Tracking and visualising the circulation of books and of illustrations: 15cV and 15cILLUSTRATION

C. Dondi and M. Malaspina

ETH, Zurich 14 Mar. 2018
15cBOOKTRADE Project:
An evidence-based assessment and visualisation of the distribution, sale, and reception of books in the Renaissance

http://15cbooktrade.ox.ac.uk/
1. Distribution, trade routes, use and reception of books
2. Transmission and dissemination of the texts
3. Contemporary sales and prices
4. Circulation and re-use of Illustration
5. Visualization
Material Evidence in Incunabula

Every item of data recorded (a certain style of decoration or binding, the date of a manuscript note, etc.) is treated as a valuable clue for provenance, therefore it can be geographically located and chronologically dated. This enables to track the movement of books across Europe and through the centuries.
Where the book was printed and
Where the book is today
tell us very little of
where the book was during the 500
years of its existence
Books moved extensively over the 500-year period
Change of perspective

- Libraries are static entities
- Books are dynamic entities

Dynamic concept of provenance
From the book’s point of view (instead of from a collection’s)
Tracking the mobility of books by tracking the evidence of their USE

Geographical (geonames.org) and Chronological tagging of each Provenance element
Innovative Approach to sources

- Physical evidence ➔ historical evidence

- Capturing the movement of the books as evidence of trade and use by tagging geographically and chronologically
Material Evidence
Documentary Evidence
Bibliographical Evidence
Iowa City IA, Univ. of Iowa, The Univ. Libraries (US): PA6492.A2 1472

ISTC No. im00008000
Author Macrobius, Aurelius Theodosius
Title In Somnium Scipionis expositio. Saturnalia
Imprint Venice : Nicolaus Jenson, 1472
Format f°

All Copies
Padova, Biblioteca del Seminario Vescovile (IT): Forc. L.2.8
Milano, Biblioteca Trivulziana (IT): Triv. Inc. A 31
London, The British Library (GB): 167.h.3
Cambridge MA, Harvard College Library, Houghton Library (US): Inc 4085
Cambridge MA, Harvard College Library, Houghton Library (US): WKR 1.3.10
Iowa City IA, Univ. of Iowa, The Univ. Libraries (US): PA6492.A2 1472

Description of Copy
Copy Id 02011775
Holding Institution Iowa City IA, Univ. of Iowa, The Univ. Libraries (US)
Shelfmark PA6492.A2 1472
Copy History Created by Greg Prickman and Cristina Dondi
Size of leaves 329 × 234 mm
Copy Features Manuscript signatures
Paper
Support material (book) Some provenance and descriptive information taken from Incunabula at Iowa by Sidney B. Vesper.
1st owner: Italian humanist Aulo Giano Parrasio (1470-1521)
### Provenance 1500 - 1521

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Napoli (Geonames Id: 3172394)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Area</td>
<td>Italy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time period</td>
<td>1500 - 1521</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provenance name</td>
<td>Parrasio, Aulo Giano, 1470 - 1521 [Person; Former Owner] (Male, Scholar, No characterisation/lay)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Provenance Type**: Inscription

**Note**: On the front endleaf: ‘Hosce Macrobiij libros aliqua ex parte emendandos curavit Ianus Parrhasius antiquissimum nactus exemplar ambustum tamem et affectum iussitque ne quid ex ingenio cuiusquam uel adderetur uel immutaretur ut sibi caeterisque esset integrum uelut odorari uestigia uere lectionis’

Parrasio’s note says that he had added in the margins variant readings from an antiquissimus codex of Macrobius, a volume damaged by fire, and asks/warns posterity not to tamper with the text further, so as to preserve these records of ancient readings. - comments from an email from Paul Needham, Oct. 6, 2014.

**Ms. notes (frequency)**: Extensive

**Location in Book**: Throughout

**Corrections**: Yes

**Extraction of keywords**: Yes

**Collation**: Yes

**Certainty**: Yes

**Source**: The recording of this evidence is considered certain

**Book in hand**
Parrasio’s collation and notes
# 2nd – 3rd block of provenance

## Provenance 1521 - 1531

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Napoli (Geonames Id: 3172394)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Area</td>
<td>Italy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time period</td>
<td>1521 - 1531</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provenance name</td>
<td><em>Seripando, Antonio, 1486 - 1531 [Person; Former Owner] (Male, Scholar, Aristocracy)</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Method of acquisition
- Bequest

### Inscription
On the last leaf, below the colophon: 'Antonij Seripandi ex Iani Parrhasij | testamento'

### Certainty
- The recording of this evidence is considered certain

### Source
- Book in hand

## Provenance 1531 - 1563

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Naples (Geonames Id: 3172394)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Area</td>
<td>Italy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time period</td>
<td>1531 - 1563</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provenance name</td>
<td><em>Seripando, Girolamo, 1492-1563 [Person; Former Owner] (Male, Clergy, Religious)</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

*Antonij Seripandi ex Iani Parrhasij testamento*
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Provenance 1563 - 1687</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Place</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Area</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Time period</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Provenance name</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Provenance Type</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Note</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Method of acquisition</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Provenance 1687 - 1687</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Place</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Area</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Time period</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Provenance name</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Provenance Type</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Note</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Method of acquisition</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Price</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Certainty</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Provenance 1801 - 1886

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Thenford (Geonames Id: 7296731)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Area</td>
<td>Great Britain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time period</td>
<td>1801 - 1886</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provenance name</td>
<td>Wodhull, Michael, 1740 - 1816 [Person; Former Owner] (Male, Scholar, No characterisation/lay)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provenance Type</td>
<td>Manuscript Notes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Note</td>
<td>Description in Incunabula at Iowa states: &quot;a Mr. Woodhull, who paid 28 pounds for it in 1801.&quot; It is possible that the book stayed in Thenford until the Sotheby's sale of 1886.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Method of acquisition</td>
<td>Purchase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Price</td>
<td>£28 British pounds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Certainty</td>
<td>The recording of this evidence is considered uncertain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Source</td>
<td>Library catalogue</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Provenance 1801 - 2000

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>New York (Geonames Id: 5128581)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Time period</td>
<td>1801 - 2000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provenance name</td>
<td>Grant, Madison [Person] (Male, No characterisation/lay)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provenance Type</td>
<td>Ex-libris</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Certainty</td>
<td>The recording of this evidence is considered certain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Source</td>
<td>Book in hand</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Provenance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Iowa City (Geonames Id: 4862034)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Area</td>
<td>United States</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provenance name</td>
<td>Iowa City IA, Univ. of Iowa, The Univ. Libraries [Corporate body; Present Owner] (Library, No characterisation/lay)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Copy in Iowa City
15cV + MEI
Visualization of the 7 copies in MEI
1st copy in Harvard
2nd copy in Harvard
TRACKING DISPERSED COLLECTIONS, EXAMPLE:
Venice, Benedictines, S. Georgius maior
Iste liber est monachorum congregationis S. Justine de Padua deputatus in S. Georgii majoris Venetiarum | .773.
1 copy in Oxford: WHERE ARE THE OTHERS?

Biblia Latina
Venice: Franciscus Renner, 1480

Bod-inc B-275

German style decoration
Reconstruction of a dispersed collection: Venice, S. Giorgio Maggiore, OSB

Material Evidence in Incunabula

Every item of data recorded (a certain style of decoration or binding, the date of a manuscript note, etc.) is treated as a valuable clue for provenance, therefore it can be geographically located and chronologically dated. This enables to track the movement of books across Europe and through the centuries.

137 Editions in 141 Copies

Missale Romanum. (Ed: Petrus Arrivabenus?)
Venice : Georgius Arrivabenus, 29 May 1499. – P. – ISTC im00716000
Cicero, Marcus Tullius:
Rhetorica ad C. Herennium
Milan: Antonius Zanutus [for Marco Roma], 12 Aug. 1474. – 4°. – ISTC ic00676000

Ferrariis, Johannes Petrus de:
Practica moderna iudicialis. Ed: Franciscus Gardensis
Historical Copy. – Venezia [02018180]

Philephus, Johannes Marius:
Novum epistolarium (Ed: Ludovicus Mondellus)
Padova, Biblioteca Universitaria (IT). – Sec. XV 488 [02018225]
Visualization of the formation and dispersal of the collection using MEI and TEXT-inc data
http://15cv.trade [access via chrome]
DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE:
'Catalogo generale, ossia riunione di tutti gli elenchi di libri scelti dalle biblioteche delle Corporazioni Regolari concentrate nel già convento di S. Anna di Padova' [compiled by Giuseppe Dainese] (Padua, University Library, May 1811, ms. 2250)
Venice > Padua? Only some...
by clicking on a node we visualise each individual journey: Copy in Venice, National Library
BIBLIOGRAPHIC EVIDENCE: Emmanuele Cicogna, *Delle iscrizioni veneziane* (1824-61)


Edizioni del secolo XV.


Edizioni Aldine.


Edizioni rare.


Opere di musica.


Per la generosità di Francesco I di gloriosissima memoria presso che tutti codestlibri sono ritornati nel 1815, e riposti nella Marciana.
Inspector: Owners (S. Giorgio Maggiore)
Inspector: role, profession, gender... and subject (S. Giorgio Maggiore)
Visualization of the distribution and use of an edition using MEI data
Horae [Greek], Venice: A. Manutius, 5 Dec. 1497 (ISTC ih00391000)
36 copies

- US: 12
- Italy: 9
- UK: 7
- France: 3
- Germany: 3
- Greece: 1
- Russia: 1
Horae (Greek), Venice: A. Manutius, 1497
Gennadius copy
Manchester copy
Cambridge, Trinity College
Other historical questions

- Circulation of a certain text
- Circulation of a certain author
- Circulation of a certain subject
- [Circulation of the output of a printer]
- [Circulation of a certain language]
- Circulation of the output of a printing town
- Comparison among them: Venice / Paris Law / Science
A video which explains the visualization of MEI and TEXT-inc data using our visualization suite is available here:

https://vimeo.com/172076861
PRINTING EVOLUTION 1450-1500
Fifty Years that Changed Europe
15cI

15th-century Illustrations
Series of images named with ISTC_MEI_folio
It is possible to upload one's own file and to search the database for the same image it contains.
It is possible to visualize the images contained in one single edition and to search the database for them - the bibliographic data is extracted automatically from ISTC.
It is possible to search the database using an image or part of it - select the desired portion and click search.
List of results of the query

15c BOOKTRADE Project

Search key:  | Region Attributes | Search

Query image Region

- Filename: ia001564000_003_0152_e3v.jpg
- ISTC Metadata:
  - id: ia001564000
  - author: Aesopus
  - title: Aesopus moralisatus (Latin and Italian) (Adapted, with additions, by Acco Zucco, 17)
  - imprint: Venice: Venetia de Bonellis, de Moneferrato, 27 June 1497
  - format: 4°

Search Result: 1 to 13  | List View  | Tile View  | Tile View (images only)
List of result of the query bis - different view
It is possible to search the database through the ISTC number (bibliographic data extracted automatically from ISTC)

VGG Image Search Engine (VISE) is an open source project developed by the Visual Geometry Group (VGG).
It is also possible to search for the ‘region attributes’ (= metadata manually assigned through annotation). For instance: all images that contain a dog.
Part of the results of the search of 'DOG' in the metadata: list view
Sample of description of one image containing 'dog', which can be further used for image search (how time was this image of a dog used)
How are the images tagged?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region Attributes</th>
<th>Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>artistic_style</td>
<td>Italian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>creator_of_the_image_and_description_owners_institution</td>
<td>Washington DC Library of Congress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>creator_of_the_image_and_description_scholar</td>
<td>Matilde Malaspina</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>date_that_the_image_was_made</td>
<td>e5v</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>folio</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>keywords</td>
<td>Fall; Aesopus; Delphi; Delphos; Cliff; Death; Condemnation; Castle; Landscape; Outdoors; Trees; Dead man; Dead body; Soldiers; Man; Flag; River; Dog; Hare;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iconclass</td>
<td>31E225 dying from the effects of a fall; 45D1 (military) flags and standards; 25H213 river; 34B11 dog; 25f26(HARE) rodents: hare; 45M2 soldiers and civilians; 25l55 landscape with tower or castle - II - ideal landscapes; 25G3 trees; 31E death of human being; 25HH121 inland cliff face - HH - ideal landscapes;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
VGG Image Annotator (VIA)

- No installation required (runs in a web browser)
- Can be used offline
- Application size < 200 Kb (can easily be emailed)
- CSV & JSON import and export of annotations
Metadata description scheme (query fields)

- Image name (ISTC + MEI + foliation + type of cut)
- Folio
- Image measures h x w in mm
- Cropped
- Position within the page
  - Titlepage
  - Full page
  - In text
- Type of cut
  - Decorated initial
  - Border
  - Top border
  - Bottom border
  - Left border
  - Right border
  - Center
- Controlled keywords
- Image tags (ICONCLASS)
- Technique (AAT)
- Text
- Internal number of object
- Total number of illustrations
- Total number of woodblocks
- Place of printing
- Printer
- Date of Printing
- Year of printing
- Essling number
- Sander number
- Person (artist/designer/cutter) linked to the image
- Artistic style
- Location of the copy examined
- Shelfmark
- State of conservation
  - Good
  - Damaged
  - Broken
- Details about picture and metadata description
- Other existing copies of the image
- Copy specific notes
- Bibliography
- Notes
- Download VISE (matching) and VIA (annotation) tools from [www.seebibyte.org/software](http://www.seebibyte.org/software)
- Information: giles.bergel@eng.ox.ac.uk
- Record and research copy specific evidence (provenance, decoration, binding, marginalia, etc.)
- in combination with bibliographical evidence, derived from the Incunabula Short Title Catalogue (ISTC-BL)
- Free to use and to contribute to
- Hosted and maintained by CERL
- English, Italian German version, French in preparation
- Funding from British Academy, Italian PRIN, Italian Regional authorities, ERC grant (2014-12019), etc.
MEI Statistics (7 March 2018)

- Editions: 13,685
- Copies: 40,836
- Owners: 15,319

- 362 libraries in 16 countries, 3 continents
  [http://www.cerl.org/resources/mei/about/libraries](http://www.cerl.org/resources/mei/about/libraries)

- c.140 editors: librarians and scholars
  [http://www.cerl.org/resources/mei/about/editors](http://www.cerl.org/resources/mei/about/editors)