The European Manuscript & Hand Press Book Heritage

The role of the Consortium of European Research Libraries

Seminar

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Manuscripts in the Special Collection
of the Research Library, Dubrovnik



Znanstvena knjižnica Dubrovnik

2007

Inauguration of the Dubrovnik Library in the Rector's Palace in 1941





In presence of the Archbishop of Zagreb, Cardinal Alojzije Stepinac, (recently beatified) the governor (ban) Ivan Šubašić inaugurated the Library in the Rector's Palace

The basis for the Research Library collections were:

- gifts of the citizens of Dubrovnik,
- collections belonging to the ex-library of the Jesuit *Collegium Rhagusinum*









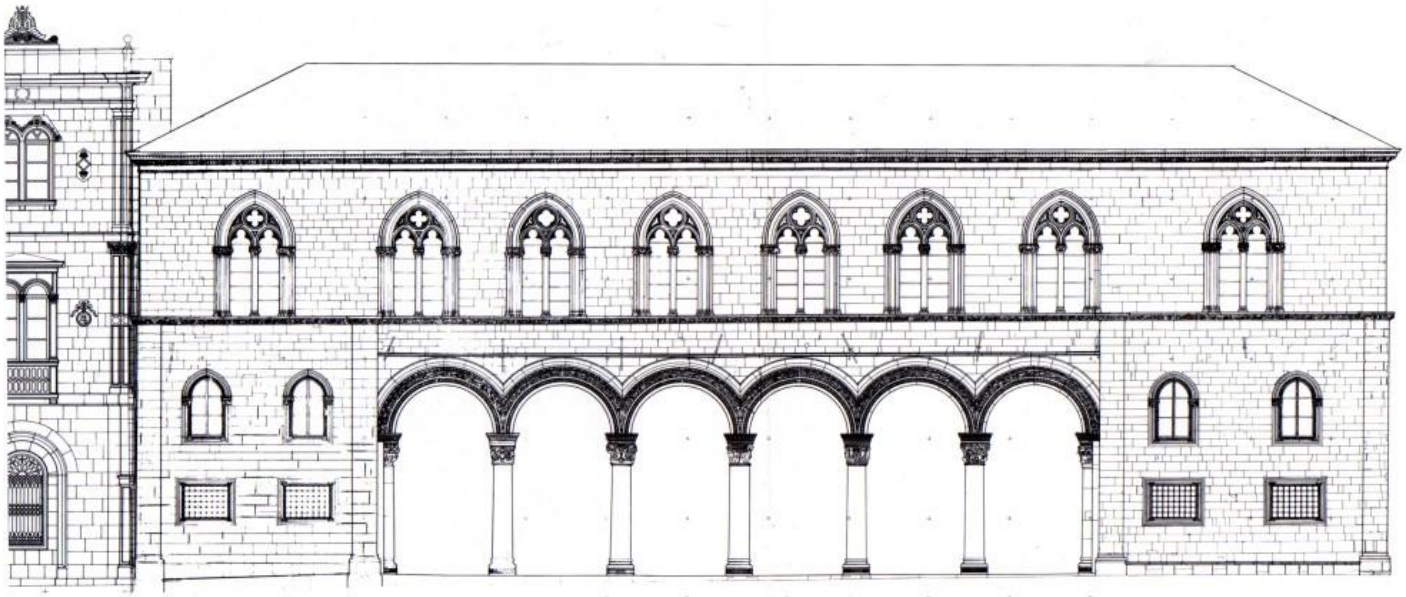




Some of donators of the Library

The Research Library in Dubrovnik (2)

- Soon, the Public and the Research Library separated
- Research Library kept independence, name and seat.
- Public Library changed owners, names, seats and purposes.
- From 1975 on they have been again integrated in the Dubrovnik Libraries developing separate collections and on different locations.



The Rector’s Palace



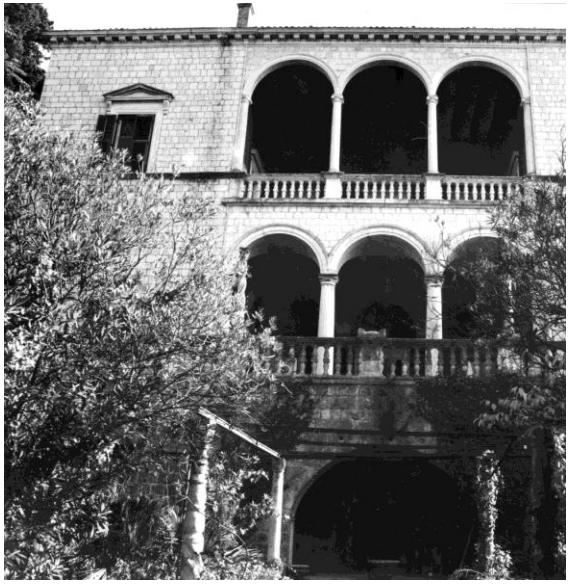
The Rector’s Palace

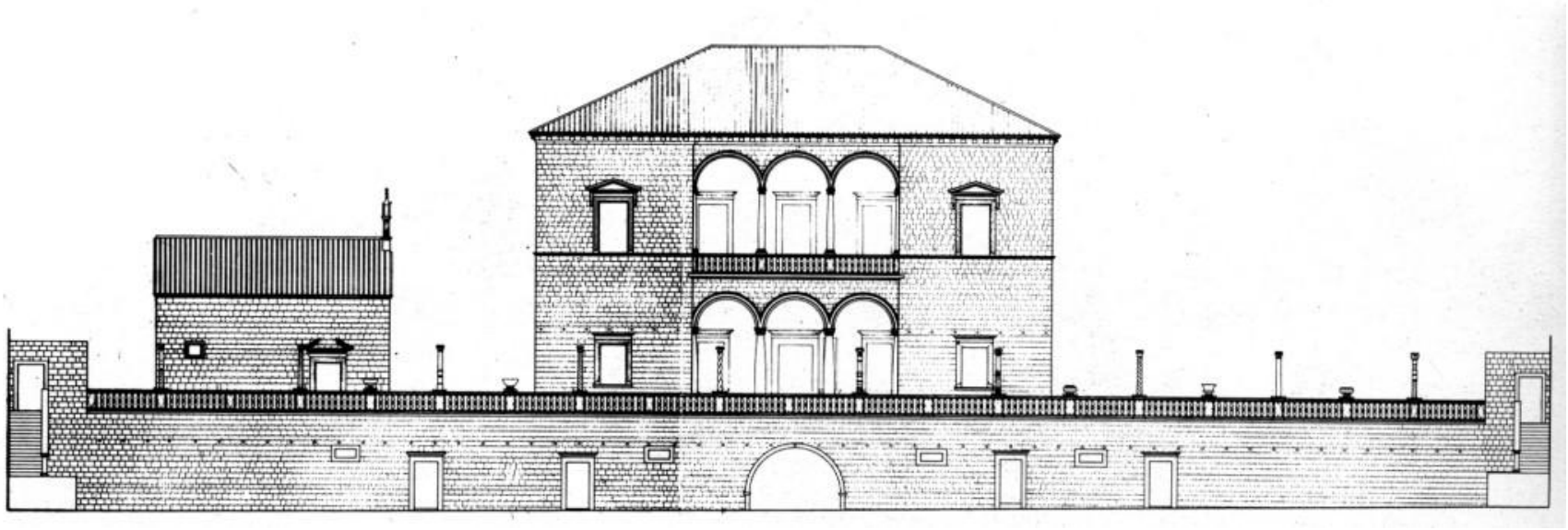
Skočibuha summer residence

- Library moved outside the city walls to Skočibuha summer residence

- There are most of the Library's collections (about 400 000 printed books, periodicals, audio-visual material, ephemera, and maps).







Skočibuha summer-residence

The complex of Skočibuha summer residence

- The palace suffered severe damage in the 1979 earthquake
- and even worse during the war in 1992.
- Library collections did not suffer any serious destruction,
- librarians were not permitted to stay there any more for the safety reasons.



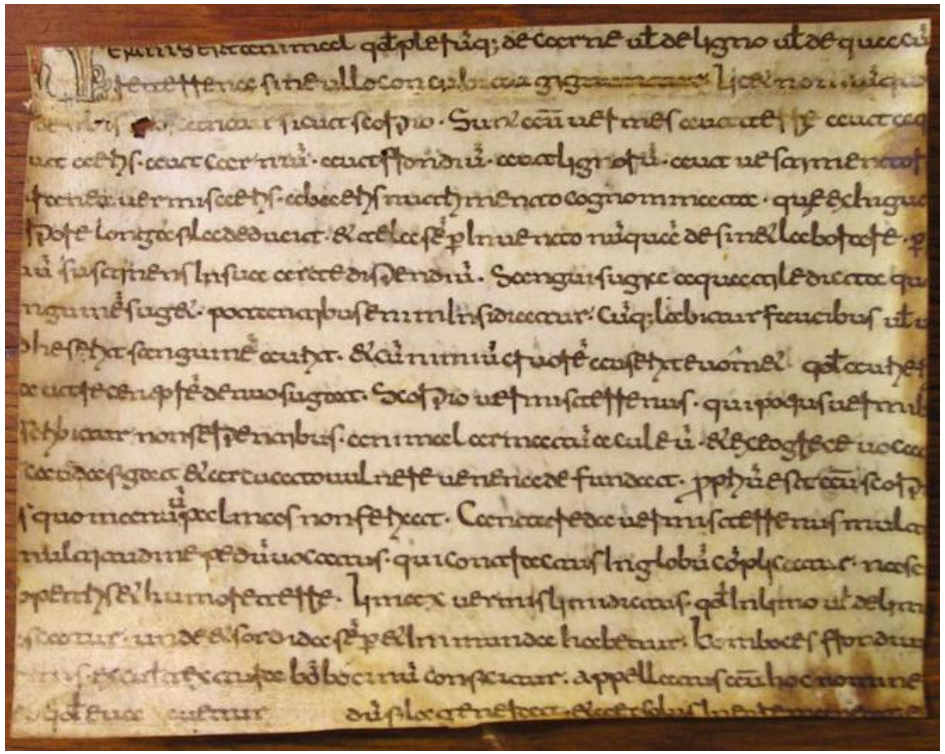
The summer residence today after the 1992 war damages.

Research Library in Dubrovnik contains several collections and departments:

- Special collections (manuscripts, correspondence, incunabula, old and rare books, librettos)
- *Ragusina* local collection
- Legal deposit
- General book department
- Periodicals
- Reading room with reference collection
- (Book) bindery
- Multimedia collection (audio-visual, graphics, etc.
- CIP office (cataloging in publication)

Collection of manuscripts (1)

- Research Library owns more than 900 manuscripts



The oldest one originated on the nearby island of Mljet most probably in the 10th century. It is the fragment preserved in the binding of an incunabulum printed in Brescia in 1494

Collection of manuscripts (2)

- The whole collection is catalogued, but not available on line.
- Catalog was published in 2 volumes, in 1954 and in 1997.
- First volume deals with manuscripts written in Croatian language no matter what script.
- Second volume deals with manuscripts written in any other language but Croatian.
- Special structure of the collection imposed the language as the first principle for its division.
- Almost all manuscripts originate from the territory of Dubrovnik, and are connected with people from the region of Dubrovnik and its past.

Collection of manuscripts (3)

- Expansion of Dubrovnik literature was conditioned by the lack of the print shop at home.
- Minor poets were more affected than well known ones who had their main literary works printed elsewhere during their lifetime.
- Minor poets' literary works circulated only in transcriptions - therefore valuable possessions of manuscripts accumulated in private and church libraries through centuries

Collection of manuscripts (4)

- a tiny remnant of a huge manuscript treasure once found in Dubrovnik private and monastery libraries.
- its disappearance was caused by various calamities:
  - the disastrous earthquake of 1667,
  - French and Russian war of 1806 on the territory of the Republic of Dubrovnik
  - the Napoleon's abolition of the Republic
  - followed by French and by
  - Austrian occupation which resulted in the lack of care for national wealth.
  - Once rich Dubrovnik aristocratic families became poor and were forced to sell their property

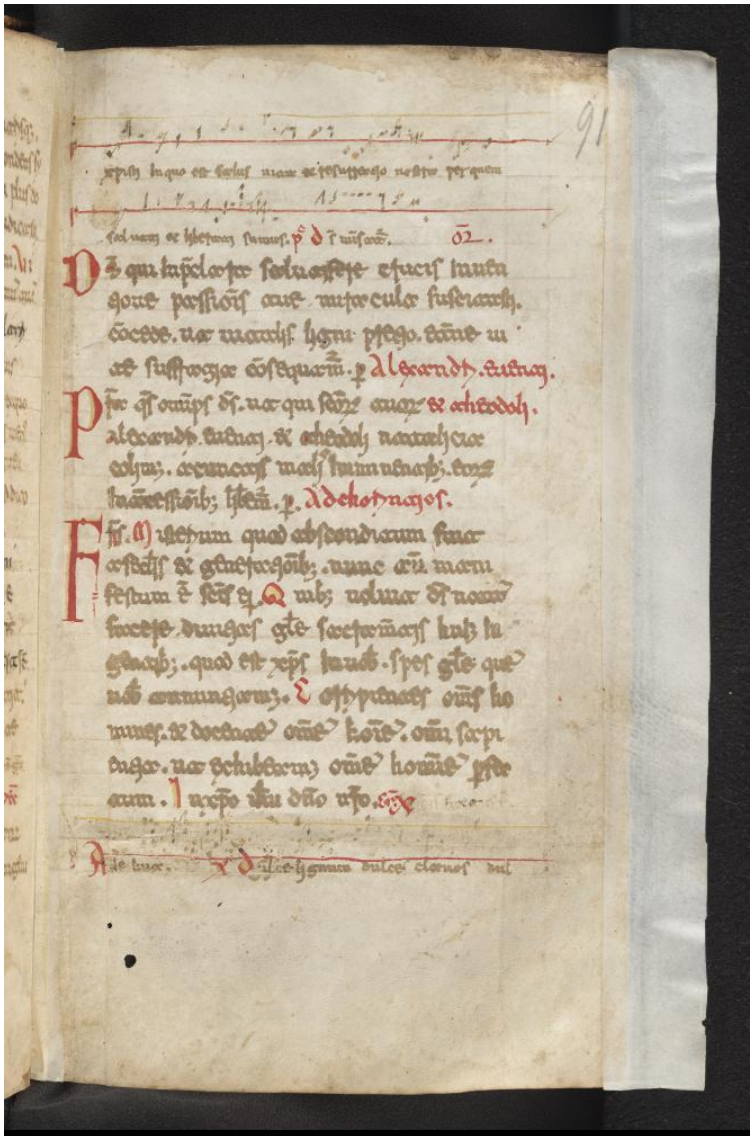
Collection of manuscripts (5)

- 12th century manuscript *Missale Ragusinum* was created in Dubrovnik for the cathedral.

- *Missale Ragusinum* is now in Bodleian Library in Oxford bought in Venice in 1817 from the heir of the Italian Jesuit, Matteo Luigi Canonici, collector.

- Research Library was provided with a significant donation for the reprint of the *Missale*

- the project in agreement with Oxford has already started.



© Bodleian Library, University of Oxford, 2007
MS. Canon. Liturg. 342, fol. 91r

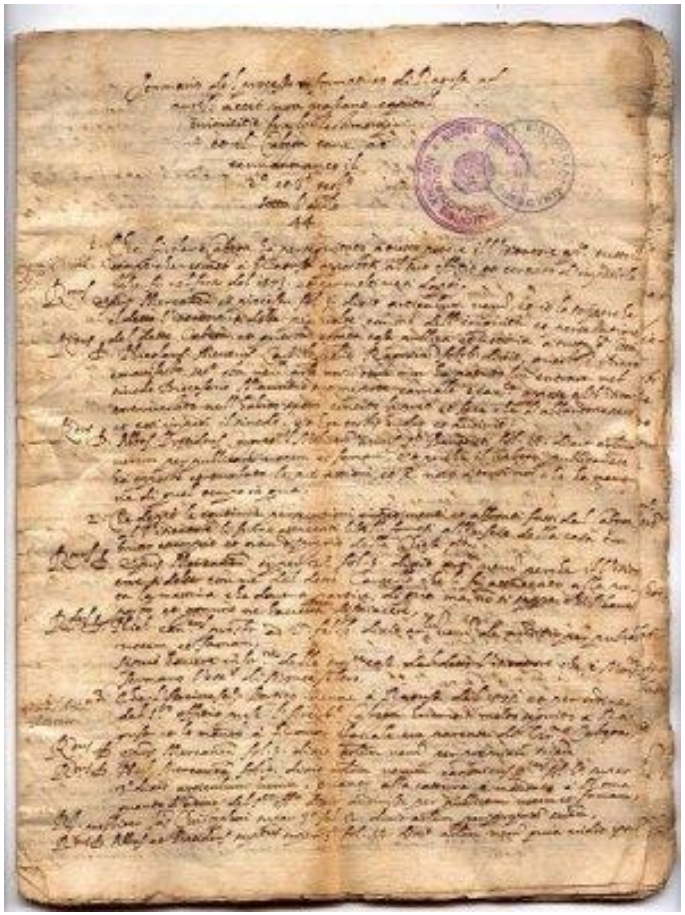
Missale Ragusinum

Collection of manuscripts (6)

- The collection of manuscripts in the Research Library was not gathered deliberately.

- Many manuscripts came to the library with the old *Biblioteca Rhagusina* of the ex-Jesuit *Collegium Rhagusina*

- The largest part of the Jesuit collection was transferred to Italy after the abolition of the Jesuit order in 1773





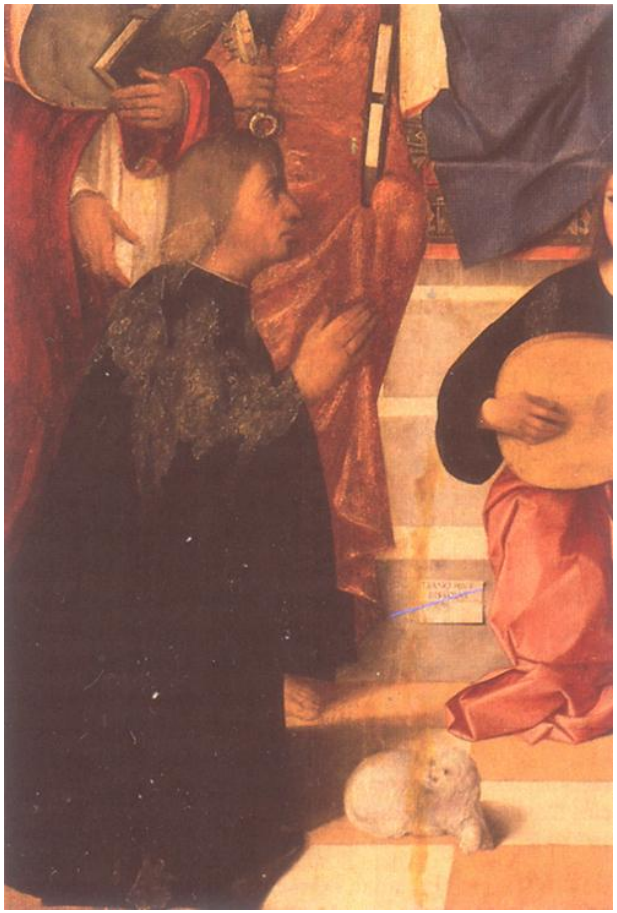
Two manuscripts from 16th century

The collection of correspondence

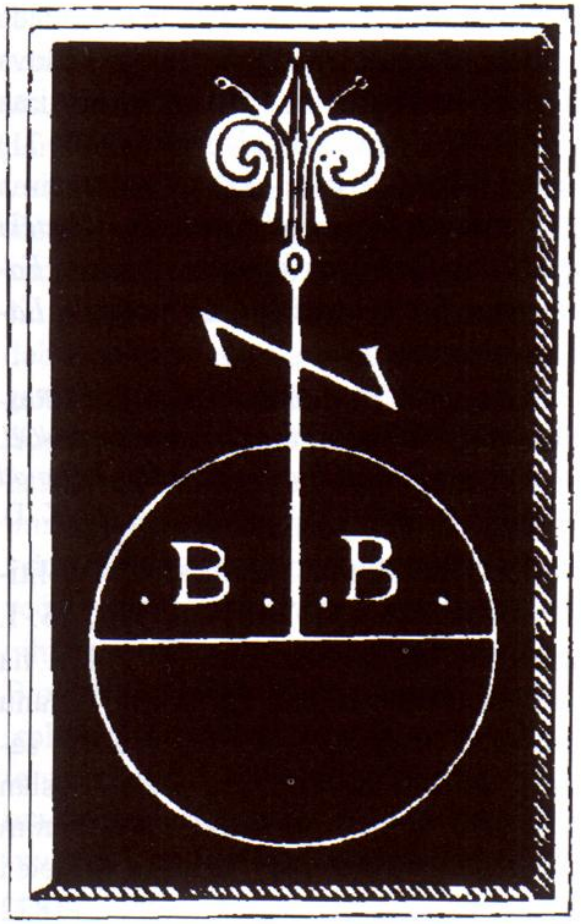
- consists of more than 800 letters from the 16th to 20th century.
- Most letters are written by well-known people from Dubrovnik
- The very important acquisition took place in 2003 - the correspondence of the archivist, Zdravko Šundrica, Ph.D.
- The acquisition consists of hundreds of letters written by the scientists who did their research in Dubrovnik archives and libraries
- The collection of correspondence has an internal catalog not published and not available on line.

The collection of incunabula (1)

- The collection of incunabula has 77 items
- Croats gave two famous printers of incunabula who worked outside Croatia and became famous there.
- Andrija Paltašić of Kotor (c. 1450 - c. 1500) was acknowledged as the first Croatian printer.
- Dobrić Dobrićević (1457-1528) (Boninus de Boninis) came from the island of Lastovo – region of Dubrovnik
- In Venice Boninus worked with Andrija Paltašić.



Portrait of
Boninus de Boninis



Dobrićević's
printing mark

The collection of incunabula (2)

- The oldest incunabulum in the Research Library is Caesar's *De bello Gallico* printed in Rome in 1469.

- The most valuable incunabula of our collection and perhaps the most beautiful one in Croatia is written by Franciscan Juraj Dragišić, *De natura angelica* printed in Florence in 1499.

- Sir Arthur Evans gave *De natura* as a present to the City of Dubrovnik and its Library.



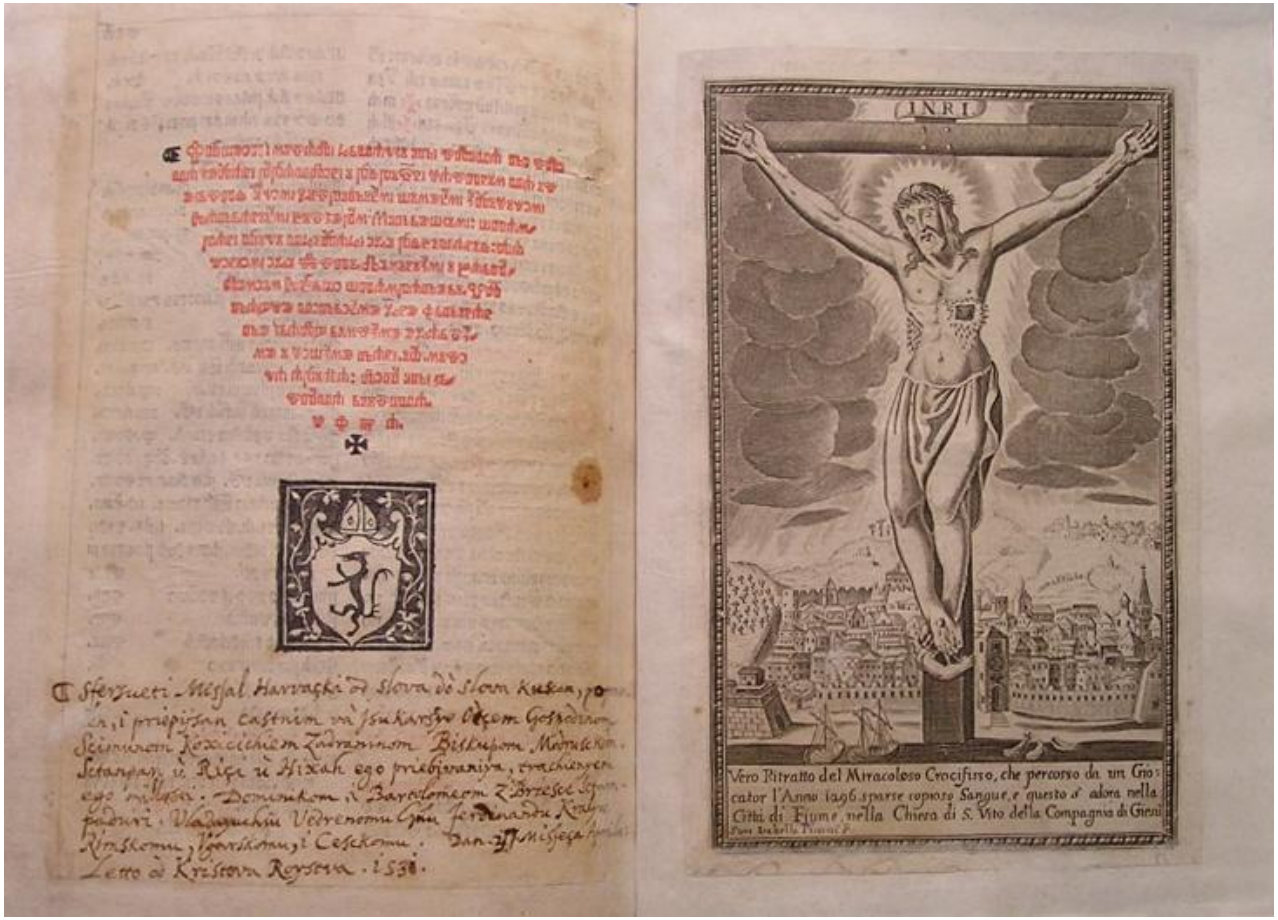
Juraj Dragišić. De natura angelica. Florence, 1499. (Ink. 45)

The collection of old and rare books

- has more than 10 000 volumes
- from 16th century up to the fall of the Republic of Dubrovnik in 1808.
- They belonged to the educated people of Dubrovnik and to the Jesuit *Collegium Rhagusinum*.
- The ownership, i.e. the provenance of these books was the main criterion for building of the collection.



MISAL HRUACKI po rimski običai i čini ...
Rijeka : [Glagolitic printshop of Šimun Kožičić Benja], 1531.
Glagollitic letters.



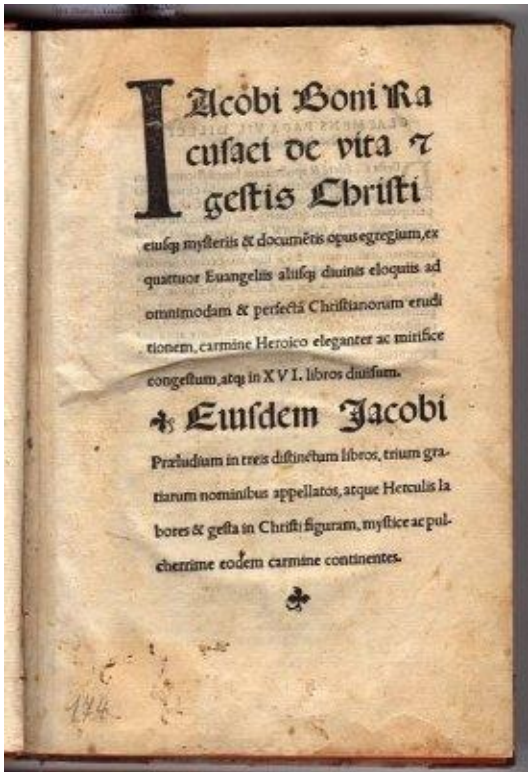
MISAL HRUACKI po rimski običai i čini ...
Rijeka : [Glagolitic printshop of Šimun Kožičić Benja], 1531.
Glagollitic letters.

The collection of librettos

- The collection of opera librettos and ballets has more than 700 titles
- The richest collection of librettos in Croatia.
- All the titles belonged to Luka Drobac (1812-1876) of Dubrovnik, the collector and the pharmacist.
- The earliest libretto comes from 1714, and most of them come from 19th century.

Ragusina Local collection (1)

consists of about 14 000 volumes of printed books, some 100 titles of periodicals, and ephemera.



Iacobi Boni Ra
cusaei de vita &
gestis Christi

eiusq; mysteriis & documẽtis opus egregium, ex
quatuor Euangeliis aliisq; diuinis eloquiis ad
omnimodam & perfectã Christianorum erudi
tionem, carmine Heroico eleganter ac mirifice
congestum, atq; in XVI. libros diuisum.

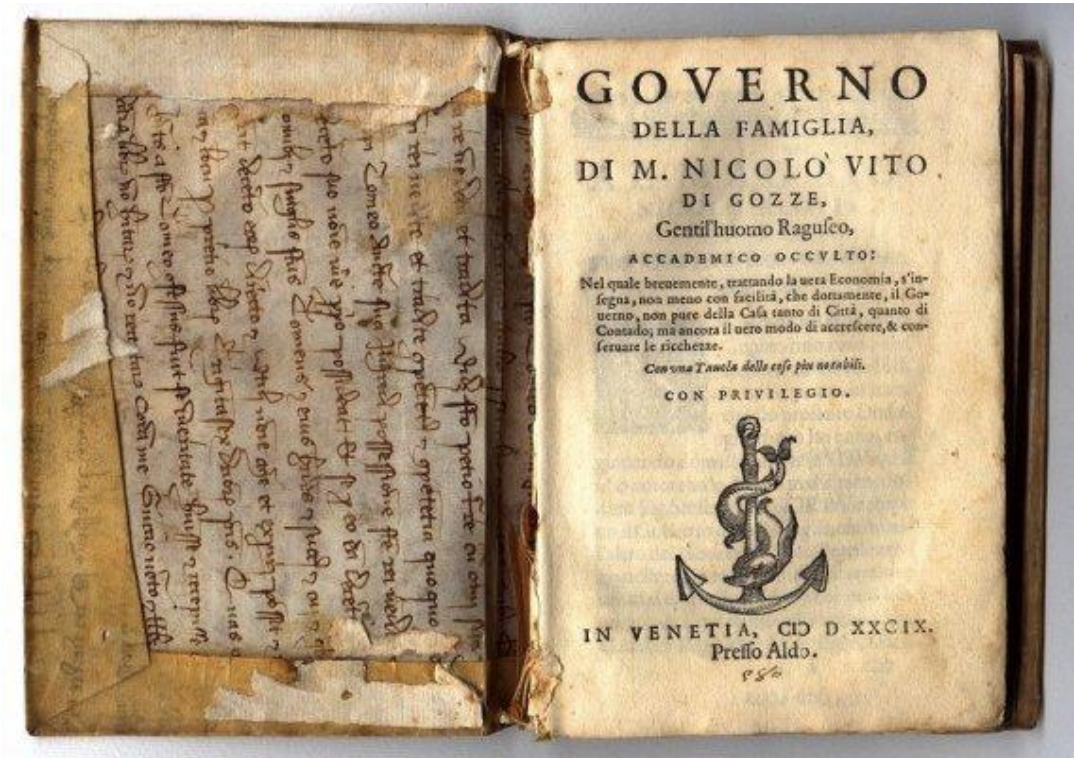
Eiusdem Iacobi

Præludium in treis distinctum libros, trium gra-
tiarum nominibus appellatos, atque Herculis la
bores & gesta in Christi figuram, mystice ac pul-
cherrime eodem carmine continentes.

Jakov Bunić-Bona, *De vita et gestis Christi*, Rome, 1526 is the oldest book in the *Ragusina*

Ragusina Local collection (2)

has a considerable number of 16th century books. One of them is *Governo della famiglia* from 1589, the work of the well-known author, philosopher, aristocrat of Dubrovnik, elected several times for the rector, Nikola Vito Gozze

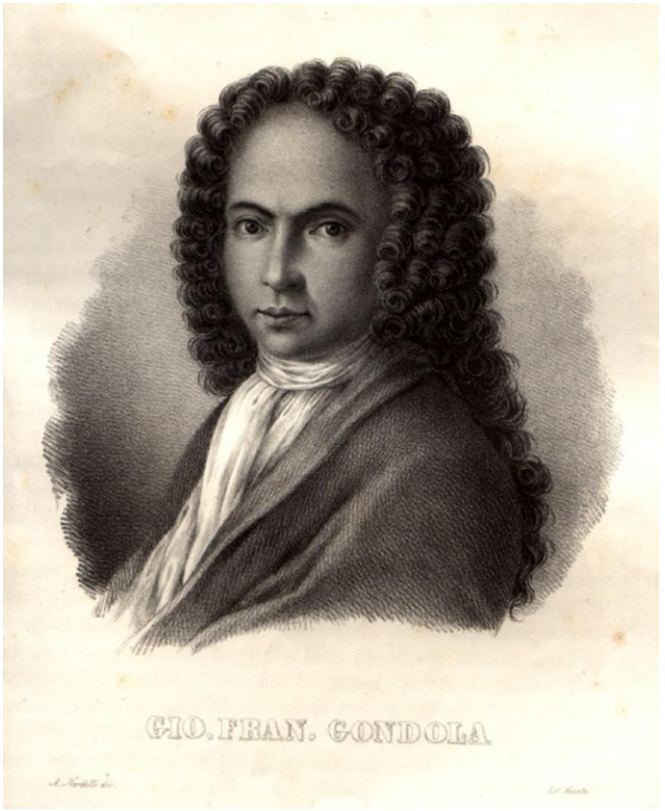


GOVERNO
DELLA FAMIGLIA,
DI M. NICOLO' VITO
DI GOZZE,
Gentil'huomo Ragusco,
ACCADEMICO OCCVLTO:
Nel quale brevemente, trattando la vera Economia, s'insegna, non meno con facilità, che dottamente, il Governo, non pure della Casa tanto di Città, quanto di Contado; ma ancora il vero modo di accrescere, & conservare le ricchezze.
Con una Tavola delle cose più notabili.
CON PRIVILEGIO.
IN VENETIA, CIↃ D XXCIX.
Presso Aldo.

Manuscript in the binding of the 16th century book



Josip Ruđer Bošković
(1711 - 1787)



Ivan Gundulić
(1589 - 1638)



Marin Getaldić
(1568 - 1626)



Cvijeta Zuzorić
(1552 - 1595)