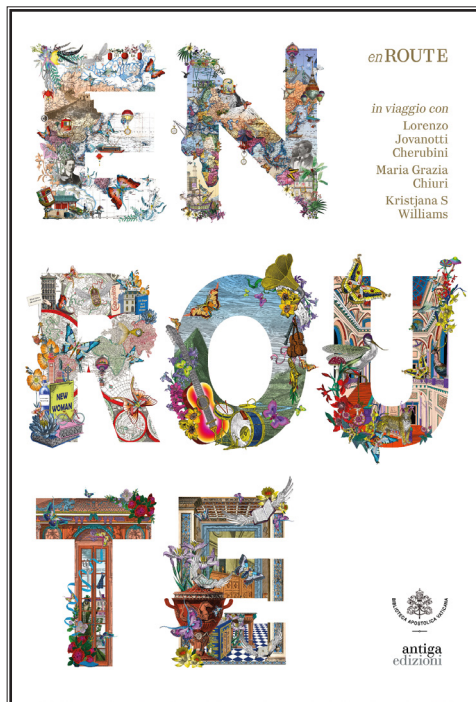
The artistic director Abdul Rahman Azzam, one of the curators of the event, invited the Apostolic Library to take part in the initiative. The papal institution gladly accepted. The event constitutes a very special occasion, considering that there are no formal diplomatic relations between the Holy See and Saudi Arabia. The Vatican Library is participating by lending eleven handwritten and printed items, which can be grouped into three categories: astronomy, Korans (with translations in Greek and Latin and a unique copy in which the text is in Arabic but the alphabet is Hebrew), and geography, with a Map of the Nile (*Vat. turc. 73*) 5.50 meters long, created by the Turkish geographer Evliya Çelebi.

In 1683 Çelebi traveled along the river, from the delta to its source; with his travel notes, collected in the work *Seyahatame*, in 1685 he created the map that can now be admired. It was purchased in Istanbul in 1736 by Giuseppe Assemani, a Maronite priest who became Prefect of the Vatican Library in 1739.

The Jeddah exhibition is a cultural initiative that transcends all kinds of boundaries to promote dialogue. The ancient testimonies presented in all their diversity in the exhibition spaces promote a deeper mutual understanding. Everything that lies between two distinct realities, two distant points, moves and is shared; movement and knowledge bring the extremes closer, shortening the distances.



*"En Route,"
the exhibition for the Jubilee 2025*



On the occasion of the Jubilee year, which always encourages travel to places of the spirit as well as of history, the Vatican Library has promoted a new exhibition that interprets the theme of travel in different ways, proposing various topics on a synchronic and diachronic level. Arranged in the Vatican Library's Kerkorian Hall and adjoining rooms, *En Route (Traveling)* opened to the public on Feb. 15 and can be visited by reservation through the website, <https://enrouteproject.com>, until Dec. 20, 2025.

The project forms part of the initiative that has matched the Vatican Library with contemporary artists. Now in its sixth edition, the exhibit bases its leitmotif on one of the almost unknown collections preserved in the papal library, which inspired the organizers and artists involved in the project. The idea for the exhibition began with the desire to enhance the collection of periodicals that belonged to Cesare Poma (1862-1932), a diplomat, scholar and curious traveler. The five cases of Poma documents donated to the Vatican Library arrived from Biella on August 30, 1932. Part of Poma's personal library was donated to the Biella Civic Library.

The *Poma Periodici* collection is preserved at the Vatican Library today, a collection with 1260 copies of 1109 newspaper titles from all over the world in 120 different languages. The onomastic index of the items was compiled by Cesare Poma (*Vat. lat.* 14304-14324), as well as several printed items placed in the *General Collections*. The *Guagno Collection*, was donated in 1950 by Enrico Guagno of Biella, Cesare Poma's cousin, and includes 815 Chinese coins.



The *Carte Poma* collection, recently donated by the Galat-eri family, is comprised of heterogeneous materials: archival documents, accounting documents, bibliographic rarities, collections of photographs and postcards, and much more.

On display are art objects, coins, books and periodicals, which Cesare Poma collected during his missions. These are not to serve as relics, but as testimonies to be preserved and studied. He himself was committed to study them at the end of his trips.

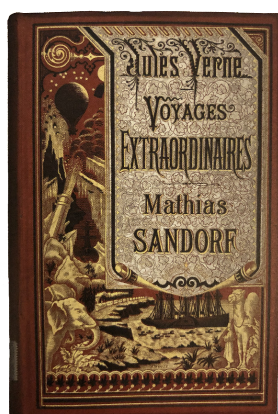
The title of the exhibition comes from the periodical *En Route*, three unknown issues of which are preserved in the *Poma* collection, published by two French journalists, Lucien Leroy and Henri Papillaud, to chronicle the countries they visited during their trip around the world made between 1895 and 1897.

The initiative also promoted the accessibility of those periodicals, which will be achieved through proper and not simple cataloging, thanks to the Maison Dior; and their digitization, supported by the Galat-eri family.



Also presented in the exhibit are the profiles of six female travelers of the Victorian age, who undertook journeys at the end of the nineteenth century for work or study, animated by the same desire to know through direct observation. Such profiles enhance the exhibition's itinerary: Nellie Bly (1864-1922), journalist; Elisabeth Bisland (1861-1929), journalist and writer; Annie Londonderry Cohen (1870/1-1947), bicycle traveler; Gertrude Margaret Bell (1868-1926), archaeologist, writer and traveler; and the twins Agnes (1843-1926) and Margaret Smith (1843-1920), orientalists, paleographers, writers.

To open a dialogue between this nineteenth-century mode of travel made possible by modern technologies that encouraged and accelerated travel, and today's reality, the curators turned to "three internationally renowned artists, with lively wit, sparkling poetics, and active on three completely different fronts of the contemporary scene: singer-songwriter Lorenzo Jovanotti Cherubini, artistic director Maria Grazia Chiuri, and artist Kristjana Williams."



Contemporary travelers have different and faster means than those of the 19th century, but the motivations that drive them to move are not dissimilar: work, curiosity, and the desire for knowledge. Travel in the nineteenth century here encounters travel in the contemporary world and is interpreted artistically. This offers new destinations beyond the geographical realm.

The choice to involve three artists from different worlds in this project might seem unusual for a library like the Vatican Library. "A trio united by a common denominator: the total absence of rhetoric, the constant eschewing of any spirit of nostalgia and a deep anchorage in the present, with eyes wide open forward, like those ship figureheads setting out into the unknown, who do not look at what they are carrying and where they are setting sail from, but only at where they will land."

"Traveling" through the exhibition we are taken aback by a multiplicity of very diverse and seemingly disjointed works: they introduce us to fantastic worlds, as if on a journey of the imagination.



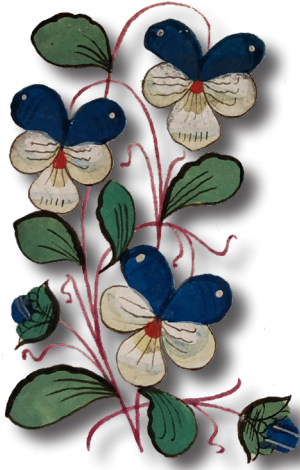
Music is also born from the trips, from contacts with other worlds. The singer Jovanotti is a tireless traveler. He has always explored musical worlds and sounds that belong to other cultures in order to get to know them and feed on them. "He lives together with the peoples he meets, he listens to their voices, catches their sounds, their breaths, and transforms them into lyrics, music, suggestions."

Kristjana S. Williams is an Icelandic artist working primarily in London. She uses paper and bright colors to make poetic landscapes. She loves maps and artistic expressions of the nineteenth century. In her works "everything is in the details, with which they are littered, and until you pick them up, one by one, like crumbs of meaning, it will not be possible for you to access an overall and profound understanding."

Maria Grazia Chiuri, the artistic director of Dior's women collection, in collaboration with Karishma Swali and the Chanakya School of Craft, presents her reflection through a site-specific installation that begins with the stories of the six female travelers of the late 19th century and develops the profiles in the keys of fashion and travel. On fabric panels representing dress patterns, using colored threads and glass beads, maps have been created with the routes followed by the female travelers. Two large globes placed in the Barberini Hall represent one "the inner universe"; the other is entitled "the world is one family": both suggest topics of reflection.



Parole Aperte



As part of the initiatives for the Holy Year, together with the Antonio Rosmini Institute of Culture and Formation, the Vatican Library has developed a project with eight sessions dedicated to the jubilee lexicon of our time. Each session includes readings, reflections, the opportunity to observe authentic documents related to the proposed theme, in-depth studies, listening to texts read by actors and live music.

On Friday, March 14th, the third of the scheduled meetings took place in the Sistine Hall of the Vatican Library, this time dedicated to *Silence*, its value and its communicative power.

The first *Parole Aperte* event, considered as “roots that speak to our soul”, took place on December 13, 2024, and was dedicated to the word *Visions*, with examples of the lives of saints and mystical poets as sources of inspiration for imagining a more authentic future. Long-term, wide-ranging strategic visions were expressed, capable of nurturing the hope of a more authentic life that is fully lived.



The second event which took place on February 14 explored the theme of the *Journey*, a metaphor for life and its seasons, which starts from within each of us before confronting the world. And in this particular context it was intended to “help the journey of faith to enter into dialogue with many other forms of paths and journeys that move people to rediscover, seek and encounter”.

A long journey, but one that can be exhilarating, because every journey, in whatever direction one goes, can and must be a source of nourishment and growth for those who undertake it.

The works preserved in the Vatican Library that the participants were able to see during the encounter were well integrated, such as the cone of Hell, designed by Sandro Botticelli for the *Divine Comedy*, some medals from the apostolic, missionary and social journeys of Pope Paul VI and coins left by pilgrims on the tomb of St. Peter, including the gold coin that Charlemagne placed there presumably in the year 781.



The Sistine Chapel offers its visitors a *Silence* that speaks, and much can be heard there simply by letting the eye fall upon the stories told in the frescoes, within the silence that envelops one like a warm embrace. In the third *Parole Aperte* event, the theme that unfolds here finds a particular concreteness; the reflection on *Silence*, its value and its communicative power have found full realization here.

Among the day's offerings, the verses of Clemente Rebora (1885-1957) echoed in the vault of the Sistine Hall similar to the traits of his shy personality, reaching the hearts of those present and listening, while evoking images and sounds that are only apparently distant.

From the image tense / I watch the moment / with the imminence of waiting -/ and I await no one: / in the bright shadow / I spy the bell / that imperceptibly spreads / a pollen of sound -/ and I await no one: / within four walls / stunned by the space / more than a desert / I await no one, / but he must come, / he will come, if I resist / blossoming unseen, / he will come suddenly / when I least expect it. / He will come almost as forgiveness / for what causes death, / he will come to make me certain / of my treasure and his, / he will come as refreshment / for my sorrows and his, / he will come, perhaps already coming / is his whisper. From "Canti anonimi", 1922.

Silence imposes itself, in the face of beauty and in the face of screaming horror; it makes its way into solitude; it is a narrow door through which one passes, inevitably and hopefully, to find the essential words, bare, without adjectives, to feel or rediscover a presence, to learn how to listen.



The Swedish ambassador

On the morning of February 4th H.E. Per Holmström, Sweden's ambassador to the Holy See, visited the Library and its historical rooms. He showed a keen interest in the history of the Institution, and in relation to the virtuous path undertaken several years ago between the Vatican Library and the diplomatic representatives of the Scandinavian country, thanks to which we have been able to carry out important projects useful for the community of scholars, while consolidating the bond between the parties.

The presence in the Vatican Library of the collection of about 2,200 manuscripts that belonged to the cultured Queen Christina has fostered a relationship that has made it possible in recent years to make the entire collection of codices that belonged to Christina of Sweden available for consultation, with the exception of a group of documents that cannot be digitized because the conditions in which they are preserved do not allow for their reproduction.

Thanks to the Wallenberg Foundation, which has donated substantial sums to digitize most of these codices, and to the Swedish Academy, which has made an essen-



tial contribution to the digitization of the remaining part of the documents, the scholarly community and all those who are interested can consult and study these manuscripts, which in many cases have been treated and preserved by the Library's Conservation Workshop before making reproductions. The codices not included in the project are documents that require important and more demanding restoration work. There are about one hundred and twenty manuscripts that require special care and attention; work is underway to be able to begin the necessary interventions. At the end of the visit, the ambassador met the prefect, Don Mauro Mantovani, who gave him a copy of the *picciolo*, the reproduction of a coin from 1450 minted for the 2025 Jubilee.

H.E. Msgr. Vladimír Fekete



The Apostolic Prefect of Azerbaijan, H.E. Msgr. Vladimír Fekete, SDB, visited the Apostolic Library last Feb. 19 in the company of Don Mauro Mantovani, his confrere and Prefect of the Vatican Library in a particularly pleasant visit.

Bishop Fekete, who resides in Baku, is in charge of the small Catholic community in the Azerbaijani country, which includes a few thousand baptized people, mostly foreigners who have moved there for work, with a few hundred locals. The Azeris make up ninety-five percent of the country's population (two-thirds of them are Shiite, one-third Sunni). After the collapse of the Soviet Union there were only about ten mosques in the country, while during the past three decades more than two thousand mosques have been reopened or built. The second largest religious group in the country is the Russian Orthodox Church, while the Jewish population in Azerbaijan are reported to be about twenty thousand.



The largest group are the Baptist Protestants (six thousand), who have been present in the territory for over one hundred and fifty years. All religious groups can only act on the principle of their recognition as civil associations registered by the state.

"The Great Jubilee 2025 of the Universal Catholic Church coincides with the small jubilee of the presence of the Salesians of Don Bosco in Azerbaijan," we learn from Msgr. Fekete. "A country with Christian roots as early as the 3rd century, it has been Islamized since the 8th century; in more recent times the Christian presence is very discreet. In the year 1900 there were about ten thousand Catholics – all foreigners. In the 20th century, under the communist regime, priests were killed, churches were destroyed, and Catholics disappeared almost completely. It was not until 1997, due to pressure from some diplomats, that the government first gave permission for entry to a priest from Georgia to serve foreign Catholics working there. In 2000, the first two Salesians arrived from Slovakia to serve as missionaries. Propaganda Fide canonically erected Baku as a *Missio sui iuris*. The government's attitude toward Catholics changed strongly in a positive way after the visit of St. John Paul II in May 2002. From the State President we received a piece of land so that we could build our church dedicated to the Immaculate Conception in Baku."

The Vatican Apostolic Library and the Vatican Apostolic Archive, with the approval of the Secretary of State, will soon sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the National Academy of Sciences of Azerbaijan, with the support of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation, for the promotion of studies, research and cultural activities.

CER Group of Cremona



The course for managers of CER (Comunità Energetiche Rinnovabili: “Renewable Energy Communities”) of Cremona is inspired by Pope Francis' encyclical “*Laudato si'*”, which “has ignited a new vision of environmental sustainability, indispensable for the future of the planet.”

With the involvement of the diocese of Cremona, its university, and foundations and associations active in the area, the course aims to train professionals who are able to meet the many challenges of development through a multidisciplinary approach. On February 12, the students of the first course (2024) met the Holy Father and presented him with a CER Manager Certificate. After the meeting, the group went to the Apostolic Library, where they were welcomed by the Librarian, H.E. Msgr. Angelo Vincenzo Zani. During the visit, Msgr. Zani emphasized that concrete action for the common good cannot be separated from knowledge and culture, which “open us to the world” and help us to change it. Best wishes for a job well done to all!

Regarding interreligious dialogue



On the afternoon of February 27th a delegation from the Shiite community visited the Vatican Library and had the opportunity to closely observe some documents from the oriental collections preserved there.

The courteous guests were accompanied by Msgr. Vittorio Ianari and Andrea Trentini of the Community of Sant'Egidio. The spirit that over the centuries has led the popes to collect documents of every religion shone through this day, reflecting the belief that the more we know about others the easier communication and mutual understanding will be. We hope for an ever deeper dialogue in the service of peace.

On February 27 and 28 the Community of Sant'Egidio organized the fourth international meeting between Catholics and Shiites. All of us, without exception, find ourselves facing the same challenges that the contemporary world presents. The different faiths could meet and propose themselves as builders of peace through a new humanism to work on together, with cultural initiatives that turn in every direction, like the one proposed by the Community of Sant'Egidio.



The President of Lithuania

At 3:00 p.m. on Monday, March 3, the President of Lithuania, H.E. Mr. and Mrs. Gitanas Nausėda, and Mrs. Gitanas Nausėda, accompanied by a delegation that included the Baltic country's ambassador, H.E. Mrs. Sigita Maslauskaitė-Mažylienė, visited the Apostolic Library. They were welcomed by the Prefect, Don Mauro Mantovani and the (now former) Vice Prefect, Timothy Janz; the guests were coming from a meeting with the Secretary of State, H.E. Card. Pietro Parolin.

In the Vestibule of the Library, the guests were shown facsimiles of some important documents: the *Cosmography* of Ptolemy, the *Hanna Papyrus*, the *Codex B*, the Bull of Indiction of the First Jubilee (1300), by Boniface VIII, and *Terra Mariana*, 1186-1888.

In addition to these manuscripts, *Sire. H. 2* was also presented, a manuscript which contains the text of the bull proclaiming the Immaculate Conception in the Lithuanian language, and the silver medal by Petra Repšys,



which celebrates the first mention of the name Lithuania in European written sources in connection with the mission of St. Bruno Boniface and his martyrdom in 1009.

After the visit there was an exchange of gifts between the president of Lithuania and the Prefect of the Library.



Md. Est. Lituania. 1_D-R



Studies in memory of Marco Buonocore



Last February volume number XXIX of the *Miscellanea Bibliothecae Apostolicae Vaticanae*, edited by Maria Gabriella Critelli, was published in the series *Studi e testi* (566) and dedicated to Marco Buonocore. Born on September 17, 1954, Buonocore became a *Scriptor Latinus* in 1989 and Head Archivist in charge of the Library's Archives Section in 2004. He passed away prematurely on December 24, 2022.

"Creator and promoter" of the *Miscellanea*, Buonocore began publishing it in 1987 to include contributions from scholars both inside and outside the Library. He edited the periodical as editorial secretary from its first issue until number XXV, published in 2019, shortly before his retirement after thirty-eight years of service at the Apostolic Library. On the occasion of the last issue of the *Miscellanea* he edited, he took stock of the first twenty-five issues of the publication, highlighting the richness and complexity of the topics covered in those studies over many years, mainly related to the Vatican collections. In a fitting tribute to Marco Buonocore's long history of study and research, the volume contains twenty-six contributions covering all the areas of interest that the scholar has dealt with during his professional career. The contributions were authored by colleagues from the Library and the Apostolic Archives.

The book opens with a biographical profile of Marco Buonocore and closes with a selected bibliography of his works created in the Library or for the Library.

"The idea behind the project of dedicating this book to him was to seek a connection and a dialogue through disciplines and themes particularly dear to him (among the many he frequented): epigraphy, classical authors, antiquarianism, the world of archives, attention to bibliography, the manuscript culture of Abruzzo, scholarly studies, also explored through in-depth studies of some personalities who aroused his particular interest, such as Henry Stuart, Duke of York, Gaetano Marini, Gaetano Ferrajoli, Giovanni Battista De Rossi, Federico Patetta. Each author, based on their specific skills, wanted to remember Marco by studying the personalities and collections he himself investigated, analyzing their peculiar aspects".



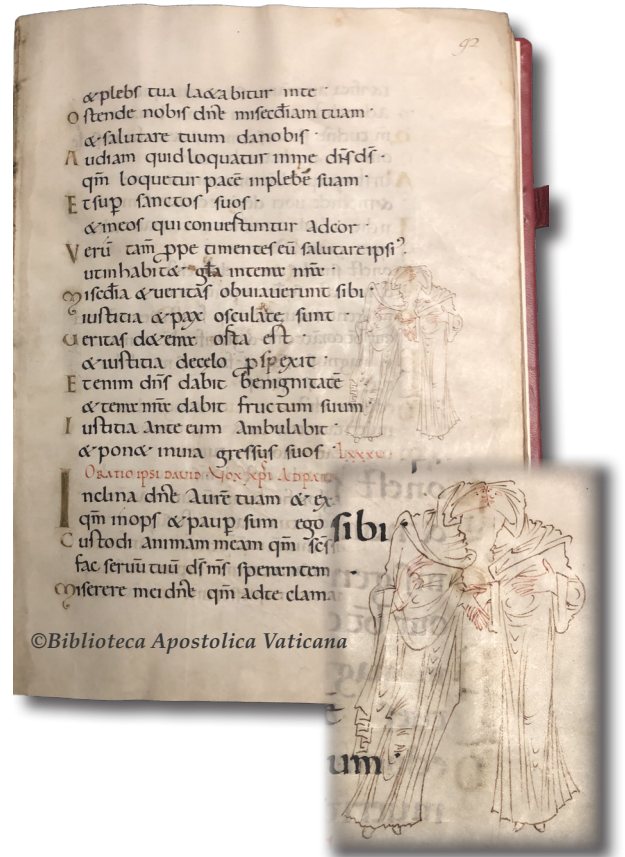
*From the Psalter of Bury St. Edmunds (Reg. lat. 12)
a beautiful image of "Justice and Peace"*



The famous *Psalter of Bury St. Edmunds* entered the Vatican Library in 1690 with the collection of manuscripts that belonged to Queen Christina of Sweden.

Probably written in Canterbury for the abbey of Bury St. Edmunds in the first half (second quarter) of the 11th century, it is decorated with large and elaborate initials at the *incipit* of the Psalter (Psalm 1 and Psalm 51, the third was never completed), as is frequently seen in this type of manuscript (https://digi.vatlib.it/view/MSS_Reg.lat.12). However, it also has a special feature, remarkable and very expressive marginal drawings in brown and red ink, which translate some episodes and metaphors of the Psalms into images. The drawings are not inserted in a frame, but seem to "float" in the sheets and in the texts that inspired them; they constitute their visualization, and suggest an intimate contact between human and divine. In these illustrations the relationship with God for which the psalmist prays is represented in a three-dimensional way.

The texts were transcribed before the drawings were made, after which the golden initials were added.



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A fine example of the decorative apparatus is that which we find on f. 92r, where the artist has chosen to represent the verse "Justice and peace shall kiss" (v. 11: *iustitia et pax osculatae sunt*). A light, almost ethereal image emerges, but one that is dense with meaning. The metaphor is presented concretely in the outer margin through the depiction of two women, personifications of Justice and Peace, who exchange a kiss and shake hands as a sign of alliance.

An ancient and profound conceptual bond in human culture in search of harmony, which goes far beyond the poetic image that this drawing suggests.

Talking about peace and justice today using the power of culture is more relevant than ever; and it is even easier to understand how the two concepts, the two figures, are concretely linked, like real people, and support each other in a strong embrace. Justice "is the prerequisite of peace, and peace and justice stand or fall together".



Vat. lat. 3805, ff. 133v, 1v; Ross. 181, f. 25r

Passover, which commemorated the passage or liberation of the Jewish people from Egypt, was seen as a prefiguration by the Christian religion, where it became the commemoration of Jesus' resurrection from the dead, which took place on the third day of his burial after his crucifixion, as recounted in the New Testament.



*Our hope is
forever alive.
Happy Easter*

The oldest and most solemn of the Christian feasts, Easter is a movable feast because it is celebrated on the first Sunday following the full moon of the vernal equinox (between March 22 and April 25). Therefore, all other movable feasts of the liturgical year depend on Easter.

The earliest Christian accounts of Easter date back to the second and third centuries. During the Council of Nicaea (325) Sunday was established as the day of Easter, and the current calculation goes back to Dionysius the Lesser (325). The early Church Fathers gave the name Easter only to the Passion and death of Christ. It was Cyprian who extended it to that of the Resurrection. From then on it became a solemn and joyous feast.





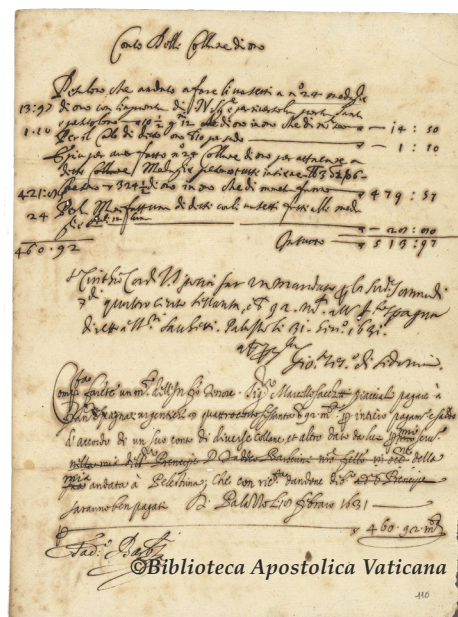
The “Justifications” of the Barberini Archive



The Barberini Family Archive collects the records of the branch of Maffeo (1568-1644), then Urban VIII (1623). The Archive continued to increase in the seventeenth century and in the next century following the marriage (1728) of the last heiress Cornelia Costanza Barberini (1716-1797) to Prince Giulio Cesare III Colonna di Sciarra (1702-1787). In 1902 the Barberini Library and family Archives were acquired by the Holy See.

The documents of an administrative and accounting nature are particularly important in reconstructing the family history and the growth of its patrimony, which had a considerable increase with Maffeo Barberini's election to the papacy, the conferral of the cardinalate on Francesco and Antonio and the rank of prince on Taddeo.

The *Giustificazioni* represent a type of document of an administrative nature: expense estimates, payment orders and receipts of the payments made. They were produced by the office in charge of managing the accounting of the patrimony of the house.



Arch. Barb. Giustif. II. 15, f. 626r

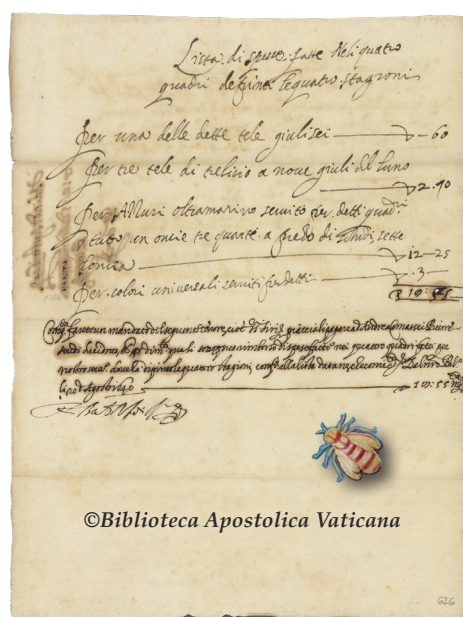


The volume of the second series, *Giustificazioni dei principi* (II), also edited by Luigi Cacciaglia, was recently published after a multi-year and arduous study, that he continued after his retirement.

New unpublished documents of the *Archivio Barberini* are made available for consultation and study for the first time. For all this commendable work we thank Luigi Cacciaglia and the Archives Section of the Vatican Library.

These documents have been arranged in a separate series, given their conspicuous number within the *Computisteria*, concerning the management of benefices and the patrimonial administration of landed estates. This series is in turn divided into two parts, *Giustificazioni dei Cardinali* (I) and *Giustificazioni dei Principi* (II), each with its own progressive numbering within which a chronological and genealogical order is followed.

The inventory concerning the first series of *Giustificazioni*, the *Giustificazioni dei Cardinali* (I), was published in 2014 by Luigi Cacciaglia, who worked in the Library's Archives Section for many years, devoting much time and energy to the reordering and study of these materials.



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Arch. Barb. Giustif. II. 6, f. 110r



From *Endymion*

John Keats

*A thing of beauty is a joy for ever:
Its loveliness increases; it will never
Pass into nothingness; but still will keep
A bower quiet for us, and a sleep
Full of sweet dreams, and health, and quiet breathing.
Therefore, on every morrow, are we wreathing
A flowery band to bind us to the earth,
Spite of despondence, of the inhuman dearth
Of noble natures, of the gloomy days,
Of all the unhealthy and o'er-darkened ways
Made for our searching: yes, in spite of all,
Some shape of beauty moves away the pall
From our dark spirits. Such the sun, the moon,
Trees old and young, sprouting a shady boon
For simple sheep; and such are daffodils
With the green world they live in; and clear rills
That for themselves a cooling covert make
'Gainst the hot season; the mid forest brake,
Rich with a sprinkling of fair musk-rose blooms:
And such too is the grandeur of the dooms
We have imagined for the mighty dead;
All lovely tales that we have heard or read:
An endless fountain of immortal drink,
Pouring unto us from the heaven's brink.*



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