

# CONSORTIUM *of* EUROPEAN RESEARCH LIBRARIES

## Excerpt from Newsletter 7 July 2003

The full text of CERL Newsletter 7 may be found [here](#).

### **Provenance description and access**

In recent years provenance information has been recognised as an essential part of the history of the book and an important source of documentation for scholars and researchers in the Humanities. Rare book libraries traditionally recorded the provenance of their collections, but mostly only major donors, bequests and famous autographs were documented.

In the last decades, a strong awareness has emerged about the importance of the book as a physical object bearing marks of its history and of its itineraries, both geographical and intellectual. This approach acknowledges the importance of the history of each copy for the history of the book at large.

As well as, copy-specific information such as the description of binding and paper, a record of marks of provenance encountered in rare books, giving whenever feasible the identification of the former owner and the transcription of the marks of ownership, represents a real enhancement of the bibliographical description. It also helps libraries draw a more precise picture of the history of their rare book collections and remove the traditional bibliographical divide between manuscripts and printed books, which will be reassembled through the prism of their collector's passion or interest.

Beyond the marks of ownership themselves, rare book cataloguing nowadays takes increasingly into consideration marks of all sorts which also document provenance, such as marks of censorship, notes of the date and circumstances of the purchase of the book and the price paid for it, manuscript marginal annotations, corrections of errors in the printed text, etc. The desire of appropriation so often expressed in ownership inscriptions or the defacing of books, are elements that reflect the point of view of the end-user. They contribute greatly to our understanding of how the printing, selling, and use of books took place and provide evidence for the history of reading.

It is an immense and challenging task to document the European printed heritage and the travels of the book. CERL has brought together several European libraries interested in exchanging information, and working on common descriptions of marks of ownership. Projects of normalisation of description and access to provenance information are now in progress through networks, bibliographical and digital databases. The creation of a multilingual thesaurus could be another major step in developing access to provenance in the coming years. Increasing international collaboration between libraries to record and communicate provenance information should represent a major evolution in the field of the history of the book.

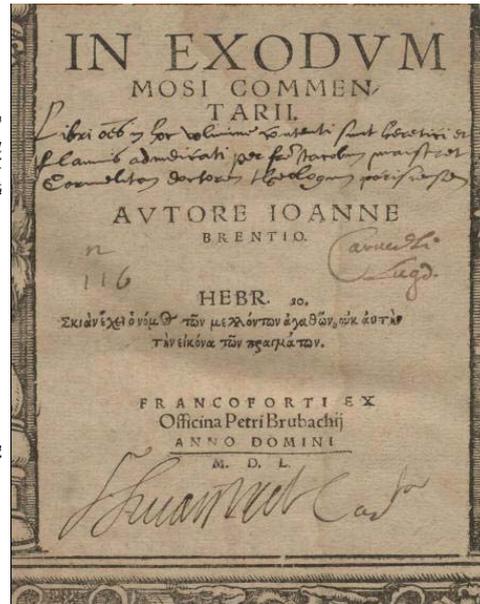
*M. Hulvey, BM Lyon*

## An Example of the treatment of provenance data in the Bibliothèque Municipale, Lyon

BM Lyon 100851

Several works of the reformer Johannes Brenz were put in the Convent of the Carmelites in Lyon to be reviewed by Maistret (1534-1616), a Carmelite particularly active in the Counter-Reformation, who condemns them to be heretical "Libri omnes in hoc volumine contenti sunt flammis adiudicati per Fratrem Iacobum Maistret ..."

Brenz, Johannes. *In Exodum Mosi Commentarii*. Francoforti : ex officina Petri Brubachij, 1550.



### Lyon - Provenance des livres anciens

<http://sgedh.si.bm-lyon.fr/dipweb2/apos/possesseurs.htm>

The records are in French but the marks of ownership can also be searched by their English equivalent. For the list of terms in English, see the English version of the "Presentation" in the menu of the search screen. All fields except the reference fields can be searched by keyword and by alphabetical list. To see the list of available terms, click on the heading of the field in the left part of the search screen.

BM Lyon 100851

Les "Anciens Possesseurs" - Microsoft Internet Explorer

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

Cote : 100851 [Description complète de l'ouvrage](#)

Possesseur : [Couvent des Grands Carmes \(Lyon\)](#)

Information : Couvent établi à Lyon à la fin du 13e siècle au faubourg Saint-Vincent près des Terreaux. Il exerçait une grande influence et jouissait d'une solide réputation. Il fournit au Diocèse de Lyon plusieurs évêques suffragants et plusieurs prieurs au couvent de Paris. La bibliothèque des Grands Carmes comptait 3000 volumes à la Révolution (la moitié de théologie, mais aussi de sciences et arts, belles-lettres et histoire)

Transcription : Ex-libris armorié au contreplat supérieur : "Chappé arrondi d'argent et de sable", portant l'inscription "Bibliothecae Majoris Carmeli lugduni inscriptus catalogo. Anno 1769". Cote et ex-libris manuscrit au titre : "n 116 Carmeli Lugd." Inscription et signature au titre de Jacques Maistret (1534-1615) : "Libri omnes in hoc volumine contenti sunt heretici et flammis adiudicati per Fratrem Iacobum Maistret Carmelitam doctorem theologum Parisiensem" qualifiant d'hérétiques les œuvres de Johannes Brenz reliées dans le recueil et les adjugeant aux flammes.

Marques : Ex-libris manuscrit  
Ex-libris imprimé  
Armes  
Notes  
Marques-de-censure

Date : 16e siècle ; 17e siècle ; 18e siècle ; 1769

Ref. Livre : Brenz, Johannes. *In Exodum Mosi Commentarii*. Francoforti : ex officina Petri Brubachij, 1550.

Ref. Doc. : Moyne, T. *Les livres illustrés à Lyon*. 1987  
Vachet, A. *Les anciens couvents de Lyon*, 1895  
Poidebard

[Plein écran](#) [Plein écran](#)

[Plein écran](#)

Mise à Jour du panier

Internet

There are two links at the beginning of the former owner record. One ([Description complète de l'ouvrage](#)) opens the bibliographic record of the book in the Online Catalogue. The other one opens the list in the Online Catalogue of the books owned by the Grands Carmes de Lyon (those indexed so far). The first time you click on one of these links, you might have to click twice (the first one opens the Online Catalogue screen only).