**5th INCUNABULA WORKING GROUP and MEI EDITORS REMOTE PUBLIC MEETING**

**23 NOVEMBER 2020**

**Present**: Beatrice Alai (CERL grantee); Christian Algar (ISTC); Vera Andriopoulou (Laskaridis - Athens); Lilian Armstrong (Wellesley); Karen Attar (London Senate House); Pasqualino Avigliano (ROME BNC); Astrid Balsem (Amsterdam UL); Renāte Berga (NL Latvia); Giovanna Bernini (Milan Univ.); Emilia Bignami (CRELEB); Erin Blake (Folger); Flavia Bruni (ICCU); Stefano Cassini (CRELEB); Sara Centi (Siena Bibl. Intronati); Meghan Constantinou (NYC Grolier); Jamie Cumby (Kansas City); Sarah Cusk (Oxford, Lincoln College); Agnese Dangelo (PhD student Rome, La Sapienza); Niamh Delaney (Liverpool UL - CERL grantee); Erika Delbecque (London, UCL); Grazia Maria De Rubeis (Modena, Estense); Geri Della Rocca de Candal (15cBOOKTRADE/Intesa Sanpaolo); Debora Di Pietro (Michigan); Cristina Dondi (CERL); Oliver Duntze (GW); Falk Eisermann (GW); Claudia Fabian (Munich BSB/CERL Director); Todd Fell (Yale UL); Stephen Ferguson (Princeton UL); Suzan Folkerts (Athenaeum - Deventer); Marco Francalanci; Eleonora Gamba (CRELEB); Julie Gardham (Glasgow UL); John Goldfinch (MEI Advisor); Daryl Green (Edinburgh UL); Martyna Grzesiak (Oxford Univ - CERL grantee); Lotte Hellinga (BL/CERL); Stella Hermanovska (NL Latvia); Monique Hulvey (Lyon BM); Simona Inserra (Catania Univ.); Florine Jaosidy (CERL grantee); Nijolė Klingaitė-Dasevičienė (Vilnius UL); Laura Kreigere-Liepiņa (NL Latvia); Kleopatra Kyrtata (Laskaridis – Athens); Kristian Jensen (CERL); John Lancaster (US MEI Advisor); Marian Lefferts (CERL); Arianna Leonetti; Florine Levecque (Paris Mazarine); Karen Limper-Herz (ISTC); Matilde Malaspina (15cBOOKTRADE/Univ. Copenhangen); Camilla Marangoni (CERL grantee); Davide Martini; John McQuillen (NYC Morgan); Martyna Osuch (Warsaw UL - CERL grantee); Aggeliki Papadopoulou (Laskaridis – Athens); Stephen Parkin (ISTC); Ed Potten (Manchester JRL advisor); Pietro Putignano; Krisztina Rábai (Szeged Univ. - CERL grantee); Melissa Robohn (US); María José Rucio Zamorano (Madrid BNE); Marina Ruiz Fargas (Barcelona UL); Lotte Savelsberg (Athenaeum - Deventer); Rachel Scott (Royal Collections, Windsor); Lucrezia Signorello (CERL grantee); Julianne Simpson (Manchester JRL); Daniela Škulová (Slovak National Library); Irini Solomonidi (Gennadius - Athens); Bill Stoneman (Harvard); Stephen Tabor (Huntington); Natale Vacalebre; Marieke van Delft (The Hague KB); Marina Venier (CERL/MEI Advisor); Gwendolyn Verbraak (Amsterdam UL); Andreas Walker (DCG); Eric White (Princeton UL); Izabela Wiencek (Warsaw UL); David Zeidberg (Huntington). Pier (?).

Please note: I do not have the email address of some of the participants who did not register directly.

**Apologies**: Ruben Celani (CERL grantee); Laura Nuvoloni (Holkham Hall); Greg Prickman (Folger/CERL Director).

**Apologies to Bettina Wagner (Bamberg SB), who did not receive the new address.**

**INCUNABULA WORKING GROUP**

For the last 10 years, C. Dondi has been sharing MEI Reports with colleagues at CERL meetings. Their content was often shared during presentations, seminars, conferences in Europe and North America. However, as a result of the impossibility to travel and participate to in-person events stimulated the organization of remote meetings. A welcome addition to CERL’s activities which will continue also after the end of the pandemic.

**Past meetings of the Incunabula Working Group**, one every 4 to 6 weeks:

27 May 2020; 2 July 2020; 6 Aug. 2020; 11 Sept. 2020

**Format:** Minutes are distributed the following day containing: Presents, apologies; news since previous meetings by C. Dondi; by others; Action list; proposed date of next meeting.

**NEWS SINCE LAST MEETING (11 Sept. 2020) AND MEI REPORT (OCT. 2020, circulated in advance):**

MEI Statistics:

* Editions: 15,390
* Copies: 56,270
* Owners: 21,335
* 448 libraries in 21 countries, 3 continents
* c.230 editors: librarians and scholars

MEI before and after ERC grant (15cBOOKTRADE)

* EDITIONS: 3,633 > 15,390
* COPIES: 6,575 > 56,270
* OWNERS: 7,000 > 21,335
* HOLDING INST: 36 > 448
* EDITORS: 40 > 230

**UP TO DATE LIST OF LIBRARIES IN MEI**

https://www.cerl.org/resources/mei/about/libraries

**UP TO DATE LIST OF MEI EDITORS**

https://www.cerl.org/resources/mei/about/editors

**MEI STATISTICS (More>Database statistics)**

https://data.cerl.org/mei/\_stats

**New collections and editors in MEI**:

Linda Hall Library, Kansas City Missouri

Jamie Cumbie will create records for 37 incunables [16 Sept 2020].

Massa and Pontremoli (Tuscany), Diocesan Library

Marina Carbone ([bibliotecadiocesana@tiscali.it](mailto:bibliotecadiocesana@tiscali.it)) will catalogue in MEI 2 incunables from

‘Massa Sem’ and 18 (not 13 as currently recorded in ISTC] from ‘Pontremoli Sem’ [3 Nov. 2020].

Broumov (Czech Republic)

Krisztina Rábai [CERL intern to Edinburgh NL 2017/18] ([rabaikri@hist.u-szeged.hu](mailto:rabaikri@hist.u-szeged.hu))

‘I have created 161 items in MEI. These are the records from Broumov. Difficulties in accessing the collection. Benedictine Monastery in Czech Republic. List with ISTC, MEI numbers, and shelfmarks sent for inclusion into ISTC and GW [20 November 2020]

**New PhD to visualize MEI records on a map:**

Dr Alfie Abdul Rahman, Lecturer in Computer Science, Department of Informatics, King’s College London has assigned a PhD to visualize the movement of books using MEI records [Oct. 2020]. Andreas has already shared information on how to access the data and Cristina some further information, historical questions to be addressed etc.

**ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED AND QUESTIONS FOR ISTC AND GW:**

ISTC / EDIT16

Flavia Bruni (ICCU), new member of CERL’s Executive Committee: There are editions formerly recorded as 16th-century in EDIT16 which have now been identified as incunabula, they will require an ISTC number before being eliminated from the database. A grant application has been submitted to support the work of an ICCU intern, Rosa Parlavecchia (CERL grantee 2019/20), on this project, as well as the creation of EDIT16 records for the circa 600 editions of the 16th century in ISTC (printed in Italy or in the Italian language), for 6 to 12 months [20/10/2020].

ISTC update for Lugano

Lugano, list of incunabula not in ISTC [23/10/2020]?

Action: Christian Algar and Stephen Parkin to check

Illustrated ISTC

Would it be possible to release the images and have them attached to ISTC records or similar? [Marieke van Delft]

During the discussion it became clear that, although desirable, the complications and obstacles are too many. On a positive note, digitisations are now growing at a regular pace (see below).

Karen also reported that the reference to MEI records from ISTC has now been combined when exceeding a certain number.

GW

Falk Eisermann reported that there are now 18,000 links to digitisations in GW. Among the most recent, Freiburg has done more than 1,000 already and are poised to cover the entire collection of incunabula.

Russia incunabula recorded in GW

No GW editor went to Russia, but the office gathered the paper catalogues of various collections, as well as online records. Moreover they are now in touch with some Russian libraries through the ‘Germany-Russia Library Dialogue’, and cooperation with Moscow and St Petersburg is now ongoing. A large exhibition on Gutenberg was organised in 2018. And there is the promise to digitise incunabula with Leipzig provenance. They use GW terminology in their opacs.

Action: Falk will prepare a GW Newsletter for circulation among the Working Group and MEI editors. He is also preparing a Bibliography on Incunabula for the Gb Jb (covering the last year). He will then prepare one from 2017 onwards for the dedicated space within the CERL website (at present already 85 pages long).

**ONGOING MATTERS**

-MEI in Greek – almost done

-MEI in French – Monique Hulvey has volunteered to work on it

-INKA: After the successful upload of Tübingen, shall we work on Munich BSB, on Bamberg?...

Action: A decision should be taken.

**-REVISION OF MEI DATABASE**

A document with suggestions was prepared in Sept. 2020.

Action: Andreas Walker to read, and discuss with Cristina what is possible, costs, timings.

-Remote/recorded sessions by expert editors to tackle difficult topics, such as dating (Dondi), or consignments (van Delft), or anonymous owners, other topics? Pending

**INTERSHIPS**

CERL Internships 2019/2020

* Milda Kvizikevičiūtė: Kaunas (Lithuania) (local training)
* Martyna Osuch: Warsaw Metropolitan Seminary (already knows MEI)
* Anna De Bruyn: Groeningen UL? (MvD training)
* Rosa Parlavecchia: Salerno (remote training)
* Camilla Marangoni: Transfer from paper catalogue (Florence BN?) (remote training)
* Florine Jaosidy: Maybe transfer from paper catalogue? (remote training)
* Annalisa Anastasio: will not accept the grant (but will receive remote training)

ONLINE TRAINING SESSIONS: INTERESTED? Please write to C. Dondi.

University of Turin - CERL

Coordinator: Dr Alessandra Panzanelli. 3 Erasmus grants with CERL, to work on MEI (2/3 months) in European libraries and collections to be determined. Language: English and Spanish [18 Nov. 2020]

**COLLABORATION WITH OTHER PROJECTS:**

**Footprints’ database- Jewish Books through time and place**

The Annual Report of October 19, 2020, states that they ‘now have 15,067 footprints in the database. This is nearly double the amount that we had at our last dispatch, and is due in no small part to the many partnerships and collaborations that we have cultivated over the last year. A significant portion of this is due to ingesting data from the *Material Evidence in Incunabula* (MEI) project. Footprints from incunables now represent about a third of the dataset. There are about 5000 footprints for fifteenth century imprints, spanning 1380 book copies.’

**TEXT-inc and AGAPE**

A Database of Greek Patristics Edition in Early Modern Europe (1450-1600), part of the project of Dr Paolo Sachet (University of Geneva).

The database model and some records have been passed on to successfully to AGAPE (Paolo Sachet) for textual description and analysis of editions of the 16th century; Alessandra Panzanelli will be next. Warm thanks to Thaddeus Lipinski (Bodleian).

**EVENTS**

7-9 Dec. 2020, Broumov conference on Monastic Libraries between the Middle Ages and the  Enlightenment. Paper on MEI by Krisztina Rabai (Szeged, Hungary). The conf. volume will be published shortly before the conference. An announcement was circulated via CERL on 23 Nov. 2020.

**PUBLICATIONS**

*How the Secularization of Religious Houses Transformed the Libraries of Europe, 16th–19th Centuries'*, Proceedings of the Conference held in Oxford 22-24 March 2012, ed. C. Dondi, D. Raines, and R. Sharpe, Turnhout, Brepols, 2021 (Bibliologia series). Papers on incunabula by Dondi, Dondi-Prosdocimi-Raines (on S. Giorgio Maggiore of Venice), Linenthal, Stoneman, Wagner.

**OTHER NEWS FROM THE COMMUNITY**

**Julianne Simpson** (Manchester JRL) reported that funding has been raised to catalogue the library’s collection of incunabula, some 2600 editions in multiple copies, for a total of 3,400 copies, the 4th largest in the UK. Ed Potten is an advisor to this project. An advertisement to recruit a cataloguer for 4 years will be circulated shortly (originally sue to circulate last March 2020, a covid-related delay).

**Marian Lefferts** (CERL) reminded everybody that the CERL Blog is there to host interesting stories about the collections which we are exploring.

**Next event of interest to the community: CERL alumni present their research – Tuesday 12 January 2021**

Next meeting of the Incunabula Working Group: end of January 2021.

Next public meeting on Incunabula: Spring 2021.

C. Dondi – CERL Secretary - 23 Nov. 2020