Recent Books

volume. Separate essays, however, describe the Tipografia vaticana, founded in 1587, which, albeit with a variety of denominations and with a few mergers, is the world’s oldest continuously active printing house (OUP’s claim to go back to ‘1478’ does not cut much ice in Rome, while CUP might well go back to 1583 or 1584 but—alas—no longer prints!), and Montaigne’s visit to the library in 1581, where he witnessed a very modern sounding show-and-tell. Interestingly all the items he saw, including a Chinese printed text, can be identified in today’s collections.


Despite the name, this important and long-lasting family of Brescia publishers and printers have no connection with an island off the north-west coast of Europe. Based on extensive work in the local archives, the present volume provides an in-depth portrait of the successive generations who printed, published, and sold books in Brescia. In a wider sense the volume provides several insights into the Renaissance booktrade, especially the importance of the paper industry on Lake Garda. It also includes a short-title listing of the family’s publications, covering three centuries, based primarily on the collection donated in 1964 by the industrialist and bibliophile Giacinto Ubaldo Lanfranchi (1889–1971) to the library at Palazzolo sull’Oglio.

Florence

Neil Harris