

*Editoria e illuminismo fra Lugano e Milano.* By CALLISTO CALDELARI. (Il sapere del libro.) Milan: Edizioni Sylvestre Bonnard. 2005. xxiii + 288 pp. €22. ISBN 88 86842 92 9.

Comprises three studies by the author, who is a friar at the Capuchin convent in Lugano, looking at the history of printing and publishing in the Italian-speaking Swiss canton during the eighteenth century, with a particular attention given to the output of the Agnelli family.

*Le edizioni paremiologiche nella Biblioteca della Fondazione.* By LAURA LALLI. (Collana della Fondazione Marco Besso, 23.) Rome: Fondazione Marco Besso. 2006. xxiv + 214 pp.

All roads lead to Rome and therefore, although the title seems to promise a nasty tropical disease, this is a list of just under 800 books dealing with sayings, proverbs, and other wisecracks. Collecting these nuggets of popular wisdom was the hobby of Marco Besso (1843–1920), who made his fortune in insurance and endowed the foundation that bears his name. The books listed here for the most part formed his working collection, though further titles have been added and include his own contribution to the subject: *Roma nei proverbi e nei modi di dire*, published in 1889 (no. 456 in this catalogue).

*L'Enfer' della Braidense. Catalogo dei libri Fondo Riservata Erotica.* Ed. by ANNA RITA ZANOBI and GIOVANNA VALENTI. (Studi e ricerche di storia dell'editoria, 34.) Milan: Franco Angeli. 2007. 222 pp. €20. ISBN 88 464 8113 9.

Like most major libraries, the Brera in Milan has a separate pressmark for erotica and for anything else judged titillating by prudish or prudent librarians. The basis of its 'Fondo erotica riservata' (to introduce the term *enfer*, as in Paris, in the title is somewhat misleading) was a donation by Camillo Bianchi in 1902, though the collection has been extensively added to since. Like most hells, once you are in it, it is not as exciting as one might wish, but the 875 entries nonetheless provide a pleasant browse. The descriptions based on the ISBD format, with which Italian cataloguers continue to be obscenely in love, are competent rather than inspired, and become very approximate when the book is damaged or incomplete: for instance, the single entry dedicated to John Cleland indicates the title *La meretrice*, which may be the abridged c. 1840 Italian version of *Fanny Hill* entitled *La meretrice inglese*, but it would be nice to be sure. Likewise in the introductory essays, the British Library's collection of such material is not called 'Arcana' but 'Private case' (p. 21; no mention is made of P. J. Kearney's bibliographical catalogue of the same (1981)) and Francesco Berni was *not* the author of the 1538 *Vita di Pietro Aretino* (p. 40).

*Figure della Vaticana e altri scritti. Uomini, libri e biblioteche.* By NELLO VIAN; ed. by PAOLO VIAN. (Studi e testi, 424.) Vatican City: Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana. 2005. xiv + 412 p. + illus. ISBN 88 210 0778 2.

Useful collection of thirty-two articles, which for the most part appeared in the *Almanacco dei bibliotecari romani* from 1955 to 1976, reproduced photographically, by librarian Nello Vian (1907–2000), mostly about the hidden mechanisms of the Vatican Library, with some intriguing gobbets of information. The excellence of the index deserves applause.

Fondazione Luigi Firpo, Centro di Studi sul Pensiero Politico, *Catalogo del fondo antico*, vol. II: D–L. Ed. by CRISTINA STANGO and ANDREA DE PASQUALE. Florence: Olschki. 2007. x + 435 pp. + illus. €80. ISBN 88 222 5616 4.

Second instalment, containing entries nos 1333–2639, of this lavish catalogue describing the early printed books in the Turin library of the historian Luigi Firpo (1915–89) (see *The Library*, VII, 7 (2006), 221).