

CONSORTIUM OF EUROPEAN RESEARCH LIBRARIES

CERL Alumni present their research
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Camilla Marangoni

- I live in Milan
- BA in Cultural Heritage, MA in Archaeology and Art History at Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore
- Art historian with a passion for rare books, particularly interested in the interaction between written words and drawings, as well as the use of illumination in correlation to the medium of print.



ROSA PARLAVECCHIA

- I live in Salerno
- MA in Library Science at Salerno University, Vatican School of Library science, Ph.D. in Humanities at University of Calabria, postdoc researcher at ICCU where I am working on the research project POST-I-IT (Post Incunaboli ITaliani), contract professor of Printing History at Salerno University.
- My main research interest concerns the history of books and libraries in the modern age.



Our CERL internship

January 2020: our application for an internship at Cambridge University Library.

Beginning of March 2020: Italy declares state of lockdown, the internship had to be thought over.

Now: After a remote training, we are working on MEI database



Our new contribution to MEI database:

Our tool: the new incunabula catalogue of Biblioteca Medicea Laurenziana, curated by Ida Giovanna Rao and published in 2019

Creating new records for every item (533 in total), as well as new records for Owners of Incunabula when it's needed

Instead of studying physical specimen: carefully analising details written by Rao and uploading them as new data on the database

Linking records, owners, providing material evidence

THE VALUE OF LAURENZIANA'S HERITAGE

- 555 incunabula, 533 different editions
- Most of the editions (376) come from the donation of count Angelo Maria Pannocchieschi d'Elci (1754-1824)
- More acquisitions from important institutions, eg. S. Marco, Certosa di Calci
- Many luxurious copies, with beautiful illuminations and woodcuts, prestigious owners







SOME OBSERVATIONS ON WORKING WITH THE PRINTED CATALOGUE

Challenges:

- Necessity of interpretation of synthetic information
- No chance of creating a complete record, some fields must be left empty

What we have gained:

- A deeper understanding of the structure of a catalogue
- Faster process
- Despite the current health emergency, we have the great opportunity to work on the MEI database.







