

Vatican Library 2005-2006 Report to CENL

1. Management of the Library

The Vatican Library is working on the reorganization of some of the services to the readers, rearranging the staff structure of the Departments, Sections and Offices, according to the new *Regolamento della Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana*, approved by the Secretary of State in April 2005, which enforces the *Statuto* approved by the Holy Father in 2004; there is also a very active effort to accommodate the general system of the Institution to the changes recently introduced by new technologies in the world of the Library.

2. Legislation

According to the new *Regolamento*, the Library is now organized in three departments (Manuscripts, Printed books and Numismatics), ten sections all together, two Offices (Secretary and Economics), plus seven Services, among them two are new (Exhibitions and Computer services).

3. Buildings

In the Archives section works on the structures and maintenance of the spaces have been done; a campaign for removing the dust was started in the collections. Disinfestation and the removing of the dust is also in progress in the Department of Printed Books, according to a decennial cycle program. Four new offices were built in the Cataloguing section and the spaces of the old Administrative section were restored to be used for the Exhibitions Office. Also completed was the restoration of the decorated vaults of the stairs (*Scala nobile della Biblioteca*).

4. Information technology and networks

A new software, "Geac Adv Client", substituted the previous one, in the ordinary procedures of cataloguing in the Department of printed books. Two new graphic servers were installed (4 terabyte of memory each), in order to visualize *in situ* the digital scanning of manuscripts.

5. Copyright & property rights

The office which is responsible for the requests for photographic reproductions and the copyright of images taken from documents preserved in the Library, processed 1.539 requests, 475 of them were requests for copyright.

6. Acquisitions

During the year, 2.981 monographic titles were accessioned and inventoried. There are 1.681 current titles of serial publications registered. An increase in the manuscript collections was also registered, with 58 documents all together, in the different Vatican collections. The Department Numismatics acquired an important golden medallion of the emperor Costanzo II (337-361) and a rare Roman *sestertius* of Agrippina Junior. The collection of military medals of the artist Luciano Zanelli was also acquired.

7. Preservation & conservation

The Restoration laboratory counted 287 manuscripts and 32 printed books restored or repaired. In the general plan of conservation and preservation, different works were realized, such as folders in acid-free paper, cases for volumes, cases covered with cloth for special materials. The cycles of removing the dust of printed books in progress is supported by two sophisticated machines, in order to do the work more rapidly.

8. Services to the readers

The Admissions Office granted 1.455 annual passes, 1.572 temporary and daily, all together 3.027 passes have been granted. The Library had 18.145 readers during the year, coming from 50 different countries.

The Reference Service processed a few hundred requests for information, and worked hard in the daily activities of reference and orientation on site.

The Reproduction office processed requests for partial or total reproduction of 639 manuscripts and 352 printed books. There were 1562 requests for B/W photographs, and more than 55,000 for digital images, while the electrostatic reproductions made are 83,000.

9. Cultural events, exhibitions & publishing

During the year, 21 requests for loan were accepted by the Commission for the Exhibitions, so the Library participated to a series of important projects in Italy (Vicenza, Milano, Roma, Ancona, Venezia, Urbino), and abroad (Speyer, Zürich, Berlin, Köln, Madrid, Nijmegen, New York, Jerusalem).

Titles published:

1. *Collectio canonum Trium Librorum*, vol. I a cura di G. MOTTA (Monumenta Iuris canonici, Series B, 8)
2. E. HOWE, *Art and culture at the Sistine court. Platina's "Life of Sixtus IV" and the frescoes of the Hospital of Santo Spirito* (Studi e Testi, 422).
3. N. VIAN, *Figure della Vaticana e altri scritti. Uomini, libri e biblioteche* (Studi e Testi, 424).
4. *Rationes decimarum Italiae nei secoli XIII e XIV. Liguria*, a cura di M. ROSADA (†), riveduta e integrata da E. GIRARDI (Studi e Testi, 425).
5. M. CERESA, *Bibliografia dei fondi manoscritti della Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana, 1991-2000* (Studi e Testi, 426).
6. *Miscellanea Bibliothecae Apostolicae Vaticanae*, XII (Studi e Testi, 430).
7. *Storia della miniatura in Italia*, a cura di A. PUTATURO DONATI MURANO e A. PERRICCIOLI SAGGESE (condizione con "Edizioni Scientifiche Italiane", Napoli).
8. *La Bibbia di Federico di Montefeltro (Urb. Lat 1-2)*, edizione facsimile in due volumi, con due volumi di commento a cura di A.M. PIAZZONI (coedizione con "Franco Cosimo Panini Editore", Modena).
9. *El "Menologio" de Basilio II, emperador de Bisancio (Vat. Gr. 1613)*, edizione in facsimile (in coedizione "Editorial Testimonial", Madrid e con la Diaconia Apostolica di Grecia, Atene).
10. *Laus Deo, anima Pulsani. Il libro dell'Ufficio del Capitolo della congregazione monastica degli Eremiti del Pulsano (Codice Vaticano Latino 5419)*, edizione fototipia con commento e traduzione di A. CAVALLINI (coedizione con l'Abbazia di Pulsano).
11. *Il Villani illustrato. Firenze, l'Italia medievale nelle 253 immagini del ms. Chigiano L VIII 296 della Biblioteca Vaticana*, a cura di C. FRUGONI (coedizione con "Le Lettere", Firenze).