The Library, 7.18.4, December 2017


The Antoniana is the library of the great Franciscan church of Padua and its origins go back to the monastery created to preserve the relics of the saint, well before the advent of printing. Despite many ups and downs, it has survived to the present day and over the years acquired other books. The present catalogue describes in detail 206 incunabula, none particularly rare, but three are printed on parchment, and many are illuminated and/or in contemporary bindings. It also includes an excellent sets of indexes and information about the early catalogues of the library.


Anyone looking for the Moreniana Library on a map of Florence might have difficulty finding it. It nestles inside the state-owned Riccardiana Library, but has a different owner, the province of Florence. Following on from the catalogue of the incunabula by the same author (see The Library, vii, 11 (2011), 512–13), the present volume describes in detail 127 editions from the first half of the sixteenth century, some of them very rare Florentine imprints.


An imposing, beautifully printed volume, describing in detail five manuscripts, five incunabula, and 393 sixteenth-century books, most of them fairly uncommon legal editions, donated in 2004 by Ennio Cortese (b. 1929), professor of Jurisprudence at the University of Rome, to the library of the Italian Senate. The CD-Rom reproduces all the title pages.


Catalogue of an exhibition held at the Castello Sforzesco in Milan from October 2012 to January 2013. The Salani publishing house was founded in Florence in 1862 and made its fortune from stereotype editions of popular novels, mostly destined for a female readership, illustrated children’s literature, which employed many important contemporary artists, and other sorts of ephemera; see The Library, vii, 13 (2012), 481–84. In the course of a century and by the third generation of the same name, its success faltered and in 1962 it was sold out of the family. Though today it is little more than a small cog in the vast Mauri Spagnol group, it was the only Italian publisher interested in purchasing the Italian rights for an unusual story about a boy magician and with the success of Harry Potter has returned to the limelight. This beautifully produced volume, based on the firm’s important archive, concentrates on the vividly coloured covers of the children’s books, but also shows how and why the Salani recipe worked.


Collection of 44 notes and essays, some of them published here for the first time, by a bibliographer and librarian looking upwards from the South of Italy. Most of them