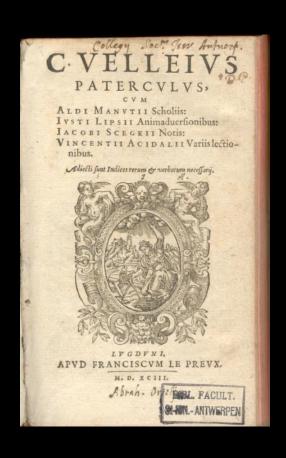
Why are we gathering provenance data?

The historical framework

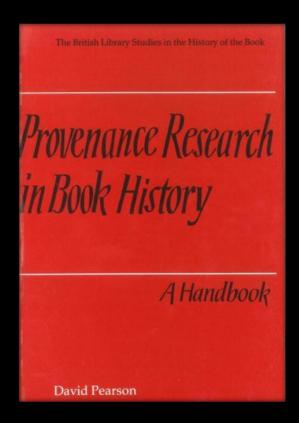


Pierre Delsaerdt

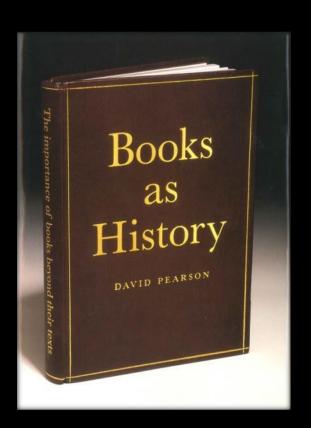
University of Antwerp – Flanders Heritage Library

London *The Warburg Institute* 11.03.2015

Provenance research is interesting and useful. But interestingness and usefulness are not sufficient to make it sustainable in a competitive environment.



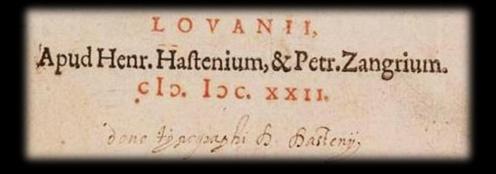
¶ David Pearson, *Provenance* research in book history, 1998

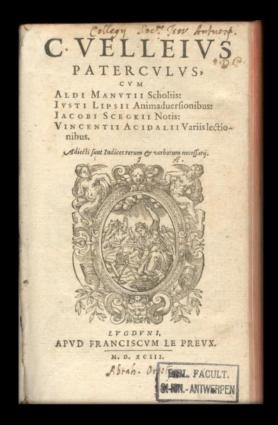


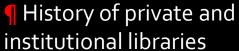
¶ David Pearson, *Books αs history*, 2008

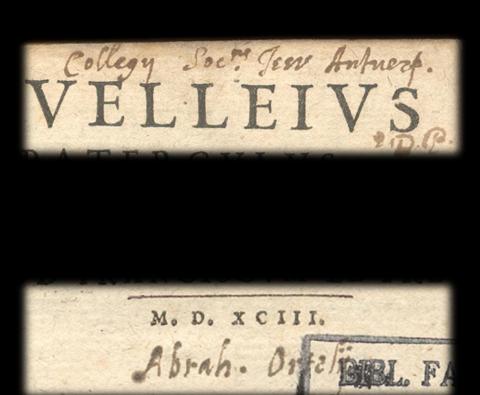


¶ Authorship, presentation copies



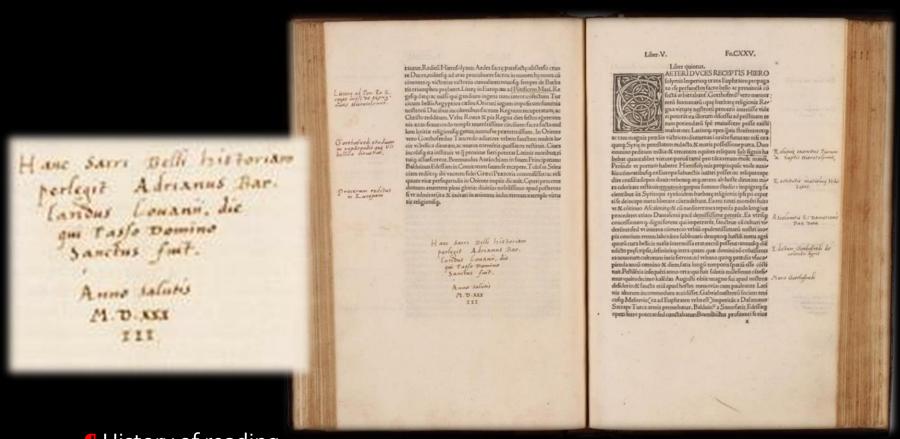








¶ History of collecting & bibliophily

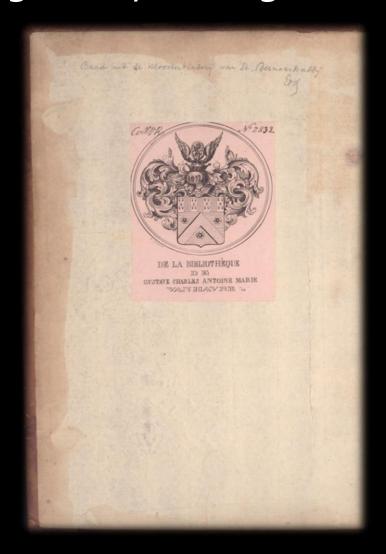


¶ History of reading

1. Provenance: matching library management

and historical research





¶ 'Provenance collections'

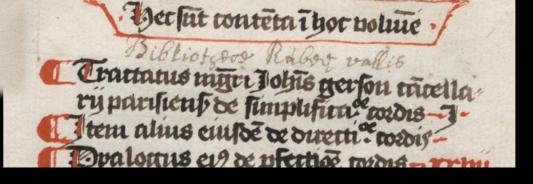


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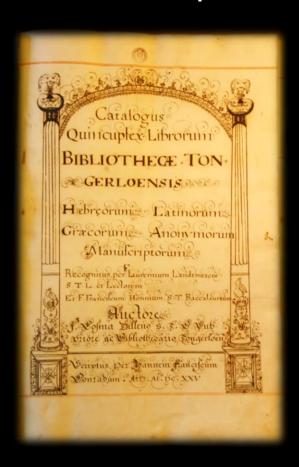
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¶ Preservation issues





¶ Tongerlo Abbey, Belgium





Catalogue of Tongerlo Abbey Library, 1625



Catalogue of Tongerlo Abbey Library, 1707



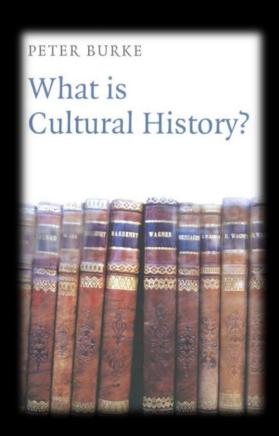
- heritage-oriented!
- no clear research questions!
- no underlying theory!

¶ Catalogue of Tongerlo Abbey Library, 1707

Interestingness and usefulness are not sufficient

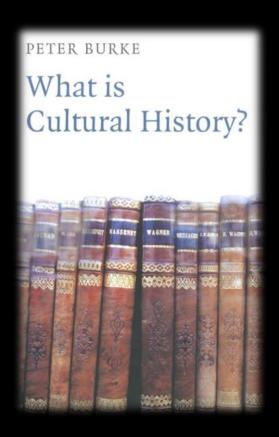
- Cultural history: theoretical approaches
- Integration of research data
- International cooperation & crowdsourcing

3. Cultural history: theoretical approaches



Peter Burke, What is cultural history? 2004

3. Cultural history: theoretical approaches



- Conspicuous consumption
- Appropriation
- The cultures of collecting (incl. the canon of –)
- Emergence of concept of national heritage
- Dedications, patterns of patronage, network analysis
- Gender studies

•

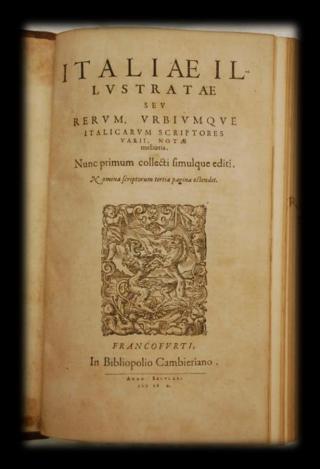
4. Integration of research data

Integration of bibliographical data and copyspecific information (e.g. Material Evidence in Incunabula)

But also combining *physical* evidence (provenance marks in specific copies) and *archival* evidence:

- library catalogues
- sales catalogues (auctions)
- probate inventories
- •

4. Integration of research data



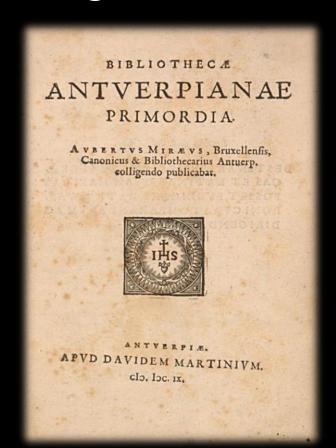


Jonissius leermans anomicis es fants Answerpien donaint Brokesheer Answering, Amno 1809 10 Aprilis.

¶ Italiae illustratae seu (...) scriptores, Frankfurt 1600

¶ Flyleaf

4. Integration of research data



Africani minoris, Florentiz 1549. edita.

Italia illustrata scriptores varij, iunctim Francofurti 1600.
editi: dono R. & Cl. V. Dionysij Leremans, I. V. D.

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Idem De vetustate Aquileiz, Deq; vrbe & agro Vicentino.

Ioannes Chrysostomus Zanchius De Orobiorum seu Cenomanorum origine, libb. III.

** * 2 Torel-

¶ Aubertus Miraeus, *Bibliothecae Antverpianae* primordia, Antwerp 1609

5. International cooperation & crowdsourcing

¶ David Pearson, *Provenance research in bookhistory*, p. 2:

'The whole notion of a one-country approach is out of place when considering a book trade which has always been international. The different methods of marking book ownership used by British collectors down the centuries have been mirrored or influenced by similar habits overseas, particularly in continental Europe.'

6. And finally...

CERL Seminar

Library history: why, what, how?

University of Antwerp 27 October 2015



¶ pierre.delsaerdt@uantwerpen.be