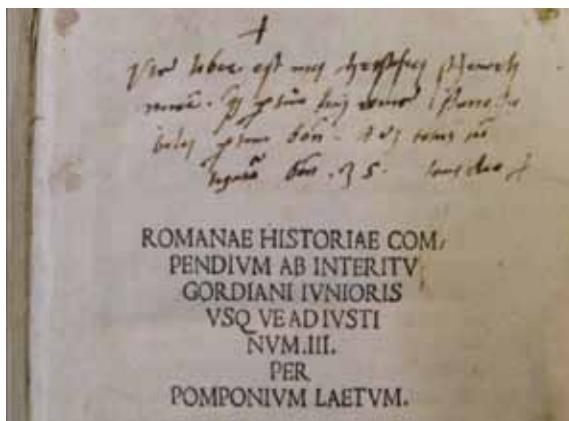


### Which records are in MEI?

- MEI offers a dedicated space to record the material evidence of the vast number of incunabula which today remain described only bibliographically: there are well over 4,000 locations with incunabula registered in ISTC.
- Provenance information extracted from published catalogues (in progress). This will allow for an integrated search on all information already available on copy specific of incunabula, currently scattered across hundreds of published catalogues.
- MEI is currently available in an English and Italian interface. Translations into other languages are being prepared.

**English:** <http://incunabula.cerl.org/cgi-bin/search.pl?lang=en>

**Italian:** <http://incunabula.cerl.org/cgi-bin/search.pl?lang=it>



### CERL Electronic Resources

**The Heritage of the Printed Book Database (HPB)**  
The HPB offers scholars in all disciplines convenient and reliable access to over 4 million records of the European printed heritage from c. 1455 to c. 1830.

### The CERL Thesaurus (CT)

The CERL Thesaurus contains forms of names for imprint places, persons and corporate bodies, printers and their devices, as well as provenance information.

### The CERL Portal (CP)

The CP enables scholars to search across the contents of online manuscript databases, in combination with selected large databases of printed materials, thereby overcoming the historical differentiation of printed books and manuscripts in libraries.

### Material Evidence in Incunabula (MEI)

MEI is a database for recording and searching the material evidence of 15th-century printed books: ownership, decoration, binding, manuscript annotations, stamps, prices, etc.

### Can You Help? – Identifying Provenance Evidence

This is a resource for public discussion and identification of provenance queries. It allows the sharing of queries with an extensive network of specialists and the contribution of expertise.

## Material Evidence in Incunabula – MEI

Accessing the record of Europe's book heritage

# CONSORTIUM OF EUROPEAN RESEARCH LIBRARIES

### How to contribute?

Contribution of records is free and welcome. Records are being inserted by a number of European libraries. Once in MEI records can be downloaded in MARC21 or UNIMARC Holdings for integration into local OPACs.



CONSORTIUM OF  
EUROPEAN  
RESEARCH  
LIBRARIES

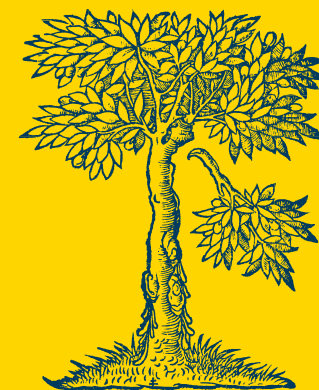
Finsbury Business Centre, 40 Bowling Green Lane,  
London EC1R 0NE

Telephone: +44 20 7415 7134,

Fax: +44 20 7970 5643

E-mail: [secretariat@cerl.org](mailto:secretariat@cerl.org), [www.cerl.org](http://www.cerl.org)

August 2013



# Material Evidence in Incunabula

MEI is a database specifically designed to record and search the material evidence (or copy specific, post-production evidence, provenance information) of 15th-century printed books: ownership, decoration, binding, manuscript annotations, stamps, prices, etc.

MEI is linked to the Incunabula Short-Title Catalogue (ISTC), from which it derives the bibliographical records, and it allows the user to combine search of bibliographical records (extracted from ISTC) with copy-specific records.

Every piece of evidence (a certain style of decoration or binding, the period of a manuscript note, etc.) is treated as a valuable clue for provenance, therefore it can be geographically located and chronologically dated. This enables the tracking of the movement of books across Europe and through the centuries. Explicit ownership notes are further categorised as private or institutional, religious or lay, female or male, and by profession.

Manuscript notes are classified according to their frequency and their type: corrections, completions, supplements, extraction of key words, collation, translation, structuring the text, comments, censorship, reading marks (underlining and pointing hands) and drawings.

Personal and institutional names of ownership are linked to the Provenance section of the CERL Thesaurus, where further bio-bibliographical information can be found.

Provenance locations are linked to the Place names section of the CERL Thesaurus, which offers geo-coordinates and map locations: MEI is being developed to provide a physical representation of the circulation of books throughout the centuries, from place of production to their present location.

<p>ISTC Record No. <b>il00023000</b></p> <p>Author: <b>Laetus, Pomponius</b></p> <p>Title proper: <b>Grammaticae compendium</b></p> <p>Imprint: <b>Venice : Baptista de Tortis, 31 Mar. 1484</b></p> <p><a href="#">more...</a></p> <p>Copies</p> <p><b>Oxford, Bodleian Library [Oxford Bodley]</b></p> <p>Shelfmark: <b>Auct. O inf. 1.31(3)</b></p> <p>Bound with: <b>Julius Pomponius Laetus: De Romanorum magistratibus. – [Bologna : Benedictus Hectoris, after 1497]</b> Copy ID: <b>0200352</b></p> <p>Bound with: <b>Julius Pomponius Laetus: Romanae historiae compendium. – Venice : Bemardinus Venetus, de Vitalibus, 23 Apr. 1499</b> Copy ID: <b>0200351</b></p> <p>Copy ID: <b>02000344</b></p> <p>Size of Leaves: <b>212mm x 149mm</b></p> <p>Material: <b>Book paper; Folia; Watermark</b></p> <p>Electronic od.: <b><a href="http://bodley30.bodley.ox.ac.uk:8180/incunabula/istc/cerl/02000344">http://bodley30.bodley.ox.ac.uk:8180/incunabula/istc/cerl/02000344</a></b></p> <p>Sources: <b>Bod-inc L-018</b> The recording of this copy's provenance is complete. Last change: 2011-03-02, 08:09:25</p> <p>Provenance</p> <p>Place: <b>Bologna [CERL Thesaurus: 020001756]</b></p> <p>Time Period: <b>15th cent., last decade to 16th cent., 4th decade</b></p> <p>Owner: <b>Christoph Scheurl, 1481-1542 (from Nuremberg) [CERL Thesaurus: 02001228813] (note, no characteristic(s)/y; student)</b> Former Owner</p> <p>Type of Prov.: <b>Inscription</b></p> <p>Note: <b>On a tr of item 1: iste liber est mei christoferi schewrlj nure[n]bergensis] quod partim emi rome anno lubilei partim bon[onie] et v[aliet] totus cum ligatura bon[oninorum] 35. Laus deo.</b> Method of acquisition: <b>purchase</b></p>	<p>Binding: <b>The original binding was probably prepared by Benedictus Hectoris of Bologna, binder, printer, and bookseller.</b></p> <p>Ms. notes: <b>A few marginal notes in Scheurl's hand.</b> Frequency of notes: <b>a few</b> Type of notes: <b>extraction of key words, structuring the text, reading marks (underlining and pointing hands)</b></p> <p>Price: <b>35 Bolognini [Bologna] in 1500, for 3 editions and the binding</b> Sources: <b>Back in Hand (The recording of this provenance is considered certain)</b></p> <p>Provenance</p> <p>Place: <b>Frankfurt am Main [CERL Thesaurus: 020007828]</b></p> <p>Time Period: <b>18th cent., Please choose decade to 19th cent., decade</b></p> <p>Owner: <b>Georg Franz Burkhard Kloss, 1787-1854 (Jurist, scholar) [CERL Thesaurus: 0201103252] (note, no characteristic(s)/y; university lecturer)</b> Former Owner</p> <p>Type of Prov.: <b>Exlibris</b></p> <p>Note: <b>His sale, London, Sotheby and Son, 7 May 1835, lot 2153.</b></p> <p>Binding: <b>19th century half calf over marbled pasteboards, bound for Kloss</b> Binding Date: <b>19th century</b> Binding Type: <b>Boards</b> Board Material: <b>Paper</b> Cover Material: <b>marb</b> Binding Status: <b>Rebound</b> Edges: <b>unobscured</b> Writing on Edges: <b>access</b> Guttered: <b>no</b> Sources: <b>Back in Hand (The recording of this provenance is considered certain)</b></p> <p>Provenance</p> <p>Place: <b>Oxford [CERL Thesaurus: 0200012818]</b></p> <p>Area: <b>Great Britain</b></p> <p>Time Period: <b>19th cent., Please choose decade to 21st cent., decade</b></p> <p>Owner: <b>Oxford, Bodleian Library, 1802- (no characteristic(s)/y; university)</b> Present Owner</p> <p>Type of Prov.: <b>Stamps</b></p> <p>Note: <b>Date of acquisition unknown; books with neighbouring shelfmarks were acquired in 1834 and 1835.</b> Method of acquisition: <b>purchase</b> Sources: <b>Back in Hand (The recording of this provenance is considered certain)</b></p> <p><a href="#">less...</a></p> <p><b>Brescia, Biblioteca Queriniiana [Brescia C] (IT)</b></p> <p>Shelfmark: <b>Inc. F.VII.6m4</b></p> <p>Copy ID: <b>02002128</b></p> <p><a href="#">more...</a></p>
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MEI was created by Cristina Dondi, University of Oxford and Secretary of the Consortium of European Research Libraries (CERL), and developed by Alexander Jahnke of Data Conversion Group, University of Göttingen, with funds from the British Academy granted to Nigel Palmer and Cristina Dondi. It is hosted by CERL, and freely available on its website.

## Questions MEI can address

- Provenance research
- Reconstruction of dispersed collections
- The book-trade in the 15th and later centuries: distribution, circulation, prices
- Assessing the survival of our printed heritage
- History of collecting and history of libraries from the 15th century to the present
- Pattern of acquisitions and of collection formation
- Social history, ownership of books
- History of reading, readership and the use of books
- Dissemination of texts in print
- Intellectual history/circulation of ideas
- Copy-census investigation
- History of censorship



MEI is freely available  
<http://incunabula.cerl.org>