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Catalogo del fondo Cesare Grassetti della Fondazione Giorgio Cini. By DANIELE DANESI and ILENIA MASCHIETTO. (Biblioteca di bibliografia, 212.) Florence: Olschki. 2020. xxviii + 349 pp. €45. ISBN 978 88 222 6694 1.

The history of the collection of early printed books at the library of the Cini Foundation in Venice, mostly illustrated Venetian incunabula and early-sixteenth-century books once owned by the Prince d'Essling, has already been described in this journal in the review dedicated to the catalogue by the late Dennis E. Rhodes published in 2011 (see *The Library*, VII, 14 (2013), 92–95). What that work did not mention was that another very substantial collection was sitting in the wings, waiting for somebody to do something about it. In 2008 the Foundation had received the donation of the collection of Cesare Grassetti (1909–1990), who had an important career as a lawyer and university professor in Milan: it is made up of 832 editions, for the most part Italian, of which 170 are incunabula and the rest are mainly from the early sixteenth century. The catalogue has now been completed and congratulations are due for the relative speed with which it has been done. What emerges is an important collection with many rare items. Grassetti did most of his purchasing on the antiquarian market and had a distinct liking for expensive books, which fit well together with the Essling collection (an appendix provides a list of separately annotated prices; unfortunately no dates are given, so, especially given the

inflation that raged in Italy in the late 1970s, it is difficult to relate them to the cost of living). He had a particular fondness for the *De imitatione Christi*, generally attributed to Thomas à Kempis, though here catalogued under its title, and this is the largest group of non-Italian editions. The catalogue is lovingly executed and, unlike Rhodes, fully up-to-date in terms of its references to online resources such as ISTC and Edit16, while the descriptions of the individual incunabula have also been input into MEI.