Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

65 years of The FAO Library 1952–2017

The story of
The FAO Library
65th Anniversary
1952–2017

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Rome, 2017

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Table of Contents

Acknowledgements

THE AIM OF THIS BOOK is to give an overview of the historic events that shaped FAO's David Lubin Memorial Library and its predecessor, the library of the International Institute of Agriculture (IIA). We hope we have succeeded in highlighting some of the roles that both libraries have fulfilled within the world of agricultural information management and their contribution to FAO.

The preparation of this book was made possible with the support and input of many individuals from the Library, archives and publication teams. We want to thank the editors, translators, designers and the photo archive for their contribution and valuable input.

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Introduction

THE FAO LIBRARY CELEBRATES ITS SIXTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY IN 2017. This book commemorates this event with an overview of the historical events that shaped the FAO Library and highlights some of the roles the library has played in the world of agricultural information management.

The story of FAO's David Lubin Memorial Library starts with its predecessor, the library of the International Institute of Agriculture (IIA), founded in 1905 in Rome by King Vittorio Emanuele III. In so doing, the King was fulfilling the dreams of David Lubin (1849-1909), an American citizen of Polish origin who had dedicated his life to the service of what he called "*the United States of the World.*"[1]

When FAO was founded in 1945 it was quickly decided that it should become the custodian of the IIA, since "*the difference between the two organizations is more of scale than of fundamental intent. Central to the programmes of both is concern for the farmer and for agriculture.*"[2] The custodianship was especially in regard to the IIA Library, which at that time was one of the largest agricultural research collections in the world. It contained 400 000 volumes on agriculture, including a collection of 400 rare books and 32 incunabula – a precious heritage for a library with the task of sustaining FAO as a knowledge organization.

The FAO Library was officially opened in Rome on 10 June 1952 and named the David Lubin Memorial Library, *"in recognition of the foresight, leadership, and outstanding contribution of David Lubin to international co-operation in the field of agriculture."*[3] Over the last 65 years it has amassed its own collection on top of the IIA heritage, consisting of non-FAO as well as FAO publications, collecting and preserving each and every FAO document ever published.

Today the FAO Library preserves one and a half million volumes, which together form the memory of the Organization. It is the leading force on digital content and dissemination of FAO publications and the source for agricultural knowledge worldwide.

[1] Agresti, O.R. 1941. David Lubin: *A study in practical idealism*. Los Angeles, University of California Press, p. 1.

[2] FAO. 1969. David Lubin (1849-1919): *An appreciation*. Rome, Italy, FAO, p 1.

[3] FAO. 1950. *Report of the Conference of FAO: Special session*, Washington, 3-11 November 1950. Rome, FAO, p 12.

Enlightening

WITH THE AGE OF ENLIGHTENMENT, book collecting became more widespread throughout Europe and North America and the number of private libraries increased, many forming the core of today's great libraries. However, general use of these libraries remained highly restricted.

One of the first librarians who talked about opening up library collections to the public was the Italian Anthony Panizzi (1797–1879), who in the mid-nineteenth century was the chief librarian of the British Museum.

"*I want a poor student to have the same means of indulging his learned curiosity, of following his rational pursuits, of consulting the same authorities, of fathoming the most intricate inquiry, as the richest man in the kingdom, as far as books go.*"[1]

The idea of making knowledge accessible to all became a common good realized through libraries across the world, and has nowadays been taken to a whole new (digital) level by the Open Access movement.

At the end of the nineteenth century David Lubin became the passionate promoter of the accessibility of agricultural knowledge. He envisioned an international organization for agriculture that "*collects, publishes and disseminates the knowledge of the conditions and of other facts of the world's staples of agriculture*"[2] with the scope of protecting "*the common interest of farmers and for the betterment of their condition*".[3]

Lubin's idea was realized with the support of Vittorio Emanuele III, the King of Italy, and in 1905 the International Institute of Agriculture (IIA) was founded in Rome, Italy. The second president of the IIA, Marquise Raffaele Cappelli, outlined the main aim of the new institute as follows:

"*Progress consists in spreading light, in making facts which were formerly obscure, or imperfectly known, or known only to the privileged few, clear and apparent to all. Prejudices which injured and still injure mankind, are merely due to lack of knowledge. The International Institute of Agriculture will throw much new light on the phenomena of production, organization, and the sale of the means of subsistence, consequently it will be a great progress.*"[4]

[1] Edwards, E. 1870. *Lives of the Founders of the British Museum: With Notices of Its Chief Augmentors and Other Benefactors*, 1570-1870, Part 2. London, Trübner & Co., p. 413.

[2] David Lubin Archives, pt1: IIA. v.1, sect.1: Papers in relation to the founding of IIA – 24/1.

[3] Agresti, O.R. 1941. *David Lubin: A study in practical idealism*. Los Angeles, University of California Press, p. viii.

[4] Press reports of the activities of David Lubin. 1A May.1908-Oct.1908: News cuttings, p. 20.

CHAPTER 1

David Lubin and the International Institute of Agriculture

The origins of FAO

Niccolò Mignemi

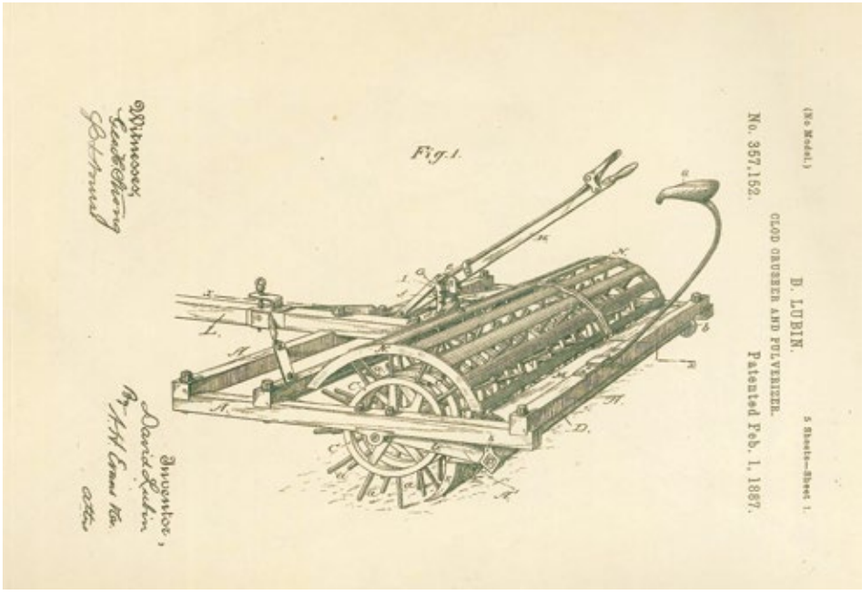
THE ESTABLISHMENT of the International Institute of Agriculture (IIA) in Rome was fraught with obstacles which lasted almost four years: from early October 1904, when David Lubin arrived in the Italian capital, until 1908, when the new international organization actually started its activities. The successful outcome had been far from certain at the start. Over ten years before the new forms of international cooperation created by the League of Nations after World War I had been instituted, the IIA was the first permanent international organization with expertise in the primary sector. It brought together the great majority of countries of the time and was tasked with generating technical and economic knowledge.[1]

Italy understood the potential of the plan and invested financial, intellectual and diplomatic resources into ensuring its success. The country's colonialist ambitions had been temporarily thwarted but, thanks to the IIA, it held a prominent role in international debates and negotiations in a sector that was strategic to its economic development. Italy maintained this pivotal position throughout the first half of the twentieth century transforming Rome into a world-renowned centre for the study of agricultural issues and the creation of international cooperation mechanisms. Despite its dissolution in 1946, the IIA contributed to create the conditions that led to the decision, taken in 1949 and implemented in 1951, to transfer the headquarters of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), founded in Quebec on 16 October 1945, to the Italian capital.

The long-term significance of establishing the IIA in 1905 was initially made possible by building a broad consensus among different groups, united in the same conviction on the need for international action to defend and modernize agriculture in the face of challenges posed by the first globalization of the modern era. The economic and health crises of the second half of the nineteenth century had made this an increasingly evident necessity. While agricultural organizations (cooperatives, trade unions, agricultural associations, etc.) provided an initial local, regional and

David Lubin (1849–1919), a US citizen, considered to have inspired the IIA with his plans for an International Chamber of Agriculture, which he presented to the King of Italy in October 1904. He was also the US delegate to the IIA from 1908 until his death in Rome in 1919.

[1] The events surrounding the IIA and its origins were described by several people directly involved in its establishment, cf., for example, the writings of Olivia Rossetti Agresti (1922), a close associate of David Lubin; Asher Hobson (1931 and 1932), the US delegate to the IIA; Michel Augé-Labibé (1955, pp. 320-333), representative of the French agricultural associations at the IIA. The most recent research into the history of the IIA includes: Tosi, 1987, 1989 and 2007; Noël, 1988 and 2004; Nützenadel and Trentmann, 2008; Mignemi, 2016; Pan-Montojo, 2016; Ribi Forclaz, 2016; Mignemi and Pan-Montojo, 2017.



The agricultural machine patented by David Lubin and recognised by the United States Patent Office in February 1887.

national response, growing trade and the transformation of transport systems confirmed the importance of cross-border initiatives. International agricultural conferences were regularly held in Europe, starting in Paris, in 1889 under the aegis of the Commission Internationale d'Agriculture. Chaired by Frenchman Jules Méline, the aim was to encourage networks and disseminate knowledge between the scientific and political elites involved in debates about the future of the primary sector.[2]

The idea of federating the interests of agriculture on a global scale was therefore in the air – "es war in der Luft",[3] commented a German opponent to Lubin. At the fourth international agriculture congress of 1896, in Budapest, Lubin first presented his plan for an international union of agricultural organizations. Adopting an ethical approach, Lubin believed that the principles of justice and fairness would allow forms of cooperation to override conflicts between divergent interests, with the result that agriculture would contribute to social peace. This conviction was the result of a personal journey of reflection, which is outlined in *Let There Be Light*, a religious/philosophical synthesis for the common man, on the issues of poverty and inequality.[4]

A quintessential American self-made man, Lubin was born in 1849 in Klodawa (a town now situated in Poland) into a family of Jewish small traders who moved to London a few years later and then emigrated to the United States. His wealth derived from a chain of low-cost emporiums he started in Sacramento and which subsequently expanded across the West Coast.[5] Lubin's encounter with agriculture came later, in the 1880s, when he decided to invest in cereal and fruit farming in California. The overproduction crises, low prices, fear of speculation and the power of commercial intermediaries made him increasingly sensitive to issues surrounding the flow of information and products in agricultural markets, while at the same time encouraging him to engage with local fruit growers' associations and cooperatives.

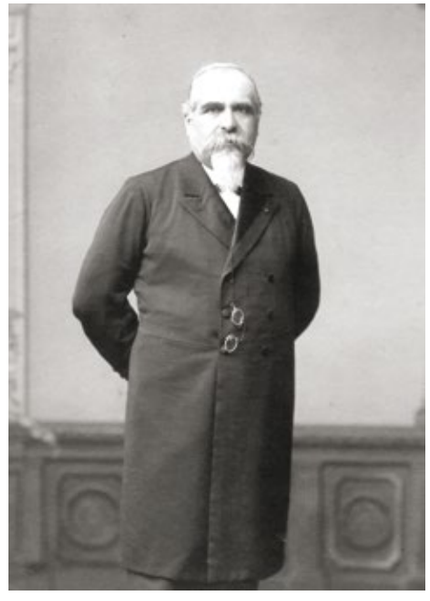
Lubin came up with the idea of an international organization dedicated to agriculture as a response to the globalization of trade and monopolistic concentration processes. This solution would also provide a means with

[2] On these initial forms of international cooperation in agriculture, cf. Pan-Montojo, 2016 and Noël, 2004. For a broader analysis and specific attention to the inter-war period, cf. Knab and Ribi Forclaz, 2011.

[3] Rossetti Agresti, 1922, p. 203.

[4] Lubin, 1900.

[5] Kassis, 2012.



Luigi Luzzatti (1841–1927), lawyer, economist and politician, was one of the "Italian pioneers" of the IIA, supporting David Lubin's project from the very beginning and to ensuring the success of the Italian diplomatic initiative.

which to defend the interests of the primary sector, as an alternative to the protectionist policies adopted by several countries during the second half of the nineteenth century.

Lubin initially submitted his proposal of an International Chamber of Agriculture in the United States, but it failed to win any support. He therefore decided to relaunch it in Europe, hoping that it might attract more interest, but the idea was received with scepticism, open opposition or little consideration, due to its utopian nature, in both London and Paris. Lubin finally arrived in Rome in October 1904, the third stop on his European journey. While his choice would subsequently be connected to local heritage and ancient agricultural traditions, Italy was primarily the place where the project sparked the interest of a number of people who acted as genuine mediators and were actively committed to guaranteeing the success of the initiative. When he arrived in Rome, David Lubin spoke no Italian and his propagandist enthusiasm risked making the plan incomprehensible in the eyes of the European political and economic establishment. Two figures in particular are worth mentioning in this respect. The first is Olivia Rossetti Agresti, Lubin's translator, a close associate and subsequent biographer, whose role was fundamental for both linguistic and cultural mediation.[6] The second is Luigi Luzzatti, lawyer, economist and Minister of the Treasury until March 1905, who was not only instrumental in arranging Lubin's famous first meeting with the King, but who also supported the whole genesis of the IIA in the subsequent months, and was eventually defined as "the power behind the throne"[7] for this project.[8]

Having won the approval of King Victor Emmanuel III at the meeting on 23 October 1904, Lubin had to prepare a memorandum to present the details of his plan to create the world parliament of the agriculturalists. The memorandum read: "The International Chamber of Agriculture complemented here should be composed of representatives of the various countries selected for their ability, and while they would not have the power of fixing prices or of arbitrary dictation, the knowledge and the prestige they would possess would be such as to render them the eye and ear and the directing mind of Agriculture".[9] He was assisted in this

[6] Olivia Rossetti Agresti was the niece of Dante Gabriel Rossetti, the British artist of Italian origin who was among the founders of the Pre-Raphælite Brotherhood. In her youth, she was closely involved with anarchist groups exiled in London, as she recounted in her book *A Girl Among the Anarchists*, written with her sister Helen and published in 1903 under the pseudonym Isabel Meredith. After marrying the journalist Antonio Agresti, she moved first to Florence and then to Rome, where she worked as a translator, producing, amongst others, the Italian edition of *Memoirs of a Revolutionist* by the Russian anarchist Peter Kropotkin. Between 1904 and 1919, she became David Lubin's closest, then she worked also as an interpreter the League of Nations. During the interwar period, she came to support fascism and became an enthusiastic supporter of the corporatist reorganisation imposed by the fascist regime in Italy. On this figure, cf. Baigorri-Jalón, 2006.

[7] Rossetti Agresti, 1922, p. 197.

[8] Pecorari and Ballini, 2006.

[9] *Proclamation by H. M. Victor Emanuel III*, 1905, p. 11.

process by a group of "pioneers"[10] led by three of the most eminent Italian economists of the time: Antonio De Viti de Marco, Giovanni Montemartini and Maffeo Pantaleoni.[11] The latter two signed the document submitted to Prime Minister Giovanni Giolitti to obtain the Italian Government's consent for the diplomatic initiative and inviting delegates from other countries to an international conference to be held in Rome in May 1905.[12]

By the beginning of February, all formalities had been finalized and Italy began to mobilize its ambassadors around the world.[13] While a positive response from foreign governments to the King's invitation was to a certain extent required by diplomatic etiquette, the intention was nonetheless to create conditions that would ensure the success of the international initiative. No similar institution existed at that time and the idea of establishing a worldwide agriculture organization needed to be promoted extensively. Consequently, study missions in the main European countries were conducted, with the following three objectives: to find out how public opinion would react in the different countries, to gain the support of the local elites, and to mobilise the leading agricultural associations in favour of the project. [14]

While, in the official letter, Victor Emmanuel III referred to the idea that "a citizen of the United States of America, Mr. David Lubin, explained to me, with that warmth which comes from a sincere conviction", [15] Italy was simultaneously mobilizing its diplomatic and international networks to assert its role as the promoter and authoritative point of reference for the initiative. The Italian emissaries were tasked not only with reassuring countries – such as France, for example – which feared the new organization's potential interference in internal policies and customs regulations, but also with gaining the support of the major agrarian unions in Germany and in the Austro-Hungarian Empire. The Central-European associations were in fact somewhat wary of Lubin and believed that his proposal for an international cooperation body to defend agriculture was a secret attempt by US companies to dominate world markets and enhance the general decline in agricultural prices in Europe. The situation was no easier in the United States of America, where Agriculture Secretary James Wilson was openly hostile to Lubin's plan. However, Tommaso Tittoni, the Italian foreign minister, was eventually successful in winning the support of President Theodore Roosevelt by arguing that the United States of America had an interest in being directly involved in the discussions and being party to the decisions taken at the international conference convened in Rome.

In spite of the difficulties during the preparatory phase, the international agriculture conference opened on 28 May 1905 at the Campidoglio and then transferred to Palazzo Corsini, where meetings were held with delegates from the forty attending countries. Discussions focused in particular on the internal organization of the future institute, with two opposing models. The first model envisaged a purely intergovernmental body consisting of delegates appointed independently by each country, as was the case for diplomats. The second model provided for a mixed solution between government delegates and elected representatives of the leading agricultural unions and cooperative federations. This was the famous two-chamber solution suggested by Lubin in

[10] The term was used by Lubin to refer to "the little band of the first days", see Rossetti Agresti, 1922, p. 196.

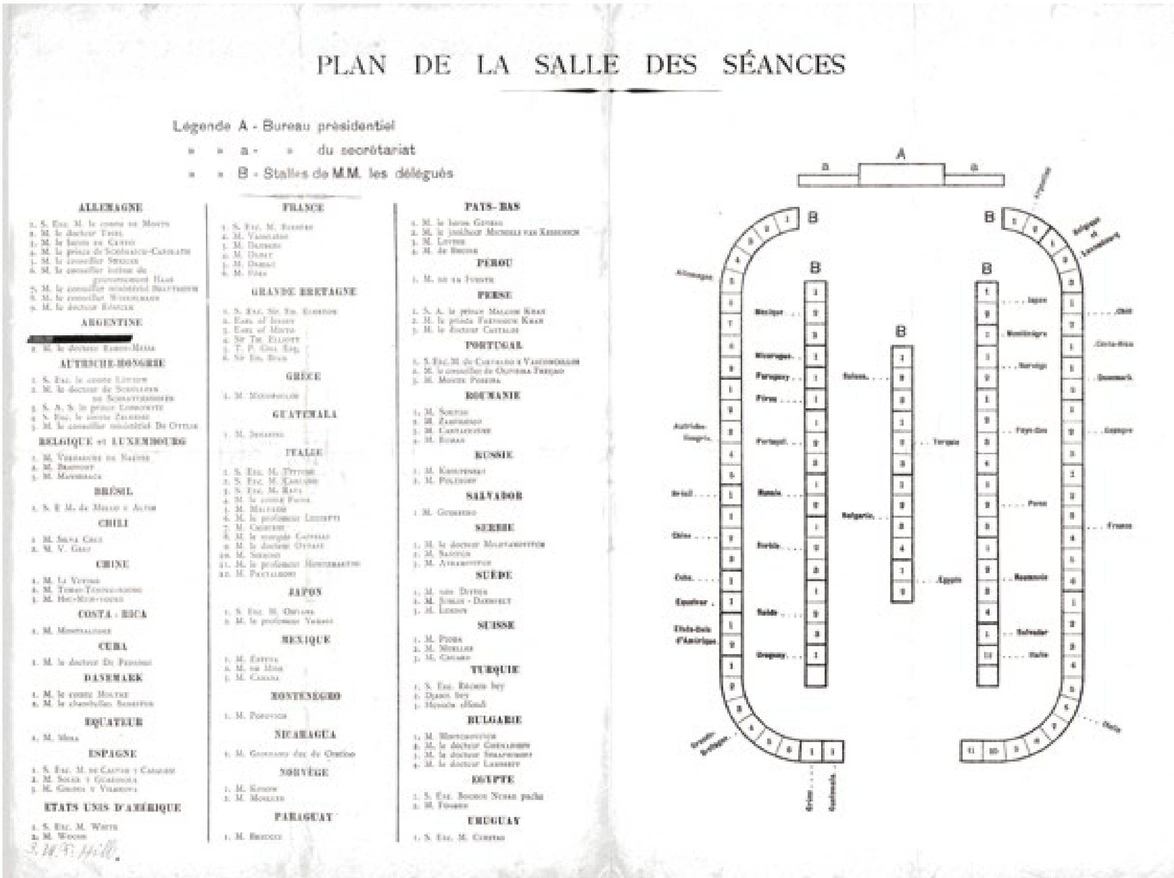
[11] For further details about these three economists and their thinking see: Cardini, 1985; Gallotta, 1989; Michelini, 1998; Guidi and Michelini, 2001.

[12] A partial version of the memorandum was published in *L'Iniziativa*, 1905, pp. 11-36, which was also translated and published in French, English and German. For a more detailed presentation of the positions of Pantaleoni, see the article published in *Giornale degli Economisti* in 1905.

[13] Cf. the "Note to Diplomatic Agents" in *Proclamation by H. M. Victor Emanuel III*, 1905, pp. 4-8. For an analysis of the part played in the history of international relations, see Tosi, 1987 and 1989.

[14] The results of the survey led to a series of individual studies by country (Italy, France, United Kingdom, United States of America, Austria, Germany, Netherlands), all contained in *L'iniziativa. Studi e documenti*, 1905.

[15] *Proclamation by H. M. Victor Emanuel III*, 1905, p. 3.



List of delegates and plan of the meeting room for the International Agriculture Conference (Rome, 28 May–7 June 1905).

Letters addressed by Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, to Theodore Roosevelt and Victor Emmanuel III, asking for representatives of agricultural workers to participate in the international conference (22 March 1905).

his text entitled *The Welfare of the State and the International Chamber of Agriculture*:

> "The delegates of the International Chamber of Agriculture shall be selected as follows:
> Two thirds elected by the Societies of Agriculture in proportion to the number of members.
> A fixed number to be appointed by each of the respective Governments.
> [They will constitute] The Chamber of the Elected Delegates, which shall have the power to initiate [and] the Chamber of the Appointed Delegates, which shall act upon the measures passed by the Elected Delegates".[16]

The issue of mixed governance in international organizations specialized in economic matters was therefore raised more than ten years before the 1919 discussions that led to the tripartite structure of the International Labour Organization (ILO), in which both employees and employers still sit beside government delegates. Nevertheless, in the case of agriculture, this suggestion led to wide-ranging debates, as it would have required recognition of the independent representation of farmers and a decision to be made on what role to assign to each social class. Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, for example, wrote to Theodore Roosevelt and Victor Emmanuel III, to request, "at least one of the delegates may be a representative of the Farm Laborers of the country".[17]

[16] See DLA, *Part 1. International Institute of Agriculture. Sect. 1. Papers in relation to the Founding of the IIA*, doc. 3, pp. 1-2.

[17] The transcription of the letters, dated 22 March 1905, which Samuel Gompers sent to Theodore Roosevelt and Victor Emmanuel III is held by the DLA, *Part 4. Miscellanea. Sect. 5. Correspondence with Labor Leaders (Sam. Gompers)*. The Italian translation of the letter accompanied the message of 22 May 1905, which was forwarded to the King following the conference of the Lega Nazionale delle Cooperative and published on the front page of *La Cooperazione italiana* of 27 May 1905.

Anno XIX - N. 619 — Milano, 27 Maggio 1905 — (Conto corrente con la Posta)

LA COOPERAZIONE ITALIANA

Monitore della Cooperazione e della Mutualità

Organo dell'Alleanza fra la Lega Nazionale delle Cooperative e la Federazione Italiana delle Società di mutuo soccorso

A. MAFFI, direttore

UFFICIO DEL GIORNALE: Galleria Vittorio Emanuele (ingresso da via Ugo Foscolo, 3), MILANO

ESCE OGNI SABATO

ABBONAMENTO ANNUO: Nel Regno L. 5 — Estero (Unione postale) L. 7 — Per i soci delle Società federate L. 3.

PER L'ISTITUTO INTERNAZIONALE DI AGRICOLTURA

Domani in Roma, nella città universale per eccellenza, dinanzi al cui gran nome ogni popolo s'inchina reverente, ha luogo la *Conferenza Internazionale* convocata dal Governo italiano per gettare le basi dell'*Istituto internazionale d'agricoltura*.

razione americana del lavoro ad ammonire che coloro i quali dovranno dare feconda vitalità al nuovo ente siano *uomini pratici che per dura esperienza non abbiano soltanto teorie economiche o politiche da far prevalere.*

(concimi, commestibili, sementi, macchine, combustibili specialmente per articoli di importazione internazionale come il salnitro, *le scorie Thomas* ecc., e concludendo contratti collettivi coi negozianti o produttori, oppure lavorando altrimenti secondo la utile tecnica della *cooperazione di consumo*; c) battendo contro i *cartelli* (†) oltrechè coi metodi;

sopra riportate ordine del giorno siano prese la benevola considerazione.

Ho l'onore di firmare, con profondo rispetto

SAMUELE GOMPERS,
Presidente della Federazione Americana del lavoro.

Federazione Americana del lavoro.

L'ILLUSTRAZIONE ITALIANA

(Left) Front page of *La Cooperazione italiana* of 27 May 1905, in which the Lega Nazionale delle Cooperative mentions the letter from the American Federation of Labor and asked Victor Emmanuel III to ensure participation of Italian agricultural worker representatives at the international conference.
(Right) The IIA only started its activities in 1908, with the inauguration held in the Parlamentino, on 23 May, in the presence of Victor Emmanuel III, and the first General Assembly, held from 27 November to 1 December 1908 [*L'Illustrazione italiana*, No. 22, 31 May 1908].

There was distinct opposition, led by France and the United Kingdom, as this scenario was seen to weaken the sovereignty of the State by increasing the risk of interference not only by other countries but also by the transnational lobbies among agrarian groups. In the end, a different solution was adopted and the IIA was set up as an intergovernmental organization, although it allowed each member state the freedom to determine the profile of its representative within governing bodies. At the same time, the international convention, signed on 7 June 1905, ruled out the possibility of the institution intervening directly in economic or commercial issues. The mission of the IIA would be strictly limited to the supranational sphere to:

"(a) Collect, study, and publish as promptly as possible statistical, technical, or economic information concerning farming, both vegetable and animal products, the commerce in agricultural products, and the prices prevailing in the various markets;

(b) Communicate to parties interested, also as promptly as possible, all the information just referred to;

(c) Indicate the wages paid to farm work;

(d) Make known the new diseases of vegetables which may appear in any part of the world, showing the territories infected, the progress of the disease and, if possible, the remedies which are effective in combating them;

(e) Study questions concerning agricultural cooperation, insurance, and credit in all their aspects; collect and publish information which might be useful in the various countries in the organization of works connected with agricultural cooperation, insurance, and credit;

(f) Submit to the approval of the governments, if there is occasion for it, measures for the protection of the common interests of farmers and for the improvement of their condition, after having utilized all the necessary sources of information, such as the wishes expressed by the international or other agricultural congresses or congresses of science applied to agriculture, agricultural societies, academies, learned bodies, etc."[18]

[18] Article 9 of the International Convention of 7 June 1905. The animal diseases aspect was excluded because of opposition by France, which considered the veterinary services of many countries to be inefficient.

(Left) Eugenio Faina (1846–1926) was initially chairman of the Royal Commission for the International Institute of Agriculture, from 1906 to 1908, and subsequently president of the IIA, from 1908 to 1910.
(Right) Raffaele Cappelli (1848–1921) was the longest serving president of the IIA. Elected in 1910, he held the post until 1920, having contributed to the birth of the organization as president of the Società degli Agricoltori Italiani.

Although Lubin judged the result to be a downward compromise,[19] the task of producing and disseminating information and data on the primary sector and its dynamics allowed the IIA to be born, overcoming mutual mistrust and contrasts between the different visions outlined above. Raffaele Cappelli, head of the Società degli Agricoltori Italiani – the main association defending the primary sector – and subsequently the longest serving president of the IIA,[20] believed it was nonetheless an unprecedented opportunity, particularly in light of the restrictions imposed by diplomatic mechanisms. Major problems remained to be solved, but a new, permanent organization would be based in Rome, once the governments of the acceding countries had ratified the international convention.

The need to wait for official approval from each country plus a number of delays affecting construction of the new building at Villa Borghese (known as Villa Umberto at the time), meant that activities did not begin until 1908. The inauguration took place on 23 May, in the presence of Victor Emmanuel III, followed by the first General Assembly, from 27 November to 1 December, attended by delegates from forty countries. During this initial stage, Italy continued to play a central role managing the Royal Commission for the International Institute of Agriculture, chaired by Senator Eugenio Faina, who subsequently became the first president of the IIA.[21]

The IIA's two governing bodies consisted of representatives of all member states, and came into operation when activities began. Firstly, the General Assembly would meet at regular intervals (usually every two years) to define the direction and monitor the progress of the programmes. Secondly, the Permanent Committee would be in charge of day-to-day management, organizing the technical bureaux and implementing the decisions of the General Assembly. In December 1908, the Permanent Committee elected Frenchman Louis Dop as vice-president of the IIA. Dop remained in office until his death in 1935.

[19] For a presentation of the main aspects of international cooperation to defend agriculture, which the 1905 convention left in suspense, cf. Luzzatti, 1906.

[20] On the figure of Raffaele Cappelli and his role in the field of agriculture, cf. Barbagallo, 1975 and Rogari, 1994.

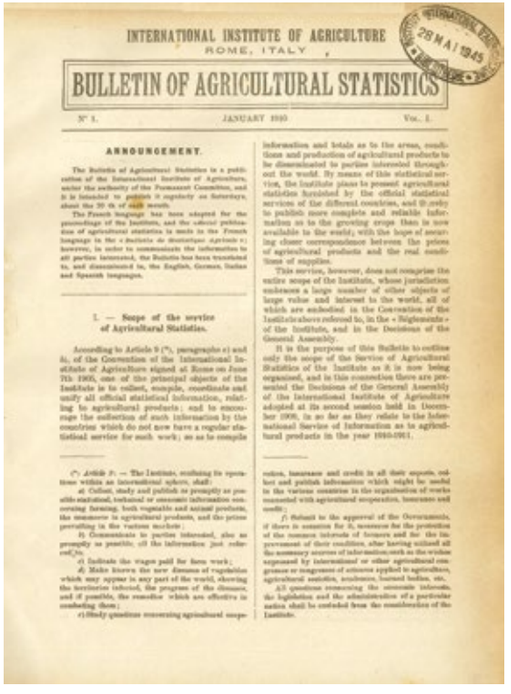
[21] Travaglini, 1994.

(Clockwise from top left)

- Edoardo Pantano (1842–1932) was president of the IIA from 1920 to 1924, when the organization had to deal with the new political context in Italy, after the fascist party had taken power in October 1922.
- Giorgio Guglielmi di Vulci (1879–1945) was president of the IIA from 1924 to 1925.
- Giuseppe De Michelis (1872–1951) was president of the IIA from 1925 to 1933, as well as the Italian delegate to several international organizations based in Geneva. He worked to reassert the role of the IIA on the world scene, as determined by the birth of the League of Nations.
- Ludovico Spada Potenziani (1880–1971) was president of the IIA from 1933 to 1935.
- Giacomo Acerbo (1888–1969), a lecturer in economics, held a number of prominent positions in the Italian fascist regime and was president of the IIA from 1935 to 1943, when he went into hiding to escape arrest after the armistice was declared.

(Clockwise from top left)

- Group photo of participants at the General Assembly of the IIA in 1909.
- Group photo of participants at the General Assembly of the IIA in 1911 .
- Louis Dop (1866–1935) was the French delegate and vice-president of the IIA from 1908 until his death in Rome.
- Group photo of IIA staff in 1914, seated in the middle is Giovanni Lorenzoni (Secretary-General of the IIA from 1912 to 1917).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ROME, ITALY

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N° 1. JANUARY 1910 Vol. I.

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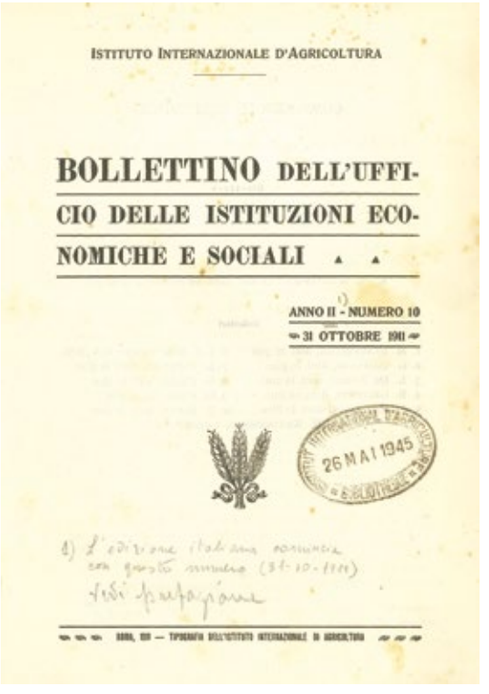

ISTITUTO INTERNAZIONALE D'AGRICOLTURA

BOLLETTINO DELL'UFFICIO DELLE ISTITUZIONI ECONOMICHE E SOCIALI

ANNO II - NUMERO 10

31 OTTOBRE 1911


INTERNATIONALES LANDWIRTSCHAFTS-INSTITUT

LANDWIRTSCHAFTLICH-TECHNISCHE ABTEILUNG

INTERNATIONALE AGRAR-TECHNISCHE RUNDSCHAU

(ERSCHEINT MONATLICH)

IV. JAHRGANG - HEFT 1-2 JANUAR-FEBRUAR 1913

(From left to right)

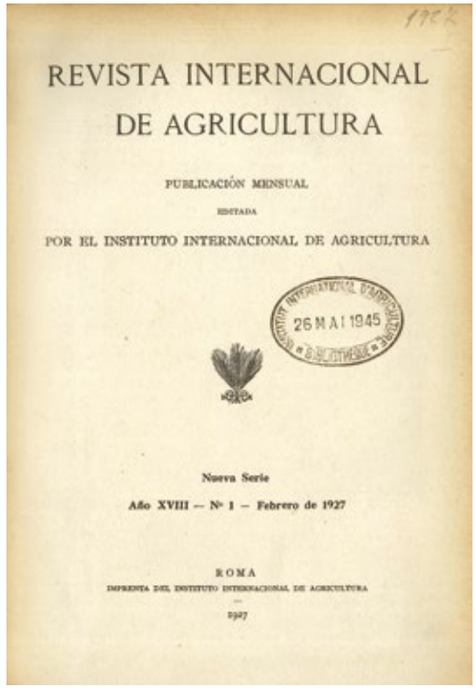
- The first *Bulletin of Agricultural Statistics*, published in French and English from January 1910.
- The *Bulletin of the Bureau of economic and social institutions* was first published in September 1910. The Italian edition was first published the following year but was suspended in 1931.
- The *Bulletin of the Bureau of agricultural intelligence and plant diseases* was first published in 1910, in French and English. The Italian edition was added in 1911, the Spanish and German in 1913. These were later suspended at different times in 1931 and 1944.

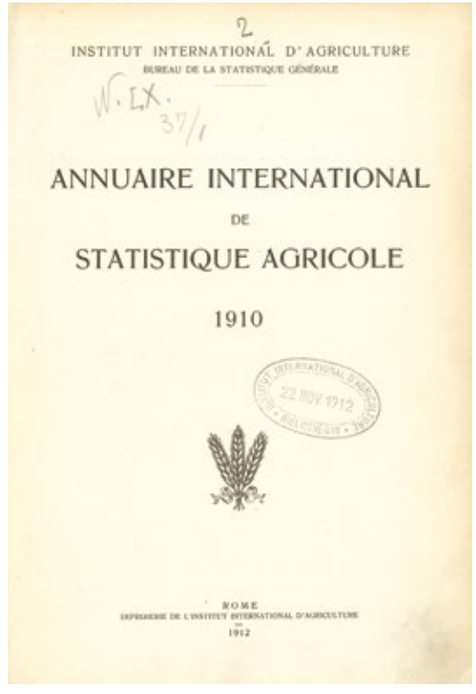
The task of coordinating the administration and technical bureaux fell to the Secretary-General. The first to hold this post was Ernesto Koch, an official at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (1909–1910). The role of Secretary-General was subsequently held by some of the most eminent Italian statisticians, economists and agricultural experts in the first half of the twentieth century: Pasquale Jannaccone (1910–1911), Giovanni Lorenzoni (1912–1917), Carlo Dragoni (1917–1927), Guido Ruata (1928), Valentino Dore (1928–1929), Alessandro Brizi (1929–1939), and Giuseppe Ugo Papi (1939–1946).[22]

During its first few years of life and under the long presidency of Raffaele Cappelli (1910–1920), the IIA's efforts focused mainly on setting up and organizing the various technical departments: general statistics, agricultural intelligence and plant diseases, economic and social institutions. In 1910, these bureaux also began to publish – in bilingual French and English versions[23] – their respective monthly bulletins and the International Yearbook of Agricultural Statistics. The agricultural law section, created in 1911, and the library, which only became an independent bureau in 1928, were both under the direct control of the Secretary-General. Despite difficulties due to the interruption in international relations, the IIA survived and continued to operate throughout the first years of World War I. Following the Treaty of Versailles in 1919, significant developments occurred on the international scene, starting with the creation

[22] For further details about the personal and scientific lives of some of these figures, cf. Natili, 1971; Misiani, 2004; Gioia and Spalletti, 2005; Gioli, 2014. For a more general picture of Italian agriculture experts between the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, cf. D'Onofrio, 2016.

[23] During those years, and for fairly long periods of time, editions were also published in Italian, Spanish and German.





(From left to right)
- From 1927, the bulletins of the various IIA bureaux were combined and became the themed sections of the *International Review of Agriculture*, in French, English, Italian, Spanish and German. Only the first two survived however until 1946, while the others were abandoned between 1928 and 1931.
- The *International Yearbook of Agricultural Statistics* was published from 1910 to 1946, initially in French and subsequently also in English.

of the League of Nations and its sister organizations. The IIA also had to deal with another two important events that took place in the same period. Firstly, David Lubin died of the Spanish flu in Rome on 1 January 1919. In addition to having inspired the IIA, he had acted as the US delegate for close to ten years (1908–1918). Secondly, the IIA had to deal with the new political context in Italy, where, from October 1922, the fascist party had taken power under the leadership of Benito Mussolini. Two presidents succeeded each other in the space of a few years: Edoardo Pantano, in office from 1920 to 1924, and Giorgio Guglielmi di Vulci, in office from 1924 to 1925. The first, who had fought alongside Giuseppe Garibaldi, had survived the political battles of the second half of the nineteenth century, was an emblematic figure of the liberal ruling class who saw the IIA as an opportunity to strengthen Italy's international role.[24] The second was an example of the aristocratic and bourgeois elites who had chosen to ally themselves with fascism in order to guarantee their power and existing social hierarchies.

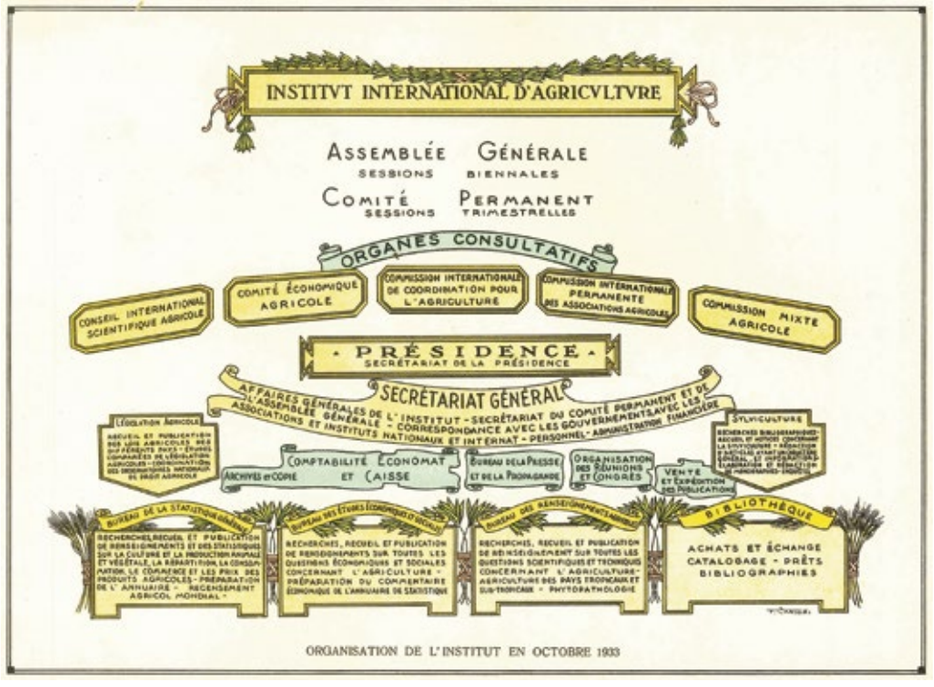
In July 1925, the office of president passed to Giuseppe De Michelis, the Italian General Commissioner for Emigration and, from 1921, the delegate for Eritrea and Somalia on the Permanent Committee of the IIA, as well as the delegate for Italy to the various international organizations based in Geneva.[25] During his term (1925–1933), De Michelis focused on reasserting the global role of IIA in view of the birth of the League of Nations and its associated agencies.[26] This approach was supported by the fascist regime, which was looking for opportunities to increase Italian influence internationally.[27] During these years, several conventions were signed and new bodies founded, including the Commission Internationale Permanente des Associations agricoles (CIPA), launched in 1927 to bring together representatives of agricultural associations

[24] Cf. Conti, 2014 and Pantano, 1924.

[25] As a researcher working on migration, De Michelis was actively involved in developing Italian policy to assist migrants. He had a wide network of international contacts, particularly on labour issues, as demonstrated by his relations with the ILO and its first director Albert Thomas. On the figure of De Michelis, cf. Ostuni, 1990; Gallo, 2013; Steffek, 2015.

[26] For an analysis of the system of international organizations between the wars, with a particular focus on economic aspects, cf. Clavin, 2013.

[27] For a more detailed examination of the IIA in terms of the fascist regime's intention to strengthen Italy's role in international balances, cf. Hobson 1931, pp. 209-212 and Tosi 1989, pp. 99-107.



ORGANISATION DE L'INSTITUT EN OCTOBRE 1933

The internal organization of the IIA and the associated consultative bodies at the end of the presidency of Giuseppe De Michelis (October 1933) [Cottini-Agostinelli, 1933, p. 29].

of the different countries and foster collaboration between them and the IIA's government delegations. At the same time, the creation of the Agricultural Economic Committee in 1928 allowed the IIA to assert its role as a consultative body on agricultural matters, formalized by the League of Nations in 1932. The Mixed Advisory Agricultural Committee was established in 1923 to facilitate exchanges between the IIA and the ILO on matters of common interest, after the Permanent Court of International Justice in The Hague had recognized the competence of the latter in the field of agriculture.[28]

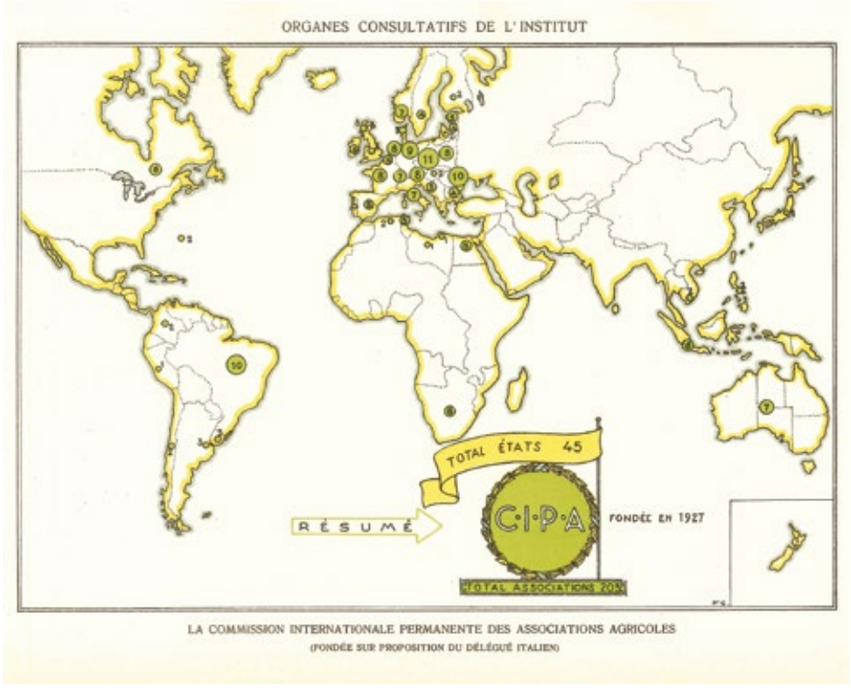
The surge in international missions also demonstrated how important it was for the IIA to operate effectively, centralizing documentation from across the globe, generating new regular information systems and guaranteeing the widest possible access to the wealth of accumulated knowledge. This was the reason behind the plan for the first World Agricultural Census and the expansion of the library service, made possible by the funds donated to the IIA, between 1924 and 1929, by the International Education Board of the Rockefeller Foundation.[29] An internal reorganization became necessary at this time, as demonstrated by the amendments to the statute proposed by De Michelis and approved by the General Assembly meeting of 1926, while the US delegate Asher Hobson was unsuccessful in his presentation of a reform plan aimed at rationalizing work within the IIA.[30] De Michelis' resignation from the post of president in September 1933 coincided with the end of the "diplomatic initiative" phase,[31] foreshadowing the sharpening of conflicts between fascist Italy and the League of Nations, which culminated in the invasion of Ethiopia in 1935 and the country's exit from the Geneva-based organization in 1937. The IIA returned to focus on its original role as a documentation and information centre under the guidance of two presidents who were closely affiliated to Italian and international agrarian circles. They were Ludovico Spada Potenziani, in office from 1933 to 1935, and Giacomo Acerbo, in office from 1935 to 1943.

[28] Cf. Ribi Forclaz, 2011 and Tosi, 1989, pp. 60-85.

[29] On the World Agricultural Census project and the role of US farming expert Leon Estabrook, cf. Ribi Forclaz, 2016.

[30] The Hobson project was intended to strengthen the role of the Secretary-General, which De Michelis had intended to marginalize, concentrating powers in the hands of the president. The departure of the US delegate to the IIA in 1929 led to a substantial break in relations with the United States that lasted until 1933. In Hobson, 1931, pp. 311-322, the author presented a series of proposals for the future of the IIA.

[31] The Cottini-Agostinelli volume, 1933 – several illustrations of which appear herein – is to a great extent a celebration of the results achieved by the IIA during the De Michelis presidency.



(Left) The Commission Internationale Permanente des Associations Agricoles began to operate in 1927 with the aim of bringing together representatives of agricultural associations from different countries and fostering collaboration with the IIA's government delegations [Cottini-Agostinelli, 1933, p. 59].
(Right) The Mixed Advisory Agricultural Committee was established in 1923 to facilitate exchanges between the IIA and the ILO on matters of common remit associated particularly with regard to agricultural workers [Cottini-Agostinelli, 1933, p. 61].

The latter, in particular, weighed heavily on the fate of the IIA after World War II. In addition to being a lecturer in economics, Acerbo had in fact joined the fascist movement from the beginning, signing the eponymous electoral law that led to the establishment of the totalitarian regime in 1924 and subsequently occupying several government posts before becoming Minister of Agriculture (1929–1935).[32] Having gone into hiding to escape arrest after the armistice was declared on 8 September 1943, and before the war had ended, Acerbo effectively left the administration of the IIA in the hands of Secretary-General Giuseppe Ugo Papi.

While every effort to ensure the survival of the IIA was being made at this time, an important development had taken place. At the United Nations Conference on Food and Agriculture held in Hot Springs (Virginia) from 18 May to 3 June 1943, an Interim Commission had been tasked to draw up a specific plan for a permanent organization in the field of food and agriculture. The legacy of the IIA's scientific and documentation work was being recognized, but no opportunity was created for any future collaboration, as a result of which, the fate of the organization set up in Rome in 1905 now seemed sealed.[33] Seeking the support of a number of former foreign delegates, Secretary-General Papi undertook to publicize the research conducted during the war years,[34] and in so doing, he intended to demonstrate the IIA's specialization in the technical and economic aspects of agricultural markets and production.[35] The aim was in fact to highlight areas of potential complementarity with FAO's mission, which prioritized food-related issues and had been conceived by some of the greatest nutrition experts of the day, starting with Australian Frank Lidgett McDougall and Scotsman John Boyd Orr, the future first Director-General.[36]

While debates and uncertainties persisted regarding the future activity of FAO,[37] in October 1945 the Quebec Conference nonetheless decided to dissolve the IIA and the

[32] On Acerbo's personal and political life, cf. Parisella, 1988.

[33] On the reactions and internal debates within the IIA following the news about the decisions adopted by the Hot Springs conference, cf. IIA, *Comité permanent. Procès-verbaux 1943-'46*, session of 22 June 1943. The emergence of the food supply issue in international debates contributed to demonstrate the limitations of the IIA's action, cf. Clavin, 2013, pp. 165-172.

[34] IIA, *Comité permanent. Procès-verbaux 1943-'46*, session of 1 July 1946, *L'activité de l'Institut International d'Agriculture pendant la guerre (1940-1945)*, pp. 235-335.

[35] Tosi, 1989, pp. 250-254.

[36] On the role of these figures, see the volume of memoirs of Boyd Orr, 1966 and O'Brien, 2000 in McDougall.

[37] On the different visions of the role of FAO, cf. Jachertz and Nützenadel, 2011.

LES REPRÉSENTANTS DE LA F. A. O., LES MEMBRES DU COMITÉ PERMANENT ET DU PERSONNEL DE L'I. I. A. PRÉSENTS À LA CÉRÉMONIE DU PASSAGE DES POUVOIRS ET DES FONCTIONS DE L'I. I. A. À LA F. A. O.

The representatives of FAO, the members of the Permanent Committee and staff of the IIA gathered for the ceremony to transfer the functions and assets of the IIA to FAO on 1 August 1946 at the offices in Villa Borghese [FAO Archives, IIA/CIS, G.5].

Centre International de la Sylviculture (CIS)[38] in order to avoid any duplication and risk of overlap in the international organizations. The following year, the decision was confirmed by the sixteenth General Assembly of the IIA meeting in Rome on 8 and 9 July 1946, in the presence of delegates from 52 States. On that occasion, Italy asked to be admitted to FAO – an accession that became effective in September 1946 – and submitted Rome's candidacy as the provisional home of the European Office of the new United Nations agency specialized in food and agriculture. The proposal was strongly supported by Michel Cépède, the French delegate to FAO, and David McKendree Key, the US delegate to the IIA, and as of March 1946, its newly elected president.[39] The choice of Rome was confirmed at the end of the same year and undoubtedly paved the way for the subsequent transfer of the headquarters of FAO, which was approved at the fifth General Conference in 1949. The work conducted over forty years by the IIA was thus resumed and incorporated into a new institutional framework. This framework was considered more suited to the challenges that were emerging after World War II, as highlighted by Dutchman Stephanus Louwe Louwes, the special adviser to the Director-General and future first director of the Regional Office for Europe. The definitive transfer of the functions and assets of the IIA to FAO took place at the ceremony of 1 August 1946, held in the building at Villa Borghese in the presence of the staff and members of the Permanent Committee.[40] Following a transitional phase intended to handle the liquidation of its assets, the IIA officially ceased to exist on 29 February 1948.

[38] The CIS was a specialized agency installed in Berlin that operated from 1939 and emerged from the IIA following the decision taken at the second International Congress of Sylviculture held in Budapest in 1936.

[39] Tosi, 1989, pp. 274-275.

[40] FAO Archives, IIA/CIS, G.5, Séance tenue au siège de l'IIA à Rome le 1er août 1946 à l'occasion du transfert des fonctions et des biens de l'Institut International d'Agriculture à l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'Alimentation et l'Agriculture (FAO).

Organizing

THE RENAISSANCE LED TO A RETHINKING about the domain of knowledge, both philosophically and practically. Libraries were in need of a classification system that reflected the new secular view:

"*Man, being the servant and interpreter of Nature, can do and understand so much and so much only as he has observed in fact or in thought of the course of nature. Beyond this he neither knows anything nor can do anything.*"[1]
(Sir Francis Bacon, 1561–1626)

The English philosopher Francis Bacon concluded that all knowledge derives from memory, reason and imagination to produce works of history, philosophy, and *les belles lettres*. From the seventeenth to the nineteenth century this vision of knowledge was applied to the organization of many library catalogues.

By the end of the nineteenth century the American librarian Melvil Dewey (1851–1931) had invented a new classification system based on the structure of knowledge outlined by Bacon. Its novelty consisted mainly in the application of numbers, i.e. decimals for subjects, making the classification language-independent. This classification is known as the Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC) system and is predominantly used in libraries around the world in need of a common classification.[2]

In 1885 Paul Otlet and Henri LaFontaine from Belgium generalized the DDC and created the Universal Decimal Classification (UDC), which was able to expresss relationships between knowledge branches, or as Otlet explained: "*Une table générale systématique des connaissances humaines, où chaque science, chaque technique est considérée comme un partie de l'ensemble.*"[3]

The IIA had been collaborating with Otlet since its foundation, and in 1911 and 1921 the second president of the IIA, Raffaele Cappelli, invited Otlet to come to Rome and evaluate the Institute's library methods. In his final reports, Otlet insisted particularly on the IIA collection applying the UDC and making it: "*on peut dire, la seconde langue de l'Institut, celle de ses relations documentaires*".[4]

Otlet's suggestion was put into practice, and still today the FAO Library uses UDC to organize the world of agricultural literature on its shelves.

[1] Bacon, F. 1620. The new organon or true directions concerning the interpretation of nature. Aphorisms [Book one], I.

[2] Wiegand, W. A. & Davis, G.D., eds. 1994. *Encyclopedia of Library History*, NY, London, Routledge, p. 144; 180.

[3] Otlet, P. 1921. *La documentation en agriculture: Rapport sur la mission à l'Institute International d'Agriculture*. Rome, IIA, p. 33.

[4] Otlet, P. 1911. *Rapport présenté a monsieur le marquis Cappelli, président de l'Institut International d'Agriculture, par monsieur Paul Otlet, secrétaire général de l'Institut Internat. de Bibliographie*. Rome, IIA, p. 17.

CHAPTER 2

The Library of the International Institute of Agriculture

Our heritage

Niccolò Mignemi

The new library building

Carla Benocci

Volume of information on wine growers and producers by Arturo Marescalchi in the "*Biblioteca minima Ottavi*" series.

OVER A PERIOD OF FORTY YEARS, the IIA Library in Rome performed the fundamental role of conserving and organizing agricultural knowledge, becoming an international source of information. It centralized a wealth of different information sources: monographs, periodicals, statistical tables, dissemination brochures, etc., from different countries. It experimented with innovative ways of organizing and cataloguing a diverse collection in terms of the types of documents and the different languages and alphabets used. It provided the bureaux of the IIA and, more generally, agricultural experts, with access to information that was essential for developing new ideas and informing the debates on the modernization of the primary sector and rural change.

As shown in the previous chapter, different visions clashed during the preparatory phase on whether an international chamber of agriculture or, alternatively, a world agriculture parliament should be created. From the outset, however, there was broad consensus about making the IIA a specialized documentation centre on agricultural matters. From this point of view, Italy had already demonstrated that it was at the forefront. As part of the work of the committee tasked with preparing the programme for the international conference of May 1905, the agricultural expert and member of the Italian Parliament Edoardo Ottavi proposed to include the work of updating the *Bibliographia agronomica universalis* in the mission of the future organization.[1] At the time, he was one of the prominent members of the groups involved in defending and modernizing Italian agriculture, not only in parliament but also through professional associations. In addition to waging political battles concerning the primary sector, Ottavi argued that the State had to encourage the development of educational tools and provide technical support to farmers. As an expert who had honed his skills in international environments, he worked from a young age to disseminate the innovative knowledge and techniques, both through the journal *Il coltivatore*, founded by his father in 1855, and by

[1] FAO Archives, IIA/CIS, A.4, f. 57, Conferenza per l'Istituto Internazionale di Agricoltura. Comitato generale, session of 6 April 1905.

The volumes in the "Marescalchi Manuals" series were designed to disseminate knowledge for the technical and economic modernization of agriculture.

coordinating the collections of technical monographs and the manuals: the *Biblioteca agraria* and the *Biblioteca minima Ottavi* published in Casale Monferrato, Piedmont.[2]

From the end of the nineteenth century, Ottavi began to work with Arturo Marescalchi, an agronomist and undisputed authority on wine research. The two Italian experts were subsequently assigned to work on the specialized agricultural section of a universal encyclopaedia of scientific knowledge. This somewhat utopian project, driven by a desire to rationalize the instruments of knowledge, was intended to build a bibliographic inventory, collating publications from every country, cataloguing and organizing them using the Universal Decimal Classification system so as to make them more easily accessible.[3] The idea of a general and rationalized inventory was launched by the Institut International de Bibliographie in Brussels, founded in 1895 by the lawyers and militants of the pacifist movement Paul Otlet and Henri La Fontaine.[4] While the aim was to cover all fields of knowledge, Ottavi and Marescalchi undertook to organize the documentation relating to agricultural matters. In 1903–1904, they published the eight volumes of the *Bibliographia agronomica universalis: répertoire bibliographique des travaux parus sur l'agriculture*, produced in collaboration with the German Joannes Dewitz and the Frenchman Victor Vermorel, and printed in Casale Monferrato by the publisher Fratelli Ottavi.

The creation of the IIA seemed to offer opportunities to continue with this project. During the debates at the international conference of May–June 1905, Ottavi proposed to include the following three undertakings among the future organization's mission: to publish a monthly bulletin containing a full list of IIA documentation; to catalogue the material based on the system developed by Melvil Dewey; and to update the specialized bibliographical inventory in collaboration with the Institut International de Bibliographie.[5] Italo Giglioli, an Italian academic and well-known expert in agricultural chemistry, elected in 1909 as Director of the IIA Bureau of Agricultural Intelligence and Plant Diseases, supported Ottavi's idea from the start, as shown by an essay he wrote in 1905 containing proposals for the scientific organization of the new institution. Inspired by the Smithsonian Institute in Washington model, the plan for a specialized bibliographic collection would facilitate scientific networks in various countries and contribute to the more general international development of knowledge to promote rural modernization.[6]

[2] On Ottavi's personal and political life, cf. Tabacchi, 2013 and Rogari, 1994 regarding his role in the professional associations of Italian agriculturalists.

[3] On the history of decimal classification systems, cf. Fayet-Scribe, 2000, pp. 83-96.

[4] On Otlet and the institute now known as the International Federation for Information and Documentation, see Wils and Rasmussen, 2012 and Rayward, 1990 and 2014.

[5] See minutes of the session of 5 June 1905 in *Conférence Internationale d'Agriculture*, 1905, pp. 160-161.

[6] Cf. Giglioli, 1905 and, on this individual, Saltini, 2000.

The international delegates attending the various meetings also agreed on the need to transform the IIA into a centre for collecting data and publications from around the world: a kind of laboratory associated with an experimental field, as described by the French delegate Louis Dop at the first General Assembly in November 1908.[7] The Library therefore had a key role, both within the IIA and in terms of external relations. It would be required to both facilitate access to information by the technical bureaux of the IIA and to ensure the widest possible dissemination of research results. The following extract is a sample summary:

> "The *Librarian*, the keeper of our archives, agronomist, economist, sociologist, bibliographer, will monitor developments in agricultural science to set up and enrich our library, which will thus become a unique study centre by centralizing all publications related to agriculture. He will also work with directors of the other bureaux to produce a summary of all the worldwide information and ensure its coordination and publication."[8]

The first Chief Librarian was the Hungarian-born Baron Horác Podmaniczky, who began to develop appropriate tools for users. These tools would help to navigate the comprehensive collection, organized according to the latest criteria and capable of compiling material on a global scale. Rather than a simple index, what was needed was a real systematic bibliography by subject, to be produced in collaboration with the Institut International de Bibliographie in Brussels and the central office of the International Catalogue of Scientific Literature created in London in 1898.[9] However, the project was quickly scaled down because of the scarce resources available to the IIA and the limited independence of the Library at this stage. At the time, it was merely a section of the general secretariat and, with the sole exception of the Chief Librarian, its staff were involved primarily in translating texts for the publications and coordinating the work of the printing office. For these reasons, in 1909, the Permanent Committee proposed to temporarily postpone publication of a universal agricultural bibliography and to encourage collaboration between the Library and the technical bureaux in order to gradually develop a bibliographic service within the IIA.[10] Despite the second General Assembly confirming the decision, in 1909, the Library nonetheless launched the publication of the *Bulletin Bibliographique Hebdomadaire* "in which are indicated the books received, as well as the most important articles noted by the technical bureaux when examining the periodicals".[11] The bulletin survived until 1915, when it was suspended, both because of the war and for financial reasons. Over the years, the IIA also remained in constant contact with the Institut International de Bibliographie, having become a

[7] IIA, *Assemblée générale. Première session – Novembre 1908. Procès-verbaux*, p. 25.

[8] Ibid., pp. 29-30 [translated by the author, hereafter t.a.]. This is the description provided in the report on the organization and operation of the IIA, read out by Louis Dop at the General Assembly in 1908.

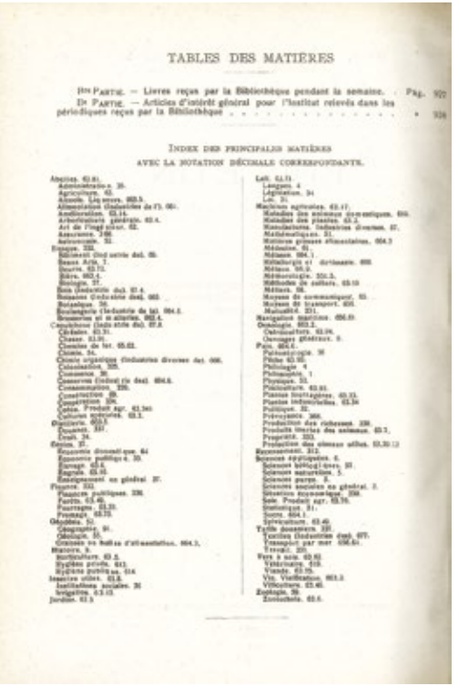
[9] See the report on the organization and work of the Library in IIA, *Comité permanent. Procès-verbaux 1909*, Minutes no. 30 of 11 June 1909, *Annexe IV. Organisation et travaux de la Bibliothèque*, p. 230.

[10] IIA, *Comité permanent. Procès-verbaux 1909*, Minutes no. 34 of 19 November 1909, *Annexe D. Rapport de l'Institut International d'Agriculture avec les Bureaux internationaux de bibliographie scientifique*, pp. 456-459.

[11] IIA, 1913, p. 9.

(Left) The IIA set up its own printing office for its official publications. It was however operated by an external private company [IIA, 1922, p. 23].
(Right) Index by subject of the last editions of the *Bulletin Bibliographique Hebdomadaire* in 1915.

Printing Office.



TABLES DES MATIERES

INDEX DES PRINCIPALES MATIÈRES
AVEC LA NOTATION DÉCIMALE CORRESPONDANTE.

member in 1909, and to which the information sheets required to update the bibliography of agriculture were periodically dispatched.[12]

The Library's key role was therefore recognised from the outset and even ended up being a material representation of the IIA's activity before the organization had actually been established. As early as February 1905, for example, Marco Besso, a prominent figure in Italian finance and a director of Assicurazioni Generali at the time, announced his intention to donate his collection of monographs, conference summaries, journals, annuals, agricultural association publications and various other materials to the future organization.[13] The following year, *La Rivista Verde*[14] suggested that the future library could be presented at the Universal Exhibition held in Milan from April to November 1906.

Last but not least, the Library service stamp featured the symbol of three ears of wheat to identify the volumes in the collection, appearing on the cover of the IIA's official publications. The decoration was a recurrent theme in the building erected in Villa Borghese and eventually became the emblem of the new organization.[15]

When called upon to give advice on the internal operation of the IIA, Paul Otlet outlined a plan in 1911 for a systematic organization of the documentation based on the "desiderata qui dérivent du caractère même de l'Institut: internationalité, généralité, impersonnalité, concentration, coopération, coordination, unification".[16] The Library was a nerve centre of the study and research work model: collecting and storing all existing publications on agriculture, while supporting the activities of the technical bureaux of the IIA, providing the tools for them to access a wealth of information which was destined to grow. In the report on his second mission to Rome,

[12] IIA, *Comité permanent. Procès-verbaux 1909*, Minutes no. 26 of 03 May 1909, p. 97.

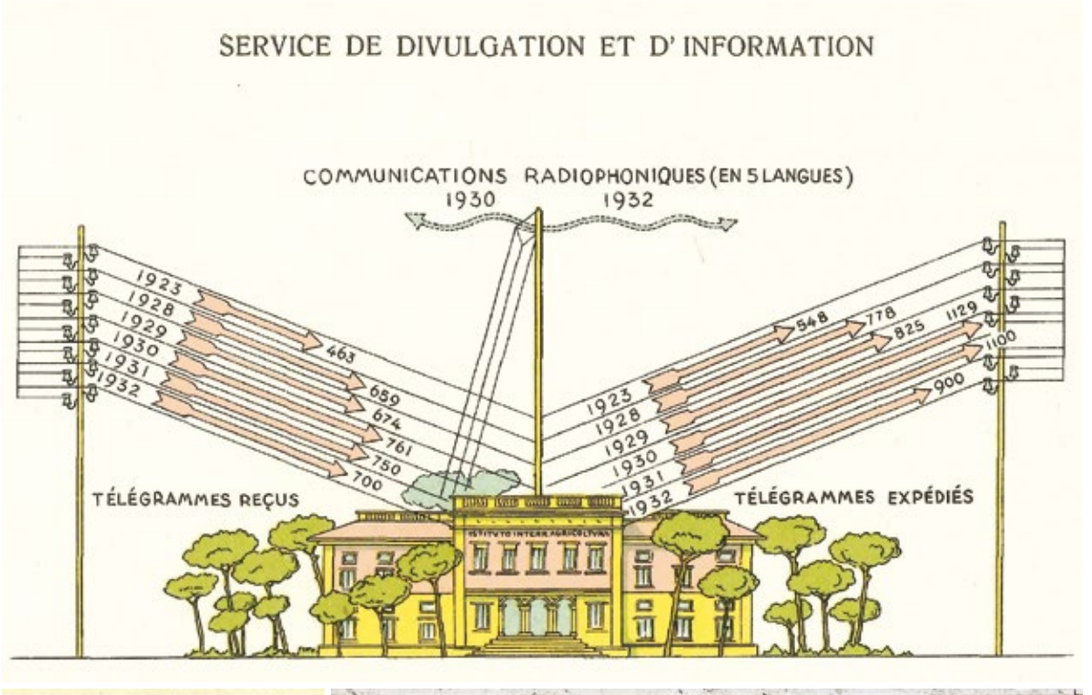
[13] Cf. Besso, 1925, pp. 160-161. On this individual cf. di Scolari Sellerio Jesurum, 1967.

[14] Cf. "Una conversazione con l'on. Gorio", *La Rivista Verde*, no. 3, 30 March 1906, pp. 2-3. Interviewed here by the director of the magazine, Carlo Monticelli, member of parliament Carlo Gorio is one of the five members of the Royal Commission for the IIA.

[15] IIA, *Comité permanent. Procès-verbaux 1909*, Minutes no. 34 of 19 November 1909, *Annexe A. Règlement de la Bibliothèque*, pp. 406-410. No decision-making documents have yet been found regarding the specific design of a logo for the IIA. On the events and the decorations of the building intended to house the IIA, cf. Tamburini, Benocci and Cozza Luzi, 2002.

[16] Otlet, 1911, p. 20.

(Clockwise)
- The Bureau of General Statistics was designed as a place for gathering and disseminating data internationally, an activity which was made possible thanks to the role performed in the IIA by the Library [Cottini-Agostinelli, 1933, p. 35].
- The three ears of wheat are a recurrent decoration on the façade and internal furnishings of the building erected in Villa Borghese to house the IIA.
- The stamp featuring the three ears of wheat, used by the IIA Library to identify the volumes in the collection.



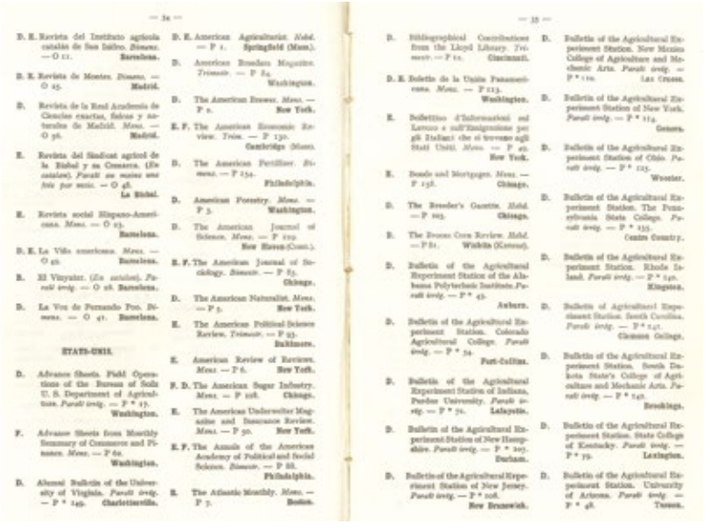
in March 1920, Otlet provided an informed summary of that strategic role:

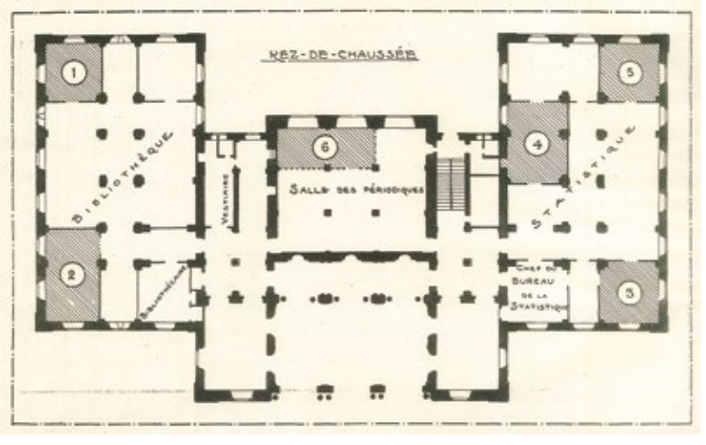
> "From the very beginning, the Institute's library has been given the task of becoming the universal library of agricultural sciences. This task responds to a need. It is necessary for all the intellectual material concerning agriculture to be brought together in one place in the world. The creation of international libraries is now required in all areas of activity and study. The institute's library must have a dual function, a dual value:
>
> 1. It must exist as a universal library of agricultural sciences that are developed for all kinds of requirements and to which recourse can increasingly be made from all parts of the world and for the most diverse objectives.
> 2. It must be at the service of the Institute, be directly relevant to this work and assist with it as far as possible.
>
> These two functions are distinct but harmonious and neither of the two should be undervalued".[17]

[17] Otlet, 1921, p. 19 [t.a.].

List of journals received by the IIA Library from the United States in 1913. The Library would then send the figures to the relevant bureaux, as shown by the capital letter to the left of the title [in *Liste des revues et journaux régulièrement reçus par l'Institut jusqu'au 1er avril 1913*. Rome, Imprimerie de l'Institut International d'Agriculture, pp. 34-35].

The Library was initially housed on the ground floor of the left wing of the IIA building in Villa Borghese [plan from the *L'Institut International d'Agriculture. Conseil International Scientifique Agricole. Commission Internationale Permanente des Associations agricoles. Réunions du 7 au 12 novembre 1927*. Rome, Grafia, 1927].





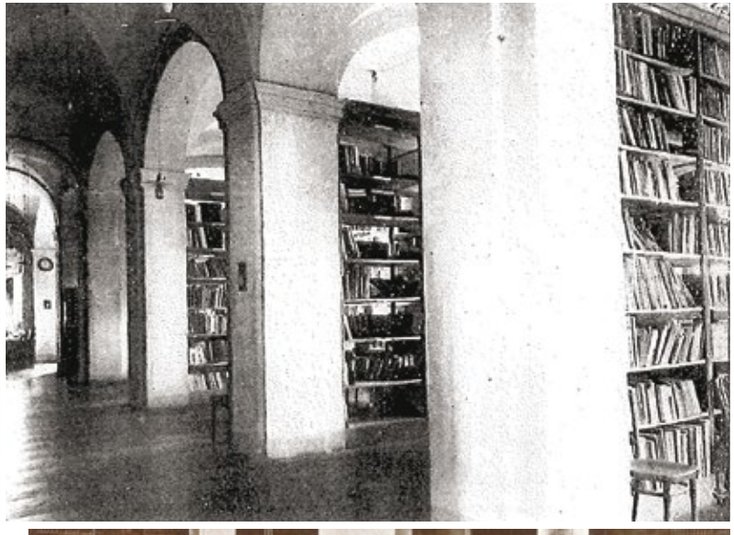
The Library operated in effect as a mediator to facilitate exchanges between the IIA and the outside world. Thanks to its support, for example, the Bureau of General Statistics was able to quickly gather, process and communicate information on prices and agricultural production in the different countries, as shown in an evocative image from 1933, in which the IIA is represented by a giant aerial and centre for receiving and sorting telegrams and radio communications. At the same time, the Library had to coordinate the action of the technical bureaux, in particular supervising the circulation of periodical publications, in order to produce targeted analyses and global summaries. It was in fact essential for IIA researchers to have the opportunity to process constantly updated data and gain access to a diverse range of sources.

In those years, the creation of documentation centres serving specialised agricultural administrations had become standard practice. In the United States, for example, in addition to libraries operating locally, in 1862 a library had been created at the US Department of Agriculture. Thus, from 1871, Rome, which had become the capital of the Kingdom of Italy, welcomed the library of the Italian Ministry of Agriculture, Industry and Commerce at the Palazzo della Stamperia, then situated at the Ministry's new building on Via XX Settembre, where the Biblioteca Storica Nazionale dell'Agricolturato still operates. During the first half of the twentieth century, the geographical proximity of the two libraries, their shared interests and the exchanges facilitated by the reading public created a kind of remote dialogue with the IIA.[18]

While the Library played a crucial role in the IIA, its facilities and resources did not seem to fit the requirements. Initially, it was "placed on the ground floor of the left wing of the building, in a kind of gallery that was rapidly furnished with wooden bookcases up to the ceiling, which were also used to divide the premises into a number of rooms used by the officials".[19] For over two decades, the space assigned to the Library was used as both offices and to store the publications. Despite difficulties accessing the collections, the small number of readers allowed future management problems to be avoided. At the same time, a room was specifically set aside for

[18] On the events surrounding the Library of the Italian Ministry of Agriculture, cf. Gallotta, 1989.

[19] Camerani, 1936, p. 8 [t.a.].



(Clockwise from top left)
- The Library area was rapidly furnished with wooden bookcases up to the ceiling, used to store the volumes in the collection and to divide the premises into a number of rooms for staff offices [in *L'Institut International d'Agriculture. Organisation – activité – résultats*. Rome, Imprimerie de l'Institut International d'Agriculture, 1927, p. 29].
- In the IIA building, Library spaces were used both as offices and to store the collection [in *The International Institute of Agriculture. Its organization – its work – its results*. Rome, Printing Office of the Institute, 1915, p. 19].
- The periodical reading and reference room, when the Library was housed in the IIA building [in *The International Institute of Agriculture. Its organization, activity and results*. Rome, Printing Office of the International Institute of Agriculture, 1924, p. 25].

periodicals and other reference books, including dictionaries, in order to guarantee easy and unrestricted access to journals, newspapers and bulletins, which were the essential sources for the work done by the experts.

However, the lack of space and scarcity of funds slowed down the general reorganization of the collection by theme.[20] While many considered the development of decimal classification as a tool for modernising knowledge production mechanisms, the Chief Librarian, Horác Podmaniczky, encountered some resistance in this respect. Commenting on the 1911 report by Paul Otlet, the Secretary-General, Pasquale Jannaccone, objected, for example, to the adoption of the decimal system as a standard tool for organizing the documentation in the bureaux and Library of the IIA, underlining both the practical difficulties of managing it and its limited use by non-specialists.[21] Nevertheless, inspired by the decimal classification, a bibliographical repertory by subject was developed in order to facilitate research by readers, thus supplementing the catalogues by author and country. These tools were initially for internal use, helping the staff and delegates of the IIA for whom the Library had been conceived, but they were also available to external readers authorized to gain access by the President or the Secretary-General.[22]

[20] On the disadvantages of adopting the decimal system, see IIA, *Comité permanent. Procès-verbaux 1909*, Minutes no. 30 of 11 June 1909, Annexe IV. *Organisation et travaux de la Bibliothèque*, p. 227-229.

[21] See the preamble addressed by Jannaccone to Otlet, 1911, pp. III-V.

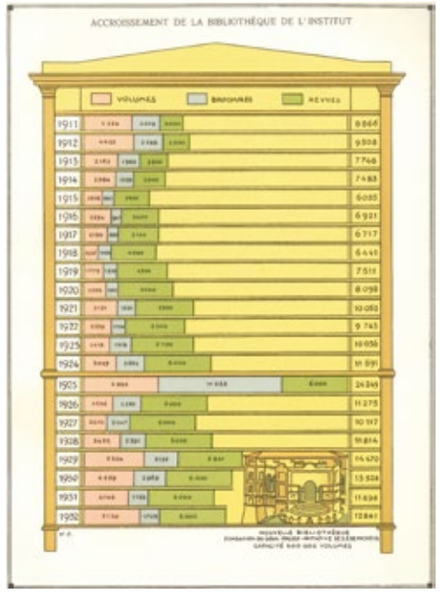
[22] This aspect is specified in the first article of the *Règlement de la Bibliothèque* in IIA, *Comité permanent. Procès-verbaux 1909*, Minutes no. 34 of 19 November 1909, p. 406.

The catalogues of the IIA Library still kept by the David Lubin Memorial Library.

Over the years, the collection of books, journals and other periodicals grew rapidly, becoming a reference centre for Rome and the rest of the world. Notwithstanding the relative stability of the budget, the Library was able to develop an important global exchange policy with research centres, experimental stations, central and peripheral government offices, professional federations and other agencies specialized in agricultural matters. It was also enriched by donations, in the form of money and books, made over the years by various private citizens, starting with the major acquisitions made by President Raffaele Cappelli, as shown in the chapter on existing collections in this volume. By the time Horác Podmaniczky had left the IIA in 1915, and after Italy had entered the First World War, various projects had been launched and the technical missions to collect documentation on agriculture were crucial to the IIA surviving the conflict. A transitional phase had now begun, during which the Library was managed by Arturo Bruttini, an exemplary figure from a generation of Italian agricultural experts, involved in disseminating innovative knowledge and technologies, both within public administrations and through professional organizations.[23]

By the mid-1920s, the IIA Library housed around 150 000 publications of various kinds and the growth of the collection resumed at a fast rate after having partly slowed down during the conflict. The collection included monographs, collective volumes, surveys, official reports, conference documents and, above all, periodical publications. In addition to these, there was a special collection of brochures from a diverse range of sources which were crucial to guaranteeing the spread of scientific knowledge and technical innovation in the field of agriculture. The Library's staff also increased during this period, distinguished by their level of internationalization and gradually growing specialization. In 1914, there were eleven employees – six of them Italian – and confusion was evident in the Library between employees managing the documentation and those assigned to supporting the IIA's publications. The division of roles was eventually clear by 1928, when the fifteen members of staff could focus exclusively on three priority tasks identified for the Library: acquiring and updating the collection, managing the periodical publications, and assisting the public.

[23] On Bruttini and his work at the IIA, cf. Mignemi, 2017.



In 1928, the Library was officially recognized as an autonomous department and became the IIA's fifth bureau, detaching itself from the Secretary-General's office. This result was possible thanks to two favourable circumstances. The first, at the General Assembly of 1926, when the new President, Giuseppe Michelis, launched a general process of reorganization of the IIA.[24] The second, when significant funding from the International Education Board of the Rockefeller Foundation in 1924 led to a quantum leap in the Library's development.[25] The US citizen James Goodwin Hodgson served as Chief Librarian from 1925 to 1929, assisted by Frenchwoman Denise Montel until 1927. Montel was previously a librarian at the Institut Colonial in Marseille, who joined the IIA following a period of training at the Brooklyn Public Library. A large-scale project was conceived during this time and three important initiatives were undertaken. These included the general re-cataloguing of the collection, according to the decimal criteria set by the American and British Library Associations; the thematic arrangement of books on shelves in order to facilitate unrestricted access by readers; and the granting of scholarships to allow some young people to undertake library studies at major specialized centres in Europe and the United States.

Among the beneficiaries of the scholarships, three figures deserve particular mention, not only because of the role they played in the IIA, but also because of their subsequent career paths. Frenchwoman Aline Payen joined the Library staff in 1927, after studying at the École de Bibliothécaires of the Institut Catholique de Paris, followed by a year's training at the Library of the US Department of Agriculture in Washington DC and the United Engineering Societies Library in New York. Particularly because of her study of law and economics, she became indispensable to the IIA's cataloguing work until her resignation in 1930. On her return to France, she worked in the documentation departments of various research institutions and, in 1940–1941, she became involved in the project to standardize cataloguing rules, working with Suzanne Briet of the Bibliothèque Nationale de France. After World War II, she became increasingly involved in teaching library science and training documentation specialists.[26]

(From left to right)
- Italian edition of the study on the use of urban and industrial waste in agriculture, produced by the IIA librarian Arturo Bruttini and presented to the General Assembly in 1922.
- Evolution of the collection (books, brochures and periodicals) held by the IIA Library between 1911 and 1932 [Cottini-Agostinelli, 1933, p. 20].

[24] See the text of the presentation made by De Michelis at the IIA General Assembly in 1926.

[25] IIA, *Comité permanent. Procès-verbaux 1929*, Minutes no. 11 of 30 October 1929, *Annexe A. Rapport du Secrétaire général sur la marche des travaux de l'Institut du 20 juin au 10 octobre 1929*, pp. 602-605 for a summary of the projects launched by the Library thanks to funding by the International Education Board.

[26] Lemaître, 1996.

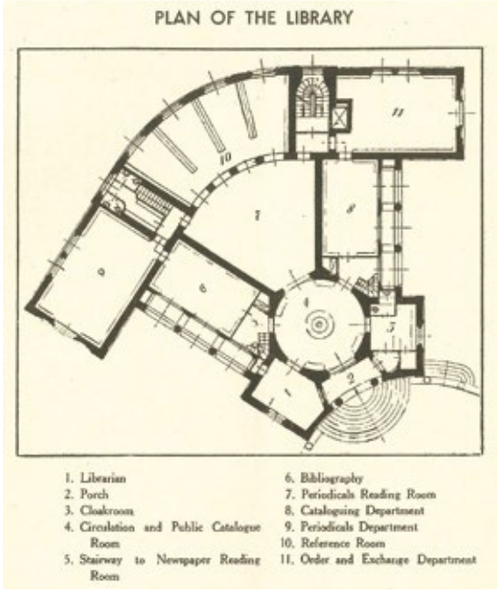
(From left to right)
- The German Sigmund von Frauendorfer, IIA Chief Librarian from 1930 to 1943 [FAO Archives, IIA/CIS, H.12].
- Vittorio Camerani (second from the left) with David Lubin's daughters, during a visit to the FAO library, most likely in the 1950s.

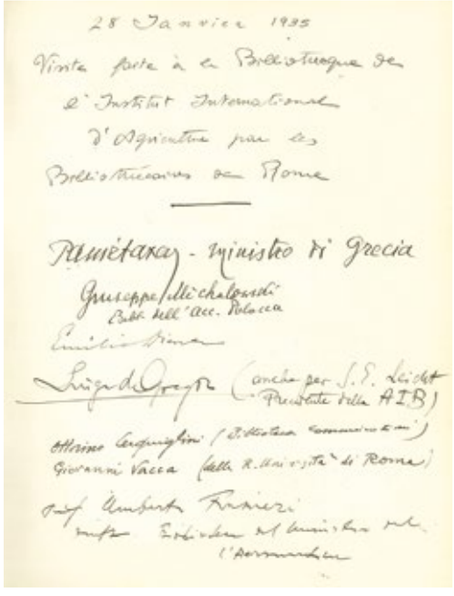
Thanks to the International Education Board scholarship, the German national Sigmund von Frauendorfer spent two and a half years in the United States of America, initially studying at the New York State Library in Albany and attending the Master of Arts in Library Science at the University of Illinois, then gaining practical experience in the Library of the US Department of Agriculture and the New York Public Library. Having studied economics and agricultural sciences at the Landwirtschaftliche Hochschule Hohenheim (Württemberg), Frauendorfer quickly emerged as the person destined to succeed Hodgson as IIA Chief Librarian. Before taking up librarianship as a profession, he had already gained sound knowledge of agricultural matters and the period he spent in the United States of America allowed him to engage in a fruitful dialogue with American experts that would continue after his return to Europe.[27] A member of the IIA staff from 1928, Frauendorfer became Chief Librarian in July 1930. During this time, he attached particular importance to the project of an international – and continuously updated – bibliography of agriculture. He also launched a plan to re-catalogue the entire IIA collection of documents based on a new classification system specifically developed to fulfil the needs of a specialized library.[28] This was the last major experiment launched by the IIA Library but remained incomplete due to the outbreak of World War II and ensuing events. In October 1943, Frauendorfer was forced to return to Germany on the orders of the Third Reich. From the following year, he worked in the CIS library installed in Berlin and then transferred to Salzburg to escape the devastation caused by the conflict. Initially believed to be temporary, his departure from Rome turned out to be definitive after the end of the conflict, particularly given the uncertainties regarding the fate of the IIA. Frauendorfer was appointed director of the Hochschule für Bodenkultur library in Vienna from 1947 and held this post for over a decade, while continuing to play an active role within the international networks of experts in agricultural documentation. After a stint as secretary of the Comité international des Bibliothèques agricoles in Brussels in 1935, he was one of the creators and then vice-president of the International Association of Agricultural Librarians and Documentalists (IAALD), founded in Ghent in 1955 and still operating today.[29]

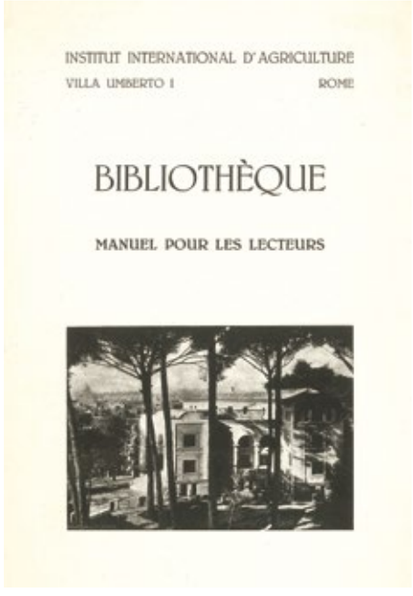
[27] See, for example, the two articles about the rural world and research on agricultural economics published in the *Journal of Farm Economics*. Cf. Frauendorfer, 1928 and 1929a. Frauendorfer's interest in studying these subjects is confirmed by his book on the history of ideas in agriculture and agricultural policy in the German-speaking regions up to World War I, published in 1957 as a volume of the *Ideengeschichte der Agrarwirtschaft und Agrarpolitik im deutschen Sprachgebiet*. The following year, a second book by Heinz Haushofer, dedicated to the subsequent period, was also published by Bayerischer Landwirtschaftsverlag.

[28] Several publications undertook to highlight internationally the cataloguing and bibliographical updating work undertaken by the IIA Library. Cf., for example, Frauendorfer, 1929b and 1934b.

[29] On the Comité international des Bibliothèques agricoles and the IAALD, cf. Duprat, 1955. Thanks to the combined support of the IAALD and the International Association of Agricultural Economists, the international bibliography project was resumed in 1955 with the quarterly publication of the *World Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology Abstracts*, cf. Frauendorfer, 1964.







(From left to right)
- Plan and distribution of departments in the new IIA Library building opened in 1934 [IIA, 1936, p. 1].
- Register of signatures of the IIA Library for the visit by librarians of the city of Rome on 28 January 1935.
- Cover of the French version of the IIA Library's handbook for readers.

Another scholarship holder of the International Education Board worth mentioning is the Italian Vittorio Camerani. A graduate of the University of Florence, he was hired by the IIA Library in 1927 and, in 1929–1930, he had the opportunity to specialize in library science at the University of Michigan. He then became a lecturer in this very subject, during the 1950s, at the School of Archivists and Librarians of the University of Rome. An active member of the Italian Association of Libraries as early as the 1930s, in the post-war period he was also involved in developing the international network of the IAALD.[30] Camerani led the IIA Library through the difficult transition that began in 1946 and continued until the transfer to the headquarters of FAO in 1951. He took over this post from his wife, who died in November 1945. Bulgarian-born Mara Camerani-Teodorova was in fact also a librarian at the IIA from 1928 and was appointed interim manager of the service by Frauendorfer when he returned to Germany at the end of 1943.

The funding provided by the Rockefeller Foundation led to a flurry of activity in the IIA Library, which continued throughout the 1930s, as witnessed by the various individuals we have just described. Along with these, we should not omit to mention the Norwegian Hans Jenssen, hired in 1928 and a member of the staff until 1940, when he was recalled to his country, likely due to the events that following the outbreak of World War II. In 1946, Jenssen became the first librarian of FAO and subsequently Director of the David Lubin Memorial Library until 1969, as well as the first secretary of the IAALD. The IIA Library can therefore be considered to have been a laboratory in which numerous experts in preserving and organizing knowledge in the fields of economics, statistics and agricultural sciences were trained and worked. In the interwar period, it also earned a key position in the worldwide network of libraries and documentation centres that specialised in these subjects and were active from a local to an international level.[31]

[30] De Gregori, 1999.

[31] Suffice to mention the survey of specialized agricultural libraries around the world conducted by Mara Camerani-Teodorova and published in 1939, see IIA, 1939.

The transformation of the Library into an independent bureau recognised this central role within the IIA. To reinforce this aspect, before he left the presidency in 1933, Giuseppe De Michelis began the construction of a new building designed to meet the requirements of the library and be able to house a growing collection of documents, as explained in the next chapter. The work was completed in 1934 and, between 20 May and 15 July of the same year,[32] the volumes were transferred to the new site, adopting modern systems which provided a benchmark for specialists who visited the Library in subsequent years. In addition to spacious storerooms, every service now had adequate space and, at the centre of the building, a journal reading room was created with around six hundred freely accessible publications, making the most recent editions always available to internal and external technical staff, to whom the IIA offered a collection that was unique among Roman libraries.[33] In 1935–1936, the Library also received the personal archives of David Lubin, which had previously been kept at the US delegate's office.[34] Already a source of data and information, the Library also became the custodian of the IIA's history.

The ability to provide effective tools with which to navigate an international and diverse collection was a constant concern during the Library's last ten years of activity. In 1934, Frauendorfer published his *Système de classification des sciences agricoles*, in which he proposed a new cataloguing system specifically developed to serve as a guide to the collection of a specialized library. The German scholar's intention was to rationalize the coding mechanisms, making it easier to connect materials in different languages, constantly updating a bibliographical inventory available to researchers. This was the outcome of a long period of reflection and experimentation: "the practical experience of classification questions, gained by this Library over a long period of years is reflected in the system".[35] Taking advantage of the growing importance attributed to documentation, both in public administration and in the private sector in several countries,[36] the new system was intended to adapt the decimal classification developed by Paul Otlet, who had repeatedly been called in by the IIA for advice and who, in 1934, published his renowned *Traité de documentation*.

The catalogues therefore became fundamentally important and, by the mid-1930s, made a wide range of tools available to IIA technical staff and readers in the Library. In the Circulation and Public Catalogue Room, for example, alphabetical catalogues by author, country and subject (according to the decimal classification) could be viewed. In addition to these, there were other tools intended to enhance the activity of the IIA and its international connections. In particular, there were the publication catalogues of the IIA and League of Nations; the World Repertory of Agricultural Bibliography, which the IIA had been working on since 1932, thanks to the support Frauendorfer had obtained from the

[32] Camerani, 1936, p. 17.

[33] In this respect, see the brochure *Library. Readers' Handbook* published in Italian, French and English from 1936. In 1942, the German translation was completed and a Spanish edition was announced.

[34] FAO Archives, IIA/CIS, T.1, Letter from V. Camerani to A. van Houtte, secretary of the Temporary European Bureau of FAO (31 October 1947).

[35] Frauendorfer, 1934a, p. X.

[36] On developments in the management of information and documentation in the 1920s and 1930s, see the analyses by Fayet-Scribe, 2000.

[37] From as early as 1926, the Library of Congress undertook to supply the IIA with bibliographic cards of the US Department of Agriculture and, more generally, of agricultural publications in English. See the activity reports in IIA, *Comité permanent. Procès-verbaux 1926*, Minutes no. 6 of 31 March 1926, p. 238 and *Procès-verbaux 1936*, Minutes no. 9 of the 3rd session of 12 June 1936, p. 312, when the Rockefeller Foundation earmarked new funding for this purpose.

[38] As indicated in IIA, 1937, these were in particular the *Monthly Bulletin of Economic and Social Intelligence,* the *Monthly Bulletin of Agricultural Intelligence and Plant Diseases* and the *International Bulletin of Plant Protection*, combined in 1927 into the International Review of Agriculture, as well as the annual edition of the *Bibliographie d'agriculture tropicale*.

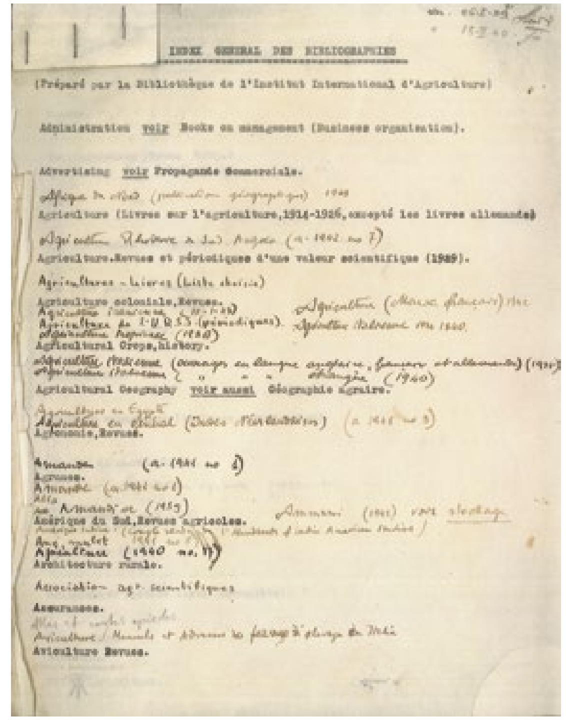
[39] On this phase, cf. Tosi, 1989, pp. 233-247 and Clavin, 2013, pp. 167-168.

(First row)

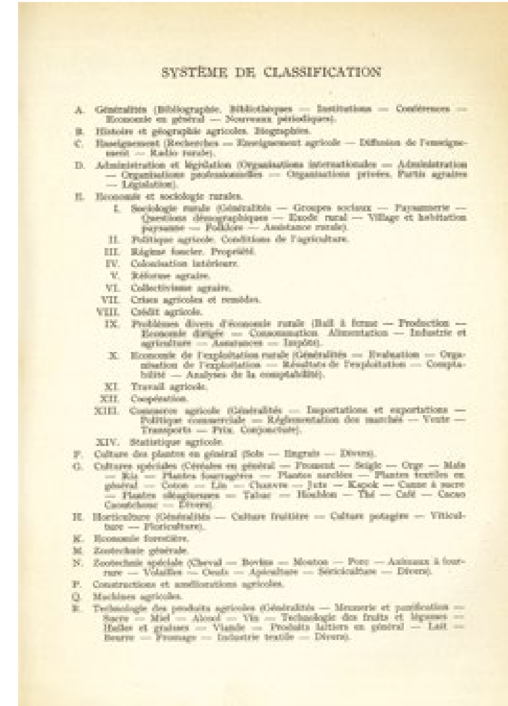
- First page of the general index of bibliographies prepared by the IIA Library on specific topics.
- The thematic classification system adopted in the quarterly *International Bibliography of Agricultural Economics* published by the IIA Library between 1938 and 1946.

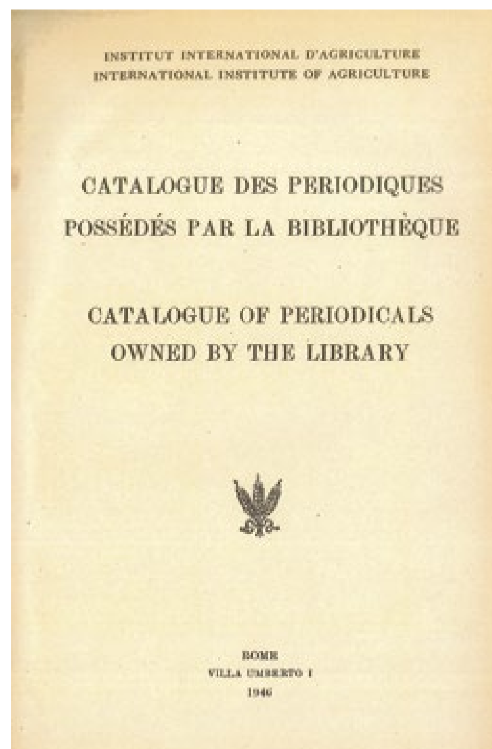
(Second row)

- Cover of the bilingual edition (French and English) of the general inventory of periodicals owned by the IIA Library in 1946, the year in which it was ceased.
- Cover of the bilingual edition (French and English) of the full inventory of the IIA collection, published by the European Regional Office of FAO in 1948, which still bears the name and symbol of the IIA on its cover.


INDEX GENERAL DES BIBLIOGRAPHIES

(Préparé par la Bibliothèque de l'Institut International d'Agriculture)

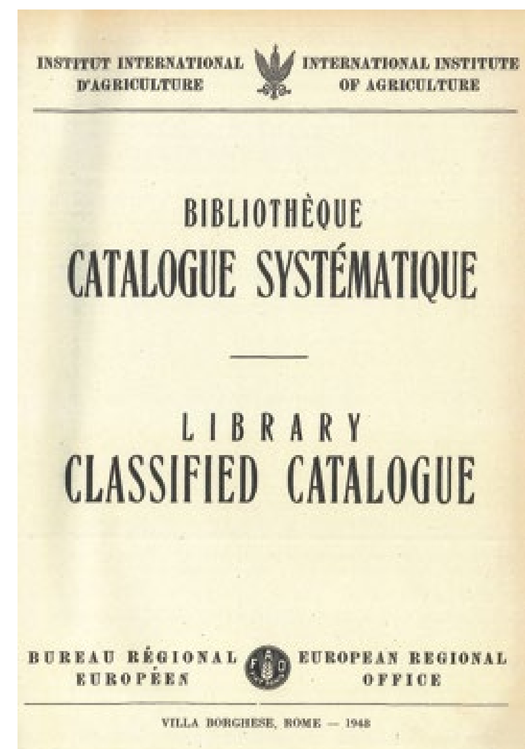

SYSTÈME DE CLASSIFICATION


INSTITUT INTERNATIONAL D'AGRICULTURE
INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE

CATALOGUE DES PERIODIQUES POSSÉDÉS PAR LA BIBLIOTHÈQUE

CATALOGUE OF PERIODICALS OWNED BY THE LIBRARY

ROME
VILLA UMBERTO I
1946


INSTITUT INTERNATIONAL D'AGRICULTURE — INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE

BIBLIOTHÈQUE
CATALOGUE SYSTÉMATIQUE

LIBRARY
CLASSIFIED CATALOGUE

BUREAU RÉGIONAL EUROPÉEN — EUROPEAN REGIONAL OFFICE

VILLA BORGHESE, ROME — 1948

German Ministry of Food and Agriculture. Other catalogues included the thematic bibliographic card index of the Library of Congress,[37] the Institut Colonial in Marseille, the Institut national pour l'étude agronomique du Congo Belge in Brussels, the German journal *Der Forschungsdienst* and the Italian Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche. The Library always undertook to provide readers with bibliographies on specific subjects and, in 1932, the production of a bibliographical bulletin resumed, following its interruption in 1915. This was intended to provide a regular and complete summary of publications on agricultural issues. Thus, the publication of the *Internationale Bibliographie des agrarökonomischen Schrifttum* in collaboration with a German journal began. At the same time, for many years several bureaux had been carrying out similar work in their periodic publications[38] and the IIA finally launched its own quarterly *International Bibliography of Agricultural Economics* in 1938.

From the second half of the 1930s, the influence exerted by Italy and Germany, the escalation of international tensions and the growing isolation of the Axis powers eventually affected the activities and fate of the IIA.[39] The difficulties emerged clearly from 1940, when Italy entered World War II and many foreign delegates were recalled to their respective countries. These worsened further in the summer of 1943, after Giacomo Acerbo, who was undoubtedly compromised

by the fascist regime, made his escape.[40] This transitional phase saw the Library claim its position as a neutral space in view of the documentary heritage of which it was custodian and ended in 1946 with the decision to close the IIA.[41] Faced by the destruction caused by the conflict, this heritage had to be preserved and enhanced, in order to legitimize the IIA as an organization that produced and disseminate knowledge worldwide. The effort was reinforced in particular following the Hot Springs conference and the decision by the United Nations Interim Commission on Food and Agriculture, which began to operate in July 1943, to suspend a decision on the fate of the IIA.[42]

The re-cataloguing work started by Frauendorfer continued and the Library's role was recognized in the bilingual (French and English) edition of the volume on the first four decades of activity of the IIA.[43] This was also essential for compiling the bibliography on the history of the organization and to publish the catalogue of IIA publications released in the 1930s, complete with a thematic index.[44] From June 1944, following the Liberation of Rome, the Library also provided an advisory service and made its collection available to the technical sections of the Allied Military Government in Italy.[45] The main focus of work during this period was the general inventory of the vast and diverse specialized collection. With almost 370 000 titles as of 30 June 1945[46] it was one of the most important in the world after the US National Agricultural Library. It comes as no surprise, therefore, that in 1946, the IIA's last publication was in fact the French and English editions of the *Catalogue of periodicals owned by the Library* with the full list of 5 572 owned titles.[47] Two years later, the handover took place with the *Classified catalogue* of the entire collection, produced thanks to the European Regional Office of FAO, the cover of which symbolically bore two signatures. As explained in the foreword, "FAO desired to conclude this publication by way of sincere acknowledgement to the International Institute of Agriculture – its precursor – and at the same time to objectively make known the value of this imposing heritage."[48]

In order to preserve this documentary heritage and prevent its departure from Rome, a proposal was made for an international academy of agricultural sciences named after David Lubin. In particular following the mobilization of UNESCO,[49] the fourth annual Conference of FAO, in 1948, undertook to make the most of the collection on site, entrusting it to its European Regional Office, now installed in the premises of the former IIA building in Villa Borghese. Over a period of forty years, and throughout two world wars, the IIA Library had performed an essential role of centralizing and organizing documentation from all over the world. It had therefore become one of the main centres for preserving knowledge on agricultural modernization and rural change. Just as the Library had embodied the IIA in 1905–1908, before activities had officially begun, the collection it bequeathed put Rome in first place among the European capitals bidding to house the headquarters of FAO at the end of the 1940s.

[40] On the figure of Giacomo Acerbo, cf. Parisella, 1988.

[41] It is therefore no accident that the fate of the IIA Library collection was explicitly stated in the second article of the IIA dissolution protocol, which transferred its functions to FAO and was signed in Rome on 30 March 1946.

[42] On this phase, cf. Tosi, 1989, p. 241.

[43] IIA, 1941b.

[44] IIA, 1945 and 1941a.

[45] IIA, *Comité permanent. Procès-verbaux 1943-'46*, session of 1 July 1946, L'*activité de l'Institut International d'Agriculture pendant la guerre (1940-1945)*, p. 328-335.

[46] Ibid., p. 325.

[47] IIA, 1946.

[48] IIA/European Regional Office of FAO, 1948, p. XV.

[49] UNESDOC, NS/ICSA/1, *Renseignements d'ordre général relatifs à la Bibliothèque de l'ancien Institut international d'agriculture, Rome, ainsi qu'au Centre international d'agriculture scientifique prévu* (8 May 1949).

The new library building

Carla Benocci

The IIA's MISSION to disseminate information globally soon expanded to include the collection of every publication and study on agriculture, stored in the Villa Lubin Library spaces and documented from 1908.[50] The importance of knowledge on agricultural techniques and memory of international traditions and practices, recorded using the latest scientific systems, soon required more space.

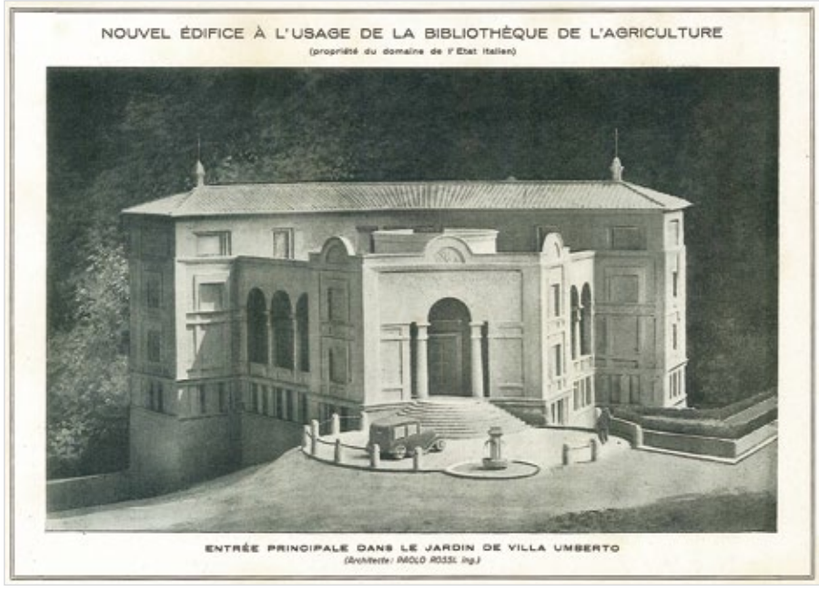
The vast collection of documents and publications urgently required an expressly designed structure. In 1923, permission was granted for the expansion of the institute in the same area[51], annexing large areas of prized surrounding land. However, it was only at the end of his presidency that Giuseppe De Michelis obtained the financial resources for a new building, and "the architect, Paolo Rossi, entrusted with the construction, started work in the autumn of 1933 and completed it in the spring of 1934. The period between 20 May and 15 July was spent transporting the books from the old building, after which the new Library was immediately opened to the public",[52] as commemorated in an inscription on one of the building walls. On 7 March 1934, Ludovico Spada Potenziani – elected President of the IIA at the end of the previous year – sent a telegram to Paolo Rossi to congratulate him stating that at the handover of the building: "His Excellency Mr Puppini and His Excellency Mr De Michelis highly praised the elegant workmanship of the building and rational distribution of the interior".[53]

Paolo Rossi De Paoli (1900–1966) was at that time an architect with a considerable town planning experience[54], who had trained with Armando Brasini and participated in projects that exposed him to modern European architectural

The same emblem of three ears of wheat at the entrance to the Library of the International Institute of Agriculture, identifying agriculture as a common denominator of humanity, 1933.

[50] Camerani, 1936, p. 7.
[51] ASC, I.E. prot. 904/1923.
[52] Camerani 1936, p. 16.
[53] FAO Archives, IIA/CIS, A.6, Telegram from L. Spada Potenziani to P. Rossi, 7 March 1934.
[54] On Rossi's town planning work, cf. Rossi, 1932, 1933a, 1936; Rossi De Paoli 1937a; Rossi De Paoli et al. 1937.

The reading room in the new IIA Library building had modern diffused lighting and could comfortably accommodate some thirty-five readers [Camerani, 1936, p. 17].



Model of the new building for the Library of Agriculture showing the main entrance, completed by the designer and director of the works Paolo Rossi in 1934 [Cottini-Agostinelli, 1933, p. 49].

trends. These influences led him to value and draw inspiration from the prestigious neo-Renaissance tradition for the IIA Library. While consistent with the neighbouring building of Villa Lubin, the project of the library building had to contend with limited space, sloping land bordering Via di Villa Ruffo, the significant change in style and the need to install suitable modern systems. The clear purpose of the new building was to guarantee the best possible preservation and the greatest access to the growing collection of books. The most innovative technologies were adopted to ensure comfort and functionality and the works adhered to standards and criteria applied in buildings such as the Assicurazioni Generali buildings and banks.[55]

The space of the new building of the IIA Library measured 1 657 sq. m., with metal bookcases "which could hold around 260 000 volumes".[56] Quoting from a lecture given by the Chief Librarian Sigmund von Frauendorfer, Camerani explains: "the book storeroom is in the basement and insulated against humidity by wide, aerated cavity walls and a triple layer of asphalt insulation. The fixed windows prevent dust entering the room, with purified air circulation provided by a highly modern aerothermal system. The books are arranged on metal bookshelves on three levels reached by steel ladders. Connections between the storeroom and the offices are provided by an electric lift and a telephone system. Fast telephone communications have also been provided between the new building and the offices of the Institute".[57]

As for the interior layout, "on the ground floor are the reading rooms and offices, the former in the centre, the latter on the periphery. In the reading room, around 600 journals are on display [...] the room has modern diffused lighting and can comfortably accommodate around thirty-five readers.

[55] Benocci, 2016.

[56] FAO Archives, IIA/CIS, A.6, Letter from G. De Michelis to members of the Royal Commission for property granted for use by the IIA, 23 December 1933.

[57] Camerani, 1936, pp. 17-18. The same director introduced a cataloguing system adapted to agricultural subjects, following the decimal and Anglo-American systems previously adopted: on this subject cf. ibid, pp. 22-23.

View of the Library from the roof of Villa Lubin: where one can see how Paolo Rossi has carefully reproduced the Renaissance style but with a degree of interpretative freedom.

Portico over the main entrance to the Library. While in the Palazzo Massimo alle Colonne model by Baldassarre Peruzzi the portico is positioned on the façade, Paolo Rossi moved it to the wall facing the sloping land of Villa Borghese below.

Part of the wall facing Via di Villa Ruffo in rational, modern style, as are the windows and the name of th e Library.

The lending service is in the circular entrance lobby [...] the Library's other offices are situated around the reading room and therefore isolated from areas frequented by the public. The Library is essentially divided into four sections: purchasing, catalogues, periodicals and lending departments."[58]

The IIA paid also a lot of attention to the appropriate furnishing of the Library. In 1934, President Spada Potenziani was asked to fund the supply of "wooden furniture" (supplied by the Gobbini company), "curtains" (supplied by the Bruscani company), and a "carpet for the institute's meeting room" (supplied by the Croff company), in addition to telephones (supplied by the Zamboni company), amounting to a total of ITL 36 690. This sum was obtained and was followed by further annual contributions, as recorded in the accounts of the Commission.[59]

The rational use of space and modern technological systems ensured the success of the enterprise of the new library building. Rossi understood the purpose of the site perfectly and the opportunity to provide continuity with the villa that housed the IIA, without recourse to features he had used in other architectural designs for collective, laic and religious building, in which a "rationalized monumentality" prevailed.[60] This continuity was also inscribed in the reading room of the new building,[61] where two large decorations representing a world map on one wall and *Life in the field* on the other were painted in 1934 by Giuseppe Rivaroli, who had previously worked on the decorations in Villa Lubin.

[58] Camerani, 1936, p. 18.

[59] FAO Archives, IIA/CIS, A.6, Letter from A. Brizi to L. Spada Potenziani, 6 July 1934.

[60] Briganti e Mazza, 2010, p. 444, with previous bibliography; also see Rossi, 1933b.

[61] Camerani, 1936, p. 17.

Specializing

SPECIAL LIBRARIES have existed from the beginning of library history in the form of specialized collections. Some still exist today, such as the Royal Geographical Society (London), a collection of maps that spans 500 years of geography and exploration, or the Massachusetts Horticultural Society Library, the first horticultural library in the United States. The David Lubin Memorial Library also falls in this category:

"These libraries tend to be wholly centered on the overall information needs of their user: that is, they are 'mission oriented'."[1]

The mission of the David Lubin Memorial Library is to support FAO in its quest to achieve food security for all by preserving, developing and providing access to a collection of scientific literature on the topic of food security and all its related fields. Indeed the collection of a special library reflects the mission of the organization it serves.

Special libraries have users, who ask for highly specialized bibliographies. In fact, for over 50 years the FAO Library published *The List of Selected Articles* (known as LOSA) on a monthly basis. This was sent to FAO staff to keep them informed on what was going on in their fields of research. Another category of specialized users of FAO's Library includes university professors, students, journalists, freelance researchers and writers, who all request support in researching a wide range of topics, from: 'Heavy metal pollution in fish', 'Agro-industrial parks in Russia', 'Cultural landscape in Mongolian tourism', to '*Designing a sustainable "Martian Garden" that will either fully meet the oxygen and food consumption needs of a small crew or at least provide a large supplement to already existing systems'*.[2]

[1] Wiegand, W.A. & Davis, D. G. Jr., eds. 1994. *Encyclopedia of Library History*, New York, London, Routledge, p. 597.

[2] Research request received by the FAO library reference mail account.

CHAPTER 3

The Foundation of the FAO Library

The David Lubin Memorial Library

Sarah Dister

Maintaining the IIA Library

JUST ONE YEAR AFTER ITS FOUNDATION in 1945, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) became the custodian of the International Institute of Agriculture (IIA) and its library. This was an intense period for the new Organization. Many import decisions still had to be taken, such as where to locate FAO headquarters. Within this delicate initial phase, the Director-General, the Council and the Conference all expressed the same concern: would FAO alone be able to maintain and develop the IIA inheritance, which included the single best agricultural collection in Europe?

In 1948 the Conference proposed establishing a foundation, under the guidance of FAO and other organizations and carrying the name of David Lubin. A joint committee was created, composed of representatives of FAO, UNESCO (which had expressed its interest) and the Italian Government (owners of the IIA building) to "work out the best means of continuing and expanding the former IIA library and such activities which can for the benefit of the world of agriculture best be centred around such a valuable institution".[1]

[1] C49/II/9 Addendum: Preparatory meeting on the maintenance and expansion of the library of the former IIA, convened in Rome on 26 and 27 July 1949 by UNESCO and FAO jointly with the Italian Government, p. 2.

On the afternoon of 16 October 1945 FAO came into existence with the signature of its Constitution.

The Committee met three times that same year, resulting in the draft statutes of a *David Lubin International Centre*, to be located in Rome with the library of the former IIA as its nucleus. Its main functions would be to develop the former IIA library, encourage research and extension work in all fields of agriculture and publish and disseminate information on these activities.

Thus a new international initiative was born, closely linked to FAO but also to UNESCO and the Italian Government, with its own General Assembly, Executive Committee and a membership "open to all governments, inter-governmental and international non-governmental, national and private organizations, institutions, and any other body which aims at promoting development of agriculture".[2]

The Centre as such never became a reality, mainly because during the same year FAO decided on the permanent location of its headquarters, a decision that was to turn the tables.

Searching for a location for FAO headquarters

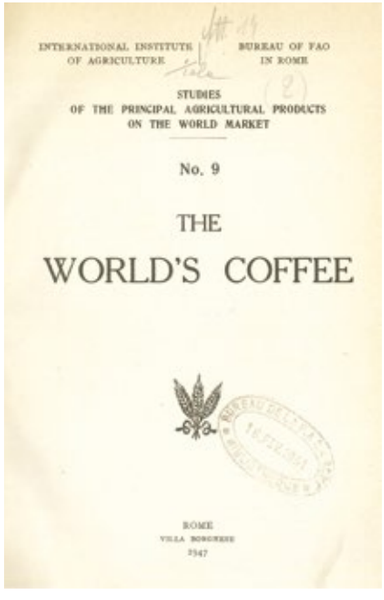
In line with its international nature, FAO's beginnings were quite nomadic: originating in 1943 in Hot Springs, Virginia, founded in 1945 in Quebec City, Canada, and temporarily located in Washington, D.C. while the FAO Conference deliberated over where to permanently establish the headquarters.

There were five candidate countries (the United Nations was considered, for the purposes of the vote, a separate country):

1. Denmark – Copenhagen.
2. Italy – Rome.
3. Switzerland – Geneva, Lausanne, Vevey or Montreux.
4. United States of America – four sites in or near Washington, including the University of Maryland.
5. United Nations – part of the permanent headquarters in New York City.[3]

[2] C49/II/9 Addendum: Preparatory meeting on the maintenance and expansion of the library of the former IIA, convened in Rome on 26 and 27 July 1949 by UNESCO and FAO jointly with the Italian Government, p. 8.

[3] FAO. 1949. *Report of the Conference of FAO: Fifth session, Washington D.C., USA, 21 November – 6 December, 1949*. Rome, FAO. VII. Constitutional, administrative, and financial questions: Site of Permanent FAO headquarter.



First FAO headquarters from 1946 – 1947, at 2000 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Washington DC, USA.

During the transition year 1946, volume 9 of the IIA series "Studies of the principal agricultural products on the world market" was co-published by IIA and the Bureau of FAO in Rome.

As the home of the IIA for the first half of the twentieth century, Rome was the most logical choice. Nevertheless, by 1945 a decision had still not been taken. In the meantime, on 1 August 1946 FAO officially assumed the responsibility for the IIA, to ensure "that the goodwill built up in member countries by the Institute over forty years of pioneering work will be maintained".[4] The transition was carried out by the FAO Regional Office for Europe, which was also temporarily located in Rome.

Finally in 1949, delegates voted at the 5th session of the Conference in Washington, D.C., but not without first expressing their divergent views on the five candidates.

Delegates from Denmark, Finland, France, Haiti, Iraq, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Pakistan, the United Kingdom, and Yugoslavia stressed "the probability of monetary savings by moving to a soft-currency area".[5]

Doubt regarding this position was expressed by the Delegates of Chile, Cuba, the Philippine Republic, and the United States of America, they felt "that the move would be expensive, that trade unbalances and inconvertibility of currencies are temporary, and that the temporary monetary advantage would later be lost".[6]

Delegates of Brazil and Chile emphasized "the savings that could be effected by moving Headquarters to the United Nations site, where centralized services could be obtained at low cost".[7]

Delegates of the People's Republic of China, Haiti, Liberia, Mexico and others stressed "the importance of selecting a site free from segregation or discrimination because of race or religion".[8] In this connection, the Commission, also took notice of a communication received from the (U.S.) National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, which opposed the University of Maryland site.

All speakers agreed that the new site should "afford favorable cultural, intellectual, and social circumstances for the work of the Organization, for staff and families, and for visits to Headquarters".[9]

[4] FAO. 1946. *Report of the Conference of FAO: Second session, Copenhagen, Denmark, 2–13 September*. Rome, FAO. C. Report of Director-General on International Institute of Agriculture. p. 13.

[5] FAO. 1949. *Report of the Conference of FAO: Fifth session, Washington D.C., USA, 21 November – 6 December, 1949*. Rome, FAO: VII. Constitutional, administrative, and financial questions: Site of Permanent FAO headquarter.

[6] Idem.

[7] Idem.

[8] Idem.

[9] Idem.

Rome, Italy – an early view of the headquarters of FAO (the 1950s).

Results of the ballots cast on the headquarters site

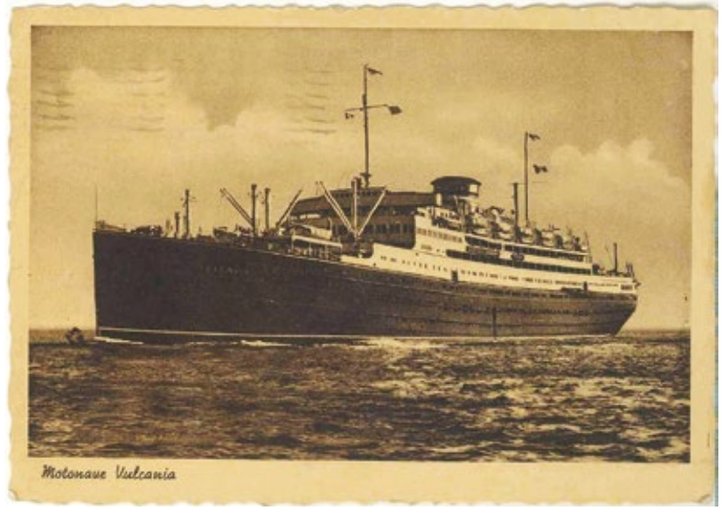
Proposed Sites	Ballots				
	1	2	3	4	5
Denmark	2	–	–	–	–
Italy	24	28	29	29	30
Switzerland	3	2	–	–	–
United Nations	13	6	3	–	–
United States of America	15	21	25	27	28
Abstentions	1	1	1	2	–
Total votes cast	58	58	58	58	58
Not voting	3	3	3	3	3

The voting process was finally launched, and after five ballots FAO learned that its permanent location was to be Rome, Italy. The Italian Government offered the former seat of the Ministry of Italian Africa, located at Viale Terme di Caracalla in Rome as the new headquarters for FAO.

This decision completely changed FAO's perspective on maintaining the former IIA library: FAO headquarters needed a library, especially as the "collection and dissemination of knowledge is one of the fundamental functions of FAO and FAO has a responsibility for obtaining all available knowledge on those fields and making it freely and equally available to citizens of all cooperating countries".[10]

A panel of library experts listed the arguments for establishing a complete agricultural library at FAO headquarters as follows:

- FAO is an international organization which must have adequate documentation available for its official duties.
- FAO can count on extensive collaboration from cooperating countries in building up such a collection, and should receive this material largely without cost.



The Vulcania was an Italian ocean liner built by Cantiere Navale Triestino in 1926 for the Italian company Cosulich Line. The ship travelled the Atlantic Ocean for almost 20 years. (©: http://ufdc.ufl.edu/permissions).

[10] FAO Archives. FAO. Sc. & Stat. Meeting WP 3: Panel on FAO statistics and information services: Working outline, p. 1.

FAO moves to Rome in 1951: At the Naples Maritime Depot, left to right: J.R. d'Alarcao, of Finance and Economics, his wife and children; Miss K. Lomsdal, Library; Mrs. La Stella-Arnold, Library.

- Compiling a complete research collection at its own headquarters is called for by FAO's fundamental interest in world documentation in its fields of work.
- The IIA library could, if so used, serve as a nucleus.[11]

It was therefore decided that the new FAO headquarters would have its own library, with the IIA collection at its core.

IN THE EARLY SPRING OF 1951 two Italian passenger ships, Saturnia and Vulcania, set sail from Washington, D.C. towards Italy. On board: 76 families in service of FAO, including the librarians Ms. Lomsdal, future head of bibliographical information services, and Mrs. Stella-Arnold.

[11] FAO Archives. FAO. Sc. & Stat. Meeting WP 3: Panel on FAO statistics and information services: Working outline, p. 3.

Paying tribute to David Lubin

THE CONFERENCE RECOMMENDED that the FAO Library be named the *David Lubin Memorial Library* when moved into the new building, and also requested the Director-General Norris E. Dodd to "consult with representatives of the Italian Government to assure the placing of an appropriate inscription or other permanent designation at the entrance of the library".[12]

On 10 June 1952 the FAO Library was officially opened and named the David Lubin Memorial Library "in recognition of the foresight, leadership, and outstanding contribution of David Lubin to international co-operation in the field of agriculture".[13]

A glazed plate was placed at its entrance, bearing an inscription in both Italian and English:

Memorial library dedicated to David Lubin (1849-1919)
Founder of the International Institute of Agriculture
Pioneer of international collaboration for peace and justice throughout the world

Another tribute to Lubin was a bronze bust commissioned for the IIA in 1921 by the King of Italy, Vittorio Emanuele III (together with a commemorative marble tablet that was only acquired by the Library in 1981). Lubin's bureau and armchair were also kept inside the Library, together with a painting

[12] FAO. 1950. *Report of the Conference of FAO: Special session, Washington, 3–11 November 1950*. Rome, FAO. IV.A. David Lubin Memorial Library.

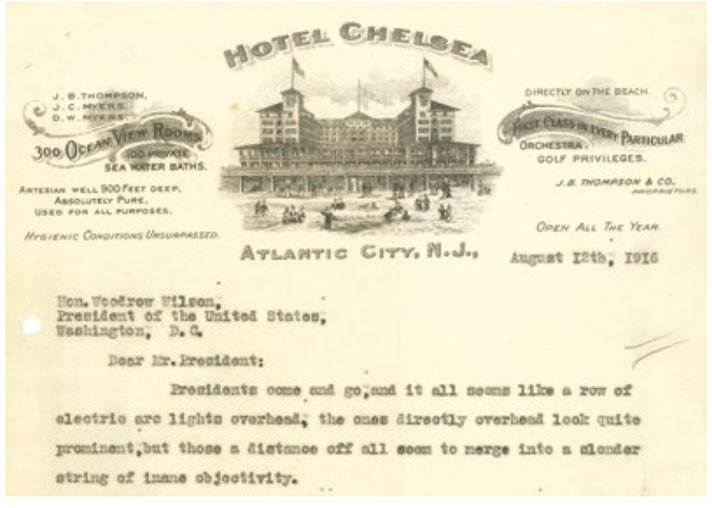
[13] Idem.

A painting portraying David Lubin seated with a books is placed at the entrance of the Library to pay tribute to the founder of the IIA and its library.

portraying him seated with a book, looking straight into the eye of each and every Library visitor, keeping a close eye on the thousands of annual visitors that pass through the Library.

ON 2 APRIL 1974, David Lubin's three daughters, Evangeline Lubin Silenzi, Dorothy Lubin Heller and Grace Lubin Finesinger, officially donated their father's archives to the Library, with the provision that they would be "well preserved for reference by scholars of the future".[14]

The archives contain tens of thousands of letters Lubin wrote passionately, tirelessly and unimpressed by hierarchy, to anyone who could help him to realize the IIA, from statesmen to journalists, politicians, writers, kings and queens. Here are just a few examples:


HOTEL CHELSEA

J. B. THOMPSON,
J. C. MYERS,
D. W. MYERS,

300 Ocean View Rooms
100 PRIVATE SEA WATER BATHS.

ARTESIAN WELL 900 FEET DEEP, ABSOLUTELY PURE, USED FOR ALL PURPOSES.

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GOLF PRIVILEGES.

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OPEN ALL THE YEAR.

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J., August 12th, 1916

Hon. Woodrow Wilson,
President of the United States,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

Presidents come and go, and it all seems like a row of electric arc lights overhead, the ones directly overhead look quite prominent, but those a distance off all seem to merge into a slender string of inane objectivity.

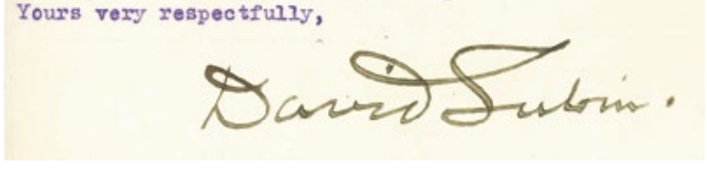
Letter to Woodrow Wilson, President of the United States, on 12 August, 1916.

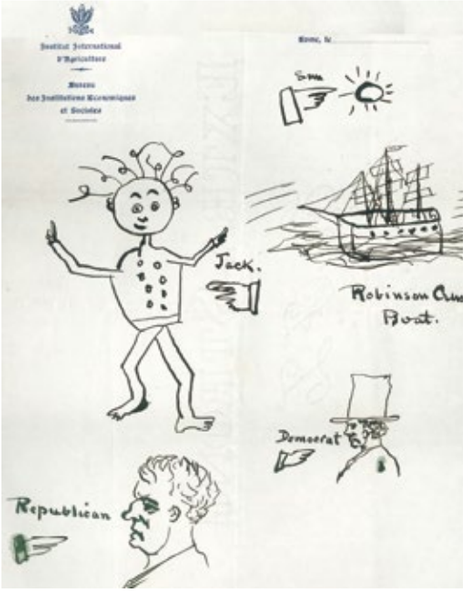
Dear Mr. President:
Presidents come and go, and it all seems like a row of electric lights overhead, the ones directly overhead look quite prominent, but those a distance off all seem to merge into a slender string of inane objectivity.

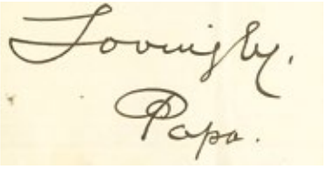
I told Lengerky V. Meyer, when Ambassador at Rome, that not the peace between Russia and Japan would make Roosevelt great, but that his then power towards the realization of a sound rural credit system [...] would give him a place under the sun of American history, a place alongside the ones that stay. [...] What applied to Roosevelt applies to you. [...][15]

[14] FAO Archives. [Donation of the David Lubin Archives to the David Lubin Memorial Library on 2 April 1974.]

[15] David Lubin Archives. Miscellanea I. 1, Letters to the president of U.S. Woodrow Wilson.







David Lubin's last letter to his son, wife and grandchildren on 24 December 1918 included some drawings for his grandchildren.

❧ A letter dated 14 June 1918 was addressed to the British writer H.G. Wells, who wrote the first science fiction novels at the end of the nineteenth century, but whose works became increasingly political and didactic. He too became a supporter of Lubin's mission to create an international organization on agriculture.

Dear Mr. Wells,
[...] Why not throw down your pen for a breathing spell and run out here, and take a hand in the practical work of chasing out the autocratic dollar and replacing it by the democratic dollar? This, you will no doubt agree, is one of the ways of "making the world safer for democracy".

Yours very respectfully,
David Lubin

P.S. If you come out, run down to Sorrento where I shall be spending my vacation, and we will be inspired by the view of Vesuvius and the Bay of Naples.[16]

Lubin addressed his family members with the same energy, passion and conviction, always ready to provide them with advice, instructions and more.

❧ Letter dated 31 October 1910, to his son Jesse upon receiving the news that he was planning to get married.

My dear Jesse:
[...] I would suggest that your intended ask you to make a promise not to use cigarettes, and I would be pleased to have you promise the Minister at the time you get married that you will love and honour and respect your dictionary as well as your wife. You should have a dictionary on your table, another one on your shelf, another one in your hind pants pocket, and if possible one in your vest pocket, and use it on the slightest provocation, whether you think you need it or don't. The almost constant use of a dictionary is an avenue for the increase of one's vocabulary. [...][17]

Lovingly,
Papa

[16] David Lubin Archives. Miscel. V. 8. Correspondence with Englishmen. Wells, June 14th, 1918.

[17] Loose archival folder "David Lubin family mementos".

All of Lubin's correspondence is preserved in twelve red folders, imprinted with golden letters in an ingeniously handcrafted wooden cabinet. The drawers contain framed black and white photographs of statesmen, some with a name though most are unidentified, but all were certainly on Lubin's mailing list.

The David Lubin Archives containing all of Lubin's correspondence from well before the foundation of the IIA until his death in 1919 are kept in the FAO Library.

As a tribute to David Lubin, his bureau and armchair were kept inside the FAO Library together with a bust portraying Lubin. The bust was created in 1921 by the sculptor Mario Rutelli.

Building a collection of one million volumes

ON THE DAY the David Lubin Memorial Library opened its doors it was already packed with more than 400 000 volumes from the collection of the International Institute of Agriculture (IIA), as well as from the temporary libraries in Washington DC and the FAO Regional Office for Europe. On top of this legacy, the new Library began accumulating its own collection, growing to more than 100 000 volumes within ten years, bringing the total number of the collection to half a million. During the following decades the collection grew exponentially, reaching an impressive one million volumes by the beginning of the twenty-first century.

(From left to right)
From the CIS collection:
- Illustration from *Die Eichen Europas und des Orients* (1862) by T. Kotschy.
- Illustration from *Die Riesen der Pflanzenwelt* (1863) by E. Mielck.
- Illustration from *Die Pilze* (1820) by G. Pabst.

Centre International de Sylviculture

Not only did the FAO Library inherit the books of the International Institute of Agriculture, but also the collection of the Centre International de Sylviculture (CIS) – the first international organization on forestry. The CIS was founded in 1939 in Berlin on the initiative of the IIA, and by the end of the Second World War its collection already contained 150 000 forestry-related books and journals, among which 4 200 old and rare books dating back to 1577 and the middle of the eighteenth century.[18]

When Berlin came under attack in December 1943, the Chief Librarian of the CIS, Dr. Von Frauendorfer, previously Chief Librarian of the IIA, decided to move the CIS collection to Salzburg, Austria. Von Frauendorfer personally drove the books from Berlin to Salzburg, but by April 1945 the war was closing in there too and the most important documents were transferred once again to other locations, including into a mine shaft near Salzburg.

After the war, Von Frauendorfer tracked down the missing documents and managed to recover 16 boxes of documents. These were moved first to the FAO office in Geneva, then to the IIA and finally in 1951 to the FAO headquarters in Rome.

Today the FAO library collection contains 11 000 books and journals on forestry that were saved from the original CIS collection, showing the beginnings of forestry as a science from the early eighteenth century to the start of the twentieth century. This collection covers a vast amount of traditional forestry knowledge – which remains just as relevant today – demonstrating, for example, that the topic of sustainable management of renewable resources dates back to at least the eighteenth century.[19]

Browsing the CIS shelves, the spines reveal many famous authors, such as silviculturist Johann Cotta, zoologist Alfred Brehm (who wrote the six volumes of *Thierleben*), foresters Gorg Hartig and Wilhelm Pfeil, and last but not least Alexander von Humboldt, an explorer and scientist who is considered to be the founding father of many natural science disciplines.

[18] Johan, E. [2007]. Internal report on CIS collection, p. 3.
[19] Idem, p. 5.

The FAO Library maintains a copy of all FAO publication from the foundation of the Organization in 1945 until present day.

Von Humboldt is especially well known for his multi-volume masterpiece *Cosmos*, a physical description of the universe in which he described for the first time the manifestation and cause of human-induced climate change.

Not only are the CIS shelves filled with major scientific names, but also with atlases, periodicals and yearbooks from forestry institutes, all of which collectively document the beginnings of forest science.

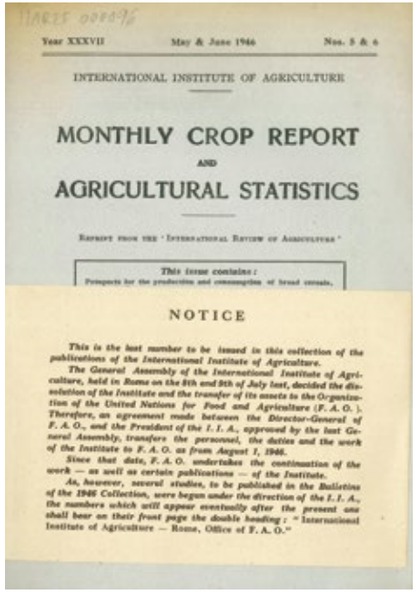
"NO OTHER COLLECTION EXISTS in any other library worldwide,"[20] concluded Elisabeth Johann, an expert in forestry history who assessed the collection in 2007.

The FAO collection

FAO started building its own collection from day one, beginning in Washington D.C., USA, and continuing in Rome, Italy.

The FAO collection was mainly developed by adding everything that the Organization itself published – every monograph, journal, project, pamphlet and report, from the first FAO Conference and Council to the last – creating a unique collection of FAO publications that guaranteed the preservation of the Organization's history.

[20] Winkler, J. [2007?]. Work proposal: Historical Eisenbach book collection, Unpublished.


Year XXXVII May & June 1946 Nos. 5 & 6

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE

MONTHLY CROP REPORT
AND
AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS

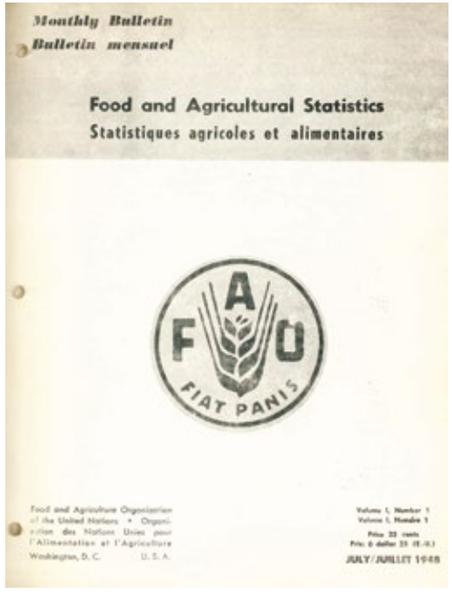
NOTICE

This is the last number to be issued in this collection of the publications of the International Institute of Agriculture.

The General Assembly of the International Institute of Agriculture, held in Rome on the 8th and 9th of July last, decided the dissolution of the Institute and the transfer of its assets to the Organization of the United Nations for Food and Agriculture (F. A. O.). Therefore, an agreement made between the Director-General of F. A. O., and the President of the I. I. A., approved by the last General Assembly, transfers the personnel, the duties and the work of the Institute to F. A. O. as from August 1, 1946.

Since that date, F. A. O. undertakes the continuation of the work — as well as certain publications — of the Institute.

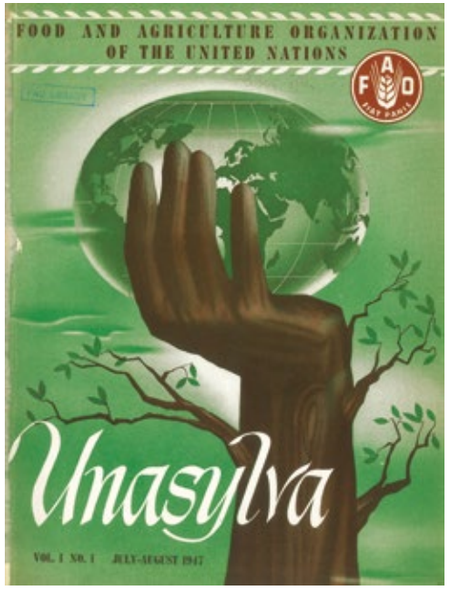
As, however, several studies, to be published in the Bulletins of the 1946 Collection, were begun under the direction of the I. I. A., the numbers which will appear eventually after the present one shall bear on their front page the double heading : " International Institute of Agriculture — Rome, Office of F. A. O."


Monthly Bulletin
Bulletin mensuel

Food and Agricultural Statistics
Statistiques agricoles et alimentaires

FIAT PANIS

JULY/JUILLET 1948


FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

FIAT PANIS

Unasylva

VOL. 1 NO. 1 JULY-AUGUST 1947

A large part of the collection of FAO publications consists of serials. In some cases, these serials even predate the foundation of the Organization, as they were continuations of IIA serials. For example the last IIA issue of the *Monthly Crop Report and Agricultural Statistics* contained a note wrapped around its cover, reading: "FAO undertakes the continuation of the work of the Institute".[21] Indeed in 1948, FAO published the first issue of *Food and Agricultural Statistics*, which changed its name in 1952 to the *Monthly Bulletin of Agricultural Economics and Statistics*, and once again in 1978 to the *FAO Monthly Bulletin of Statistics*. The publication eventually ceased to exist in 1987, but lasted 77 years in total, from the start of the IIA until well into FAO's lifetime.

The first brand new journal the Organization issued was called *Unasylva* – FAO's journal of forestry and forest industries. It was published for the first time in 1947 and is still published today, making it FAO's longest running periodical. An interesting fact about the first issue of *Unasylva* is that it was also the first FAO publication to display the FAO logo:

"The FAO seal is a circular design on a clear field, with lettering and a symbol signifying FAO's objective. The Letters "FAO" form a semi-circle in the upper portion of the design. The words "FIAT PANIS", in the lower portion, complete the circle. Through the center rises a stylized sketch of an ear of wheat, the world's greatest bread grain. This symbol suggests FAO's objective both in nutrition and agriculture."[22]

The FAO Library also collected books and serials that were published by non-FAO publishers on topics relevant to the work of FAO, from agriculture to food and nutrition, rural development, plant production and protection, animal production and health, forestry, fisheries and many other subjects. Subject areas were added depending on the priorities of the Organization.

THE ENTIRE COLLECTION – IIA, CIS, FAO, NON-FAO – was stored in the basement of the headquarters' Building A, where it is still kept today. Room after room is packed from floor to ceiling with bookcases containing hundreds of thousands of publications, a labyrinth in which one can easily get distracted by the wealth of publications.

Unasylva is FAO's longest running periodical. It was published for the first time in 1947 and is still published today. The first issue of *Unasylva* displayed the FAO logo for the first time. This logo was based on a design created by the Danish silversmith Harald Nielsen for the 2nd session of the FAO Conference, held in Copenhagen, Denmark in 1946. Director-General Sir John. Boyd Orr liked it so much that it became the official logo of the Organization

[21] IIA. *Monthly Crop Report and Agricultural Statistics*, Year XXXVII, May & June 1946, nos. 5&6, Rome IIA. Notice on cover.

[22] FAO Archives. Use of FAO emblem and flag (1946-1974). Vol I (LE21/4): Adm seal 3.1A5. A statement prepared by the Information Service for the first Director-General of FAO, Sir John Boyd Orr.

1950s–60s: Evaluating the purposes of the Library

In 1958 the Programme Committee asked Director-General B.R. Sen to initiate a study of the purposes and objectives of the Library. The Committee had a specific aim in mind: "An expansion of the Library's services in order that the latter might be available to Member Nations on an increasing scale".[23]

Director-General Sen contacted the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Dag Hammarskjöld, for advice. As a result, the Chief Librarian of the United Nations Library in Geneva, Dr. Breycha-Vauthier, was contacted to undertake an evaluation of the FAO Library. One year later Breycha-Vauthier submitted his report, formulating his mission as follows:

"The Consultant has constantly borne in mind that the FAO Library is the largest international library in the world devoted to food and agriculture or related fields; many of its collections are unique. He has taken his mandate to mean that his recommendations should aim at:

- making available the full facilities of this important library to all potential users,
- increasing the confidence of these users in their dealings with the library, and
- developing an ideal of service among the Library staff by showing them that they are engaged in a great undertaking which enjoys full recognition".[24]

Regarding the use of the Library within FAO, the consultant proposed three new activities:

- the publication of a periodical list of selected articles to keep FAO staff updated on the main articles issued in their field of work;
- an increased collaboration with the Regional Office Libraries;
- the promotion of the Library by appointing an advisor in each FAO division to serve as an intermediary between the Library and the various divisions.

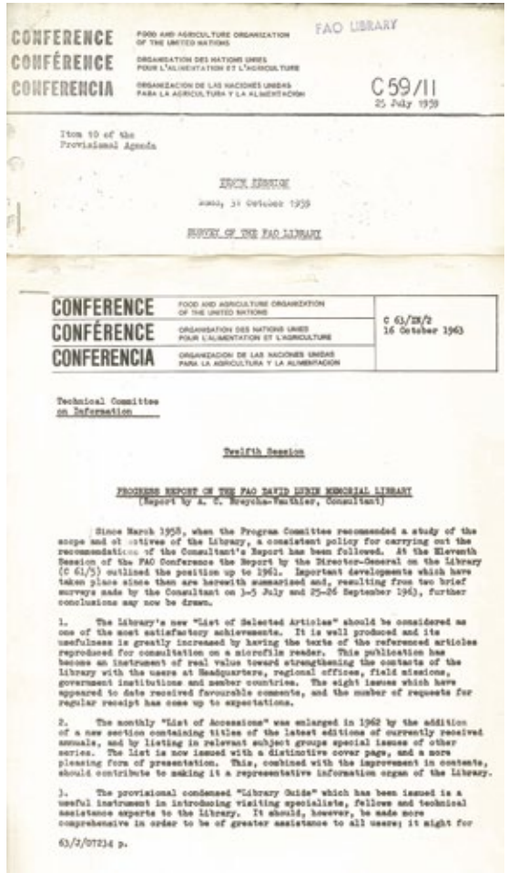
[23] FAO. 1959. *Report of the Conference of FAO, 10th session, Rome, 31 October 1959*, Rome, FAO. (C59/11) Survey of the FAO Library 25 July 1959, p 2.

[24] Idem, p.3.

BREYCHA-VAUTHIER CONCLUDED:
"FAO's range of activities is universal and it is clear that the Library serving such an institution possesses material making it a potential world centre of research. International libraries have an important role to fulfil at the present time and the FAO Library, in the interest of FAO itself, should be put in a position to play its part in the best possible manner. Indeed, since the Library is an essential part of the Organization and used by all its divisions, to strengthen the Library is to strengthen the Organization by increasing its usefulness and cohesion".[25]

BY THE END OF THE 1960S the David Lubin Memorial Library was fully operational: 33 professional and general service staff members served the Library and its public; author, subject and geographic card catalogues made the collection accessible; 10 000 reference books and 5 500 subscriptions to periodical titles supported the research work of FAO staff. The bibliography *List of Selected Articles* was circulated on a monthly basis, "to focus attention on current periodical articles and publications in series dealing with topical problems of world agriculture and food supply, especially in relation to developing nations"[26], and last but not least, the first library branch was opened in the Fisheries Department to better serve staff with highly specialized literature.

In 1959 and in 1963 the Director-General of FAO invited the Chief Librarian of the United Nations Library in Geneva, Dr. Breycha-Vauthier, to evaluate "the purposes and objectives of the FAO Library".



CONFERENCE / CONFÉRENCE / CONFERENCIA
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ALIMENTATION ET L'AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

FAO LIBRARY

C 59/11
25 July 1959

Item 10 of the Provisional Agenda

ELEVEN SESSION

Rome, 31 October 1959

SURVEY OF THE FAO LIBRARY

CONFERENCE / CONFÉRENCE / CONFERENCIA
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ALIMENTATION ET L'AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C 63/TC/2
16 October 1963

Technical Committee on Information

Twelfth Session

PROGRESS REPORT ON THE FAO DAVID LUBIN MEMORIAL LIBRARY
(Report by A. C. Breycha-Vauthier, Consultant)

Since March 1958, when the Programme Committee recommended a study of the scope and objectives of the Library, a consistent policy for carrying out the recommendations of the Consultant's Report has been followed. At the Eleventh Session of the FAO Conference the Report by the Director-General on the Library (C 61/5) outlined the position up to 1961. Important developments which have taken place since then are herewith summarized and, resulting from two brief surveys made by the Consultant on 3-5 July and 25-26 September 1963, further conclusions may now be drawn.

1. The Library's new "List of Selected Articles" should be considered as one of the most satisfactory achievements. It is well produced and its usefulness is greatly increased by having the texts of the referenced articles reproduced for consultation on a microfilm reader. This publication has become an instrument of real value toward strengthening the contacts of the library with the users at Headquarters, regional offices, field missions, government institutions and member countries. The eight issues which have appeared to date received favourable comments, and the number of requests for regular receipt has come up to expectations.

2. The monthly "List of Accessions" was enlarged in 1962 by the addition of a new section containing titles of the latest editions of currently received annuals, and by listing in relevant subject groups special issues of other series. The list is now issued with a distinctive cover page, and a more pleasing form of presentation. This, combined with the improvement in contents, should contribute to making it a representative information organ of the Library.

3. The provisional condensed "Library Guide" which has been issued is a useful instrument in introducing visiting specialists, fellows and technical assistance experts to the library. It should, however, be made more comprehensive in order to be of greater assistance to all users; it might for

63/2/0723.4 p.

[25] FAO. 1953. *Report of the Conference of FAO, seventh session, Rome, 23 November – 11 December 1953*, Rome, Italy. IV.G: Library services. p. 10.

[26] FAO Library. 1968. *Library collections and services*. FAO, Rome, Italy, p. 6.

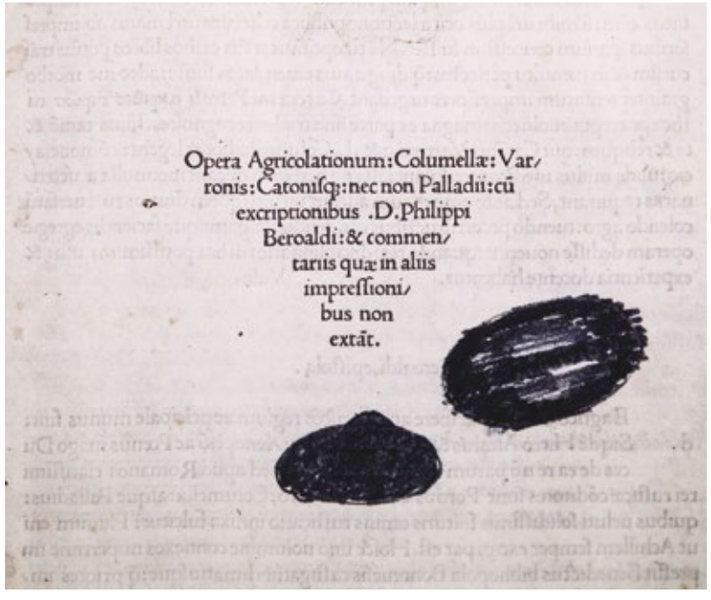
1970s–90s: Introducing computer technology

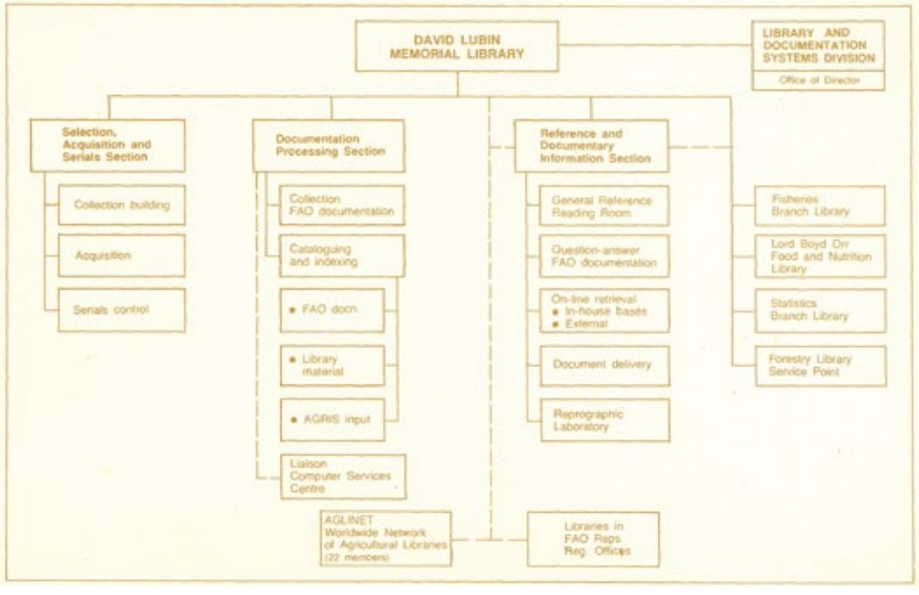
The 1970s was on the verge of the new digital epoch: enthusiasm for automation projects was huge and the possibilities seemed infinite. The concept of *automation* appeared for the first time in Library evaluation reports and would stay for good, taking many different names but always referring in one way or another to a *take-over* by computer technology.

At its sixteenth session in 1971 the Conference noted: "the recent developments in information transfer techniques, and the role they can play in all sectors of social and economic development and particularly in agriculture, nutrition and allied fields".[27] The groundwork was also laid for the establishment of international information networks and systems such as AGLINET – the Worldwide Network of Agricultural Libraries – and AGRIS – an international system for economic, scientific and technological information in agriculture. Both were pioneers in forging (digital) relationships between agricultural institutions, with the aim of improving access to agricultural information on a global scale, especially AGLINET which was and continues to be administered by the FAO Library.

By the mid-1970s the Library had begun creating an online catalogue and both FAO publications and non-FAO monographs could be searched through this new system. This signalled the start of an online FAO Library catalogue which remained in use until the beginning of the twenty-first century, gathering together hundreds of thousands of electronic bibliographic records, speeding up the search and retrieval process and slowly but steadily replacing card catalogues. Indeed, most card catalogues were moved to the stacks, where they serve as a non-digital back-up for the FAO library collection.

[27] FAO. 1971. *Report of the FAO Conference, 16th session, Rome, 6-25 November 1971*. Rome, Italy, FAO. B. Programme of work and budget, 1972-73. Chapter 5c - General Programme services. Documentation and Library.

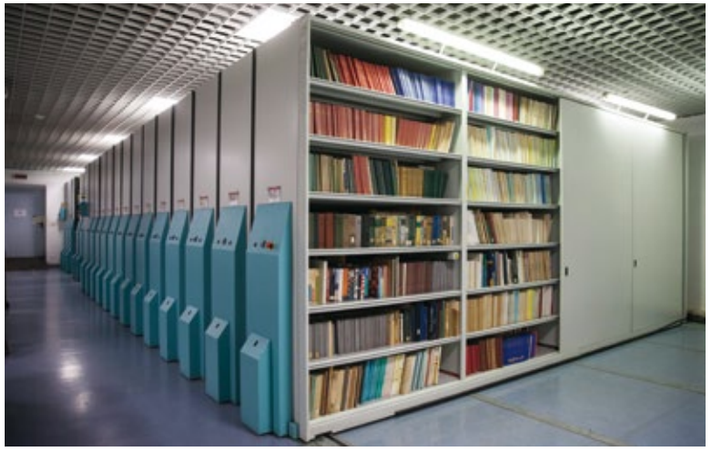

Opera Agricolationum: Columellæ: Varronis: Catonisq; nec non Palladii: cũ excriptionibus .D. Philippi Beroaldi: & commentariis quæ in aliis impressionibus non extãt.



AN IMPORTANT COLLECTION that was not accessible through the online or the card catalogue was the incunabula. In fact, this highly valuable collection had not been properly inventoried by FAO until the mid-1980s. All that changed when the Library received a call in 1985 from the police headquarters of Viterbo, regarding three rare books that had been found in a car during a routine check. Upon identification through infrared photographing of the logos on the title pages (which had been scored out with black ink), it was established that two of the three books were FAO property and came from the IIA collection. These were two of the rare books from 1800 that the Library had sent that same year to a company for fumigation to protect them against mould growth. In the absence of a recent inventory, the theft had gone unnoticed. This incident led to a complete inventory of the valuable books collection, which was subsequently reported to Interpol for tracing purposes.

DURING THE 1970S AND 1980S the Library had grown rapidly. The overall collection had reached almost one million volumes, of which 70 000 were FAO publications. The collection was maintained and served by 54 staff members. In parallel to the card catalogue there were now two online catalogues available to search the collection. Meanwhile the number of subscriptions on periodical titles had increased to 7 000. Three more branch libraries had been founded: the Lord Boyd Orr Memorial Food and Nutrition Library (1973), the Statistics Branch Library (1975) and the Forestry Library service point (1980s). In addition, the Library had assumed the responsibility of supporting libraries in the offices of FAO representations, serving some 90 developing countries.

- In 1985 two rare books stolen from the IIA collection were found by the police of Viterbo. The IIA logo had been cancelled, but was made visible by photographing the logo with infrared light.
- In 1985 the FAO Library was a branch of the Library and Documentation Systems Division and was divided into three functional sections: Selection, acquisition and serials; Documentation Processing; and Reference and Documentary Information.



The shelves of the FAO Library contained one million volumes on agriculture and its related subjects at the beginning of the 21st century.

DURING THE 1990S the Library continued to grow, but at a slower pace. The total collection of books and periodicals now consisted of effectively one million volumes, with 8 000 subscriptions to periodicals. Technology had advanced rapidly during this decade; in the world of library science, the newest innovation was the Integrated Library System (ILS), which integrated all library functions into one platform, from searching, cataloging, borrowing and acquiring books to managing journal subscriptions. The FAO Library was in favor of implementing an ILS, but it would take more than another decade before such a system was effectively acquired and implemented. In the meantime, the Library invested as much as possible in electronic digitizing and access technologies in order to provide more modern library services, but always bearing in mind the limitations of the new technology:

"Information has never been so apparently easy to access, and yet there has never been so much of it, and in such a rapidly changing scenario. It is the task of GIL [the Library division] to assist the organization to access quality information".[28]

[28] From the conclusion of an internal Library report from 1998.

Treasuring

WITH THE INVENTION OF THE WRITTEN WORD, libraries came to life – first as collections of clay tablets accompanied by inventories, and later as almost sacred places in monasteries where handwritten and illustrated manuscripts were chained to the shelves. Books were considered treasures and libraries treasure troves. This is because books were rare and precious and represented a close "*connection between material wealth and intellectual activity*".[1] In fact, the terms *treasure* and *thesaurus* have the same etymological roots and come from the Greek *thēsauros*, which has a double meaning as both storehouse and treasure.

With the arrival of printed publications in the fifteenth century, the book started to lose its status as an object of extreme high value, albeit not immediately: the incunabula, the first printed books before 1500, were as rare and valuable as manuscripts. Today 32 incunabula are kept in the FAO Library collection. They were donated in 1915 by Marquise Raffaele Cappelli, together with another 185 rare books. This was the first of a series of precious book donations which are still treasured by the FAO Library.

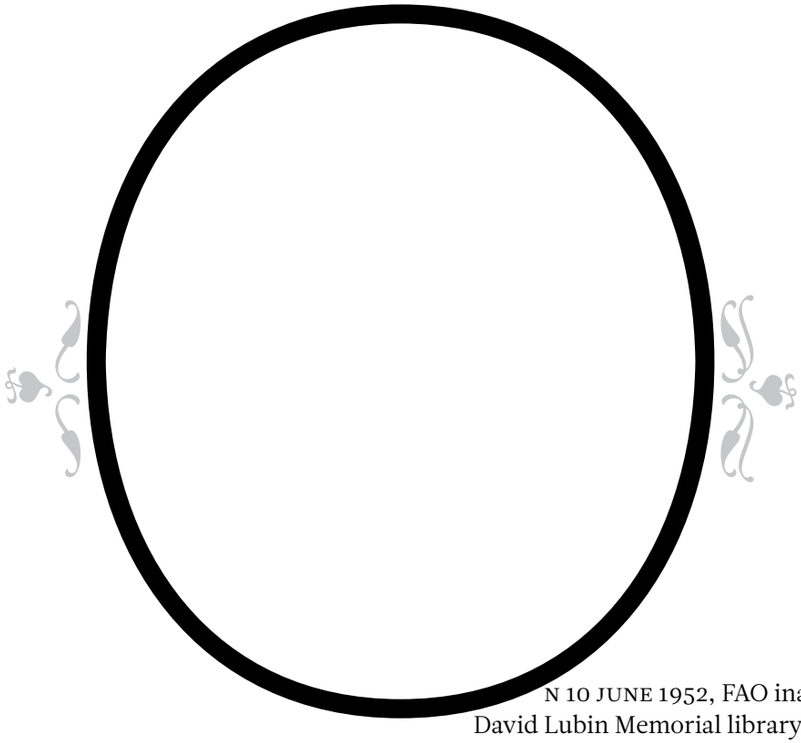
[1] Winter, M. F. Umberto Eco on libraries: A discussion of "De bibliotheca". *The library quarterly*, Vol. 64, no. 2, p. 122

CHAPTER 4

The Treasures of the FAO Library

Incunabula and rare books

Véronique Montes Baffier



On 10 June 1952, FAO inaugurated the David Lubin Memorial library at its headquarters in Rome, inheriting the collections of the IIA library[1], the second largest agricultural collection in the world[2]. From the outset, FAO was able to offer the research community and its staff an already well-catalogued, valuable and unique collection.

Over the years, the IIA library had received a number of important book donations enhancing its standing as a unique, global and specialized agricultural library. From 1915 to 1942, donations from scholars, heads of state and international organizations were annotated in the Institute's official records, leaving a lasting testimony of the donors and their relationship with the IIA.

One of the most remarkable donations was 400 volumes of rare books and incunabula (books printed before 1501) from the Marquise Raffaele Cappelli, second President of the IIA. In 1915 Cappelli began transferring his collection[3] to the library, which included several editions by Virgil, Columella and Aristotle, editions published by the first Venetian editor, Manutius, and a beautiful edition of the *Hortus Romanus*, published in Rome from 1772 to 1793.The Library also received up to 407 volumes of esteemed Chinese books on agriculture. Particularly noteworthy among these were a rare work on agriculture and silk-culture, published during the reign of the Emperor Kangxi in the eighteenth century, donated by Xu Shichang, President of China, and several classics works donated by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Lou Tseng-Tsiang, after his visit to the IIA in 1919.[4]

A number of renowned scholars also donated their collections: in 1925 for example,[5] the library received over 10 000 brochures on chemistry and agriculture from the collection of Italo Giglioli, professor of agricultural chemistry at the University of Pisa.

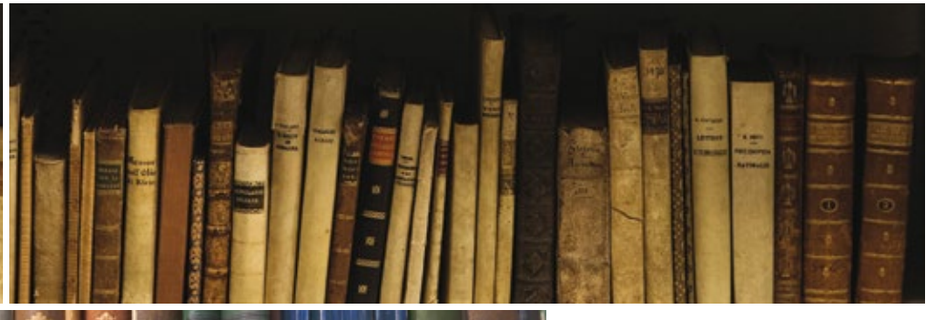
1. On 30 March 1946, the IIA Permanent Committee approved a protocol for the dissolution of the Institute and the transfer of all functions and assets to FAO on 1 August 1946, including its libraries, archives and equipment.

2. Phillips, R.W. 1981. FAO: its origins, formation and evolution 1945-1981. Rome.

3 IIA. *Comité permanent. Procès-verbaux 1915*. Rome, IIA, p. 185.

4 Perris, G. 1921. *Description of valuable Chinese books presented to the Library of the International Institute of Agriculture*. International Review of the Science and Practice of Agriculture, XII, no. 9. Rome, IIA.

5 IIA. *Comité permanent. Procès-verbaux 1925*. Rome, IIA, p. 864.



- Rare book collection donated to the library by Marquise Raffaele Cappelli, second President of the IIA. His interest in the library led him to build a bibliographical patrimony with early works on agriculture and related sciences.
- View of the historic collections of the IIA library inherited by FAO.

della nobile arte della Seta approvati da Benedetto XIV
CAMPINI
—
SAGGI
D'AGRICOLTU

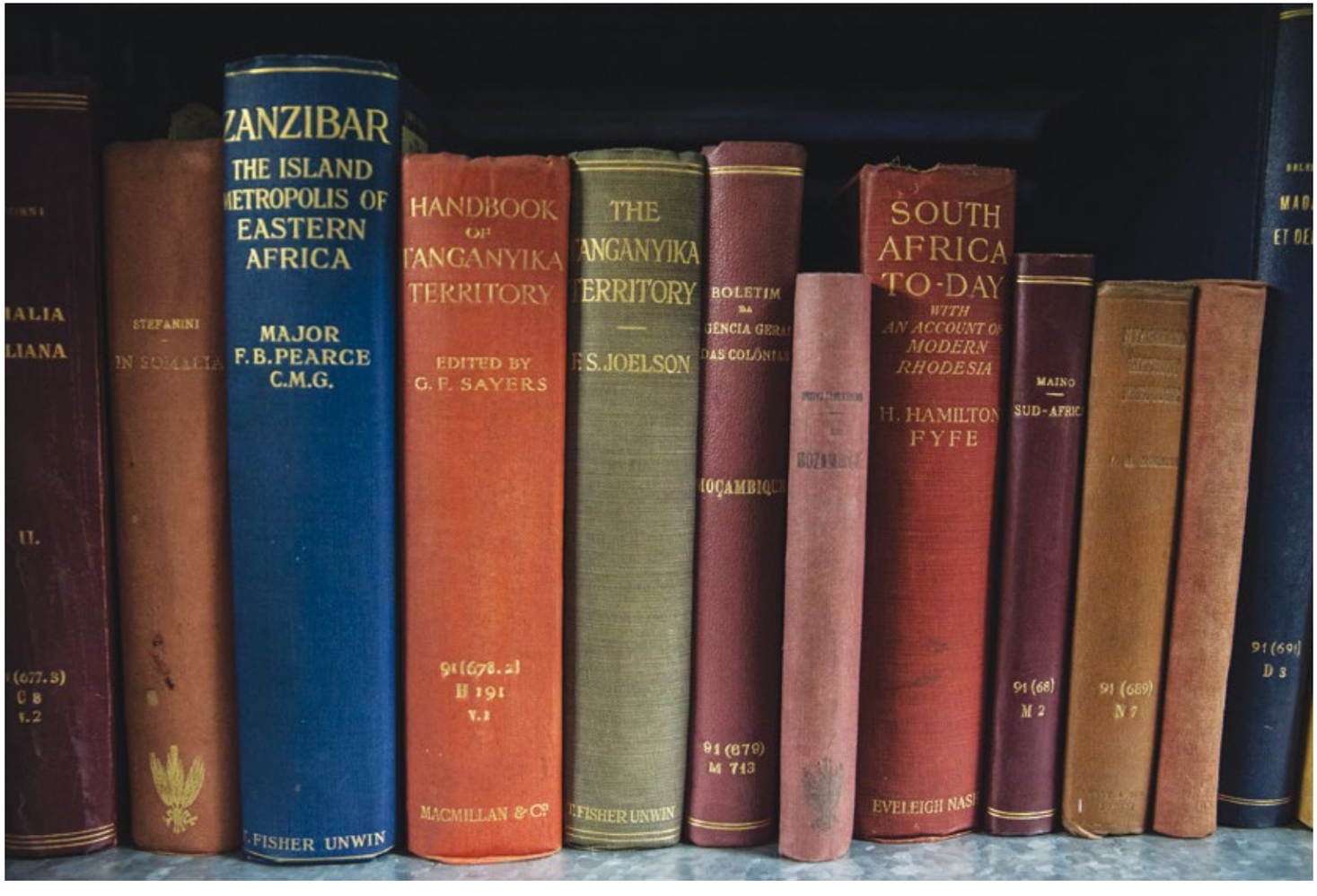
Rare Book Room at a controlled temperature of 21˚C, relative humidity of 50 percent and adequately ventilated.

Historic collections of monographs, series and journals from the IIA and the CIS collections in the FAO Library.

Politician and prolific author Arturo Marescalchi donated a complete and unique compendium of work on viniculture and viticulture in 1941,[6] and in 1942, Dr. Giorgio Carrega donated a small collection of rare books on agriculture and related topics.[7]

The Library also received donations from institutions worldwide. In 1926,[8] the United States Library of Congress donated a set of publications from the Department of Agriculture, as well as a card catalogue of 190 000 entries. In 1930,[9] the Società Agraria della Provincia di Bologna donated its entire collection to the IIA library.

[6] IIA. *Comité permanent. Procès-verbaux 1941*. Rome, IIA, p. 40.
[7] IIA. *Comité permanent. Procès-verbaux 1942*. Rome, IIA, p. 246.
[8] IIA. *Comité permanent. Procès-verbaux 1926*. Rome, IIA, p. 238.
[9] IIA. *Comité permanent. Procès-verbaux 1930*. Rome, IIA, p. 203.



Close-up of the IIA collections, FAO Library.

Marquise Raffaele Cappelli

MARQUISE RAFFAELE CAPPELLI (1848–1921) was an Italian politician and diplomat who played a key role in the agrarian reform of the early twentieth century. He became acquainted with David Lubin while serving as President of the Italian Agriculturalists Society from 1896 to 1911. Marquise Cappelli was appointed as the second President of the IIA from 1910 to 1920.

In 1915 he donated 185 rare books and 20 incunabula to the library, comprising around 400 volumes. These included dictionaries, literary studies, and works on botany, zoology and agriculture. Among these were rare editions from publishers Aldus Manutius (1452–1515) and Giambattista Bodoni (1740–1813), along with the six volumes in folio of the *Hortus Romanus* published in Rome from 1772 to 1793, complete with hand-painted illustrations.

- Marquise Raffaele Cappelli (1848–1921), second President of the IIA and donor of the incunabula and rare book collection to the IIA library.
- Ex-libris of Marquise Cappelli.

Incunabula – Latin for "cradles" and which can refer as "the earliest stages of first traces of anything"[10] – are books that were printed in Europe during the earliest period of typography. The term is applied most commonly to books printed from Gutenberg's Bible in 1454 to 1501.[11]

The significance of the Library collection lies in the number of editions – five by Virgil, three by Columella, three by Aristotle – and of rare editions of books published by Manutius, as well as the exceptional botanical work *Hortus Romanus*, among others.

An inventory of the collection (which had not been catalogued) was carried out in 1985 and helped to identify two incunabula that were stolen and recovered the following year.

The two recovered books were a manuscript with miniatures from the fifteenth century, including works by Vergilius, Calphurnius, Columella and Hesiodus and the edition of 1494 of the *Operae agricolatiorum columellae*.

In 1990 another inventory took place, which revealed that at least 49 books were still missing. From that date on the collection was moved to different secure locations within the library premises, until 2010 when a room was specially

[10] Oxford English Dictionary. 1933. *Incunabula*, p. 188.

[11] Johann Saubert. 1643. *Historia Bibliothecae Noribergensis*, Ender, Nuremberg.

(Clockwise from top left)

- C. Calphurnii Carmen Bucolicum, Lucil Iunil Moderati Columellae De cultu hortorum, Liber XI and Hesiodi poetae Εργα καὶ Ἡμέραι. I. Opera et dies Georgicon liber primus.
- Opera Agricolationum: Columella: Varronis: Catonisque: necnon Palladii: cum exscriptionibus . D. Philippi Beroaldi: & commentariis quae in aliis impressionibus non extant. – Impressa Bonon: Impensis Benedicti hectoris bononoensis, 1494.

Close-up of the rare book collection, FAO Library.

built for incunabula and rare books and where all publications were moved to permanently. The room contains this priceless collection at a controlled temperature of 21˚C, relative humidity of 50 percent and adequately ventilated with fresh clean air. Access is restricted and granted upon special request.

The following small selection of incunabula and rare books offers a glimpse into the beauty and importance of this collection, one of the most valuable assets of the FAO Library.

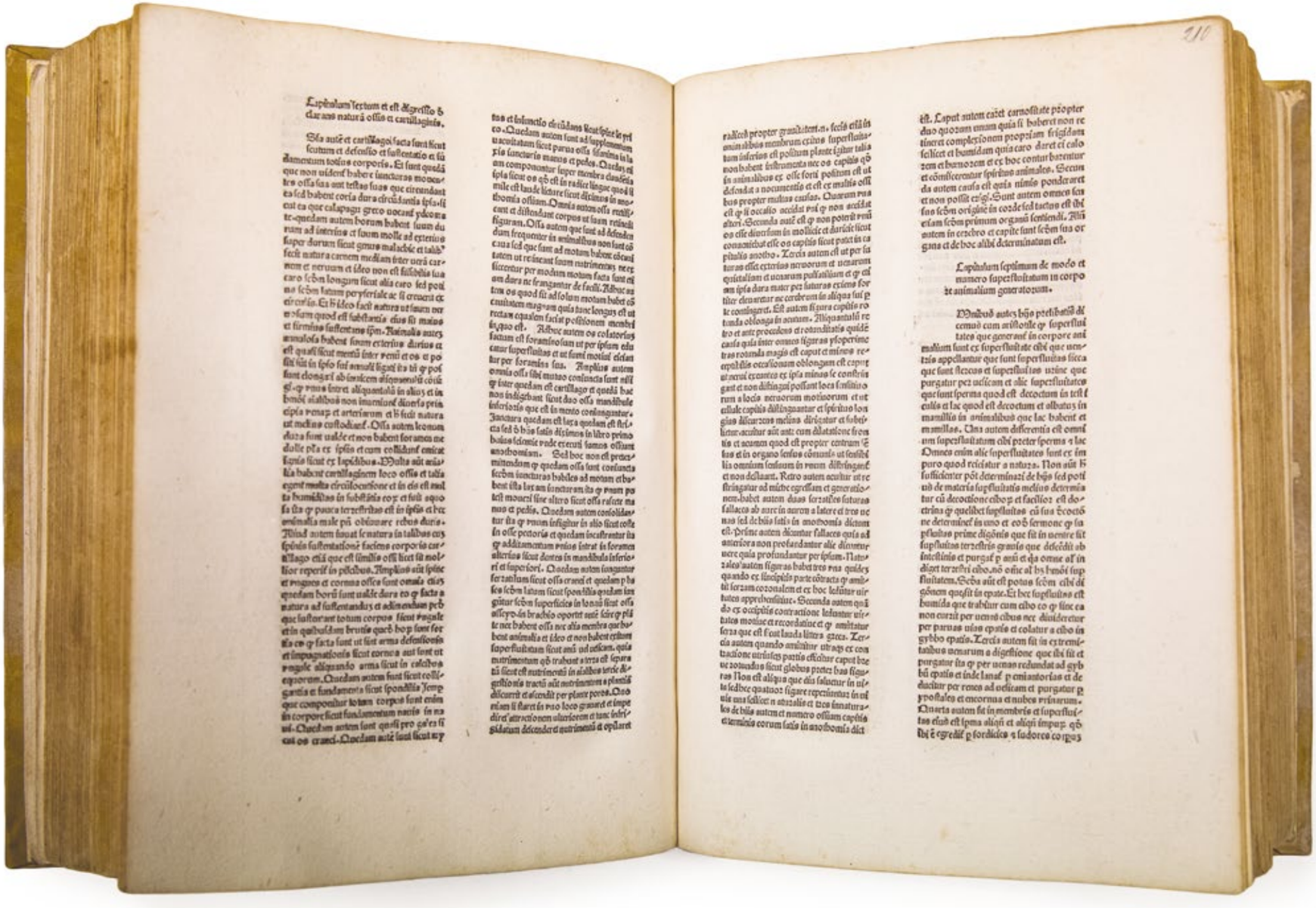
One of the outstanding works of scientific interest written between the time of Pliny and the sixteenth century and based largely on Aristotle, Albertus' *De animalibus* was edited by Fernando de Córdoba for the first printing. It is the second zoological work in the history of book printing after Theodor Gaza's translation of Aristotle's *De animalibus* in 1476.

Widely used in the age of Humanism and until the sixteenth century, *De animalibus* represents one of the most extensive records of empirical observation published before modern times.[12]

This is the oldest incunabulum held in the Library.

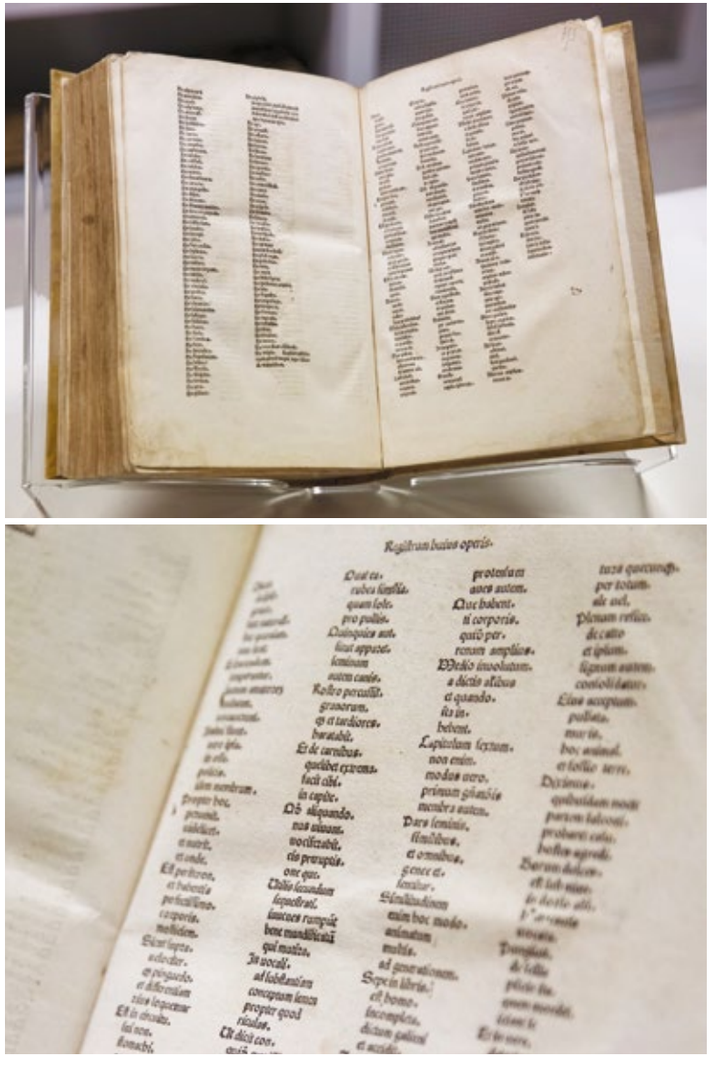
[12] K. F. Kitchell Jr., I. M. Resnick. 2001. *On Animals: A Medieval Summa Zoologica by Albertus Magnus, The Review of Metaphysics,* Vol. 55, No. 2, p. 371.

[13] The ISBD(A) (International Standard Bibliographic Description for Older Monographic Publications) standard was followed for bibliographic description of books whereas for main entries (Personal name or Corporate names) we adhered to the Library of Congress Catalogue standard. Furthermore, where possible, we added dates of birth and death of the authors in order to better define the historical period during which they lived and worked.



De animalibus, text printed in gothic font in two columns.

Albertus, Magnus, Saint, 1193?-1280[13]
Ernandi Cordubensis ... in de animalibus alberti libro prefacio incipit foeliciter. – Impressum Rome : [per Simonem Nicolai de Luca], 1478. – [392] c. ; 2°



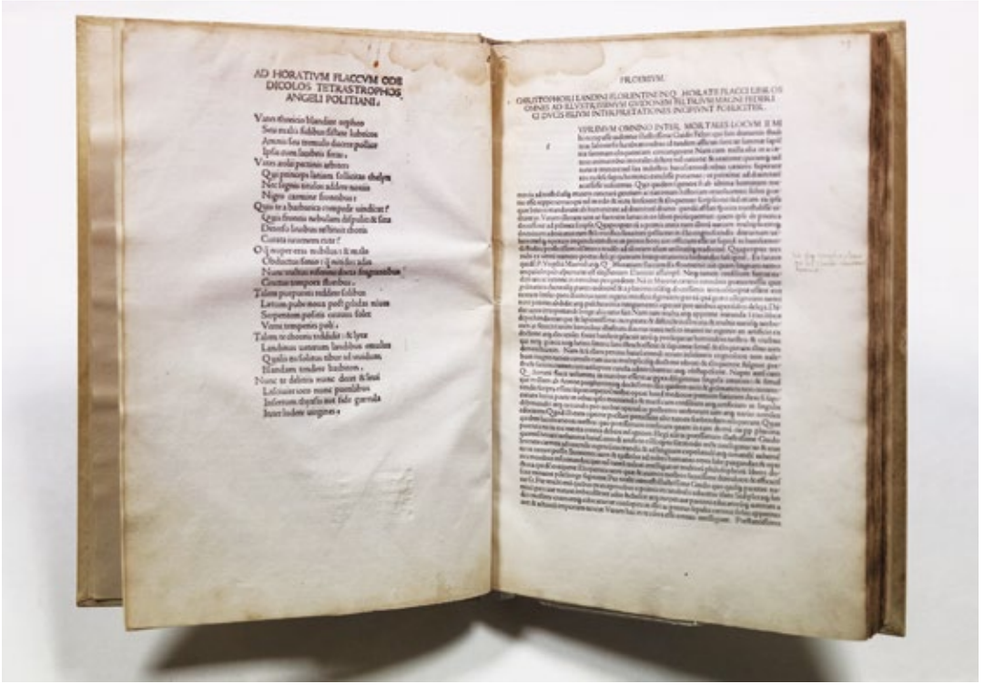
De animalibus, tables of contents printed in gothic font and three columns, and printer's register in four columns.

Andreae, Antonius, -approximately 1320
Altissimi doctoris Antonij Andree ... Questiones subtilissime super duodecim libros methaphisice Aristotelis. feliciter incipiunt. - Editio ab altissimo doctore Antonio Andrea ordinis minorum. - [Impressum Venetiis : opera et arte providi viri Antonii Destrata de Cremona, 1481]. - [76] c. ; fol

Page from the fourth book *Questiones subtilissime super duodecim libros methaphisice Aristotelis* in Gothic font with coloured initials, text printed in double columns.

(Right) Page from the first book *Questiones subtilissime super duodecim libros methaphisice Aristotelis* in Gothic font with historiated and coloured initials, text printed in double columns. (Previous page) Close-up on miniated initials.

Wooden cover of Latin commentary on the metaphysics of Aristotle by Spanish theologian Antonius Andreas.



There are 46 lines of commentary by Landino surrounding various lines of text of Horace. On the first page, blank space was left for a nine-line initial to be filled in by the illuminator.

Horace, 65–8 BC

Vita poetae Christophori Landini florentini in Q. Oratii Flacci Carmina interpretationes incipiunt foeliciter. – Impressum Venetiis : per Ioannem de forliuio & socios, 1483. – 228 c. ; fol

This is the complete works of Horace, edited by and with commentary by the scholar Christoforo Landino. Horace was the most noted Roman poet, whose works include *the Satire, the Odes, the Epistles and Ars Poetica.* Cristoforo Landino (1424–1498) was a poet as well as a classics scholar. He taught rhetoric and poetry in Florence and wrote commentary on the Aeneid and on the works of Horace.

Leopoldus, de Austria

Compilatio Leupoldi ducatus Austrie filij De astrorum Scientia: [decem continens tractatus]. – [Augsburg : Erhard Ratdolt], 1489. – [110] c. : ill. ; 4°

Leopoldus was an Austrian astronomer who lived in the middle or second half of the thirteenth century. The '*Compilatio*' was a collection of Latin translations from Arabic astronomical works and was divided into ten books. It is one of the earliest astronomical treatises in a common language and is embellished with numerous woodcuts of horoscopes, constellations and planets.

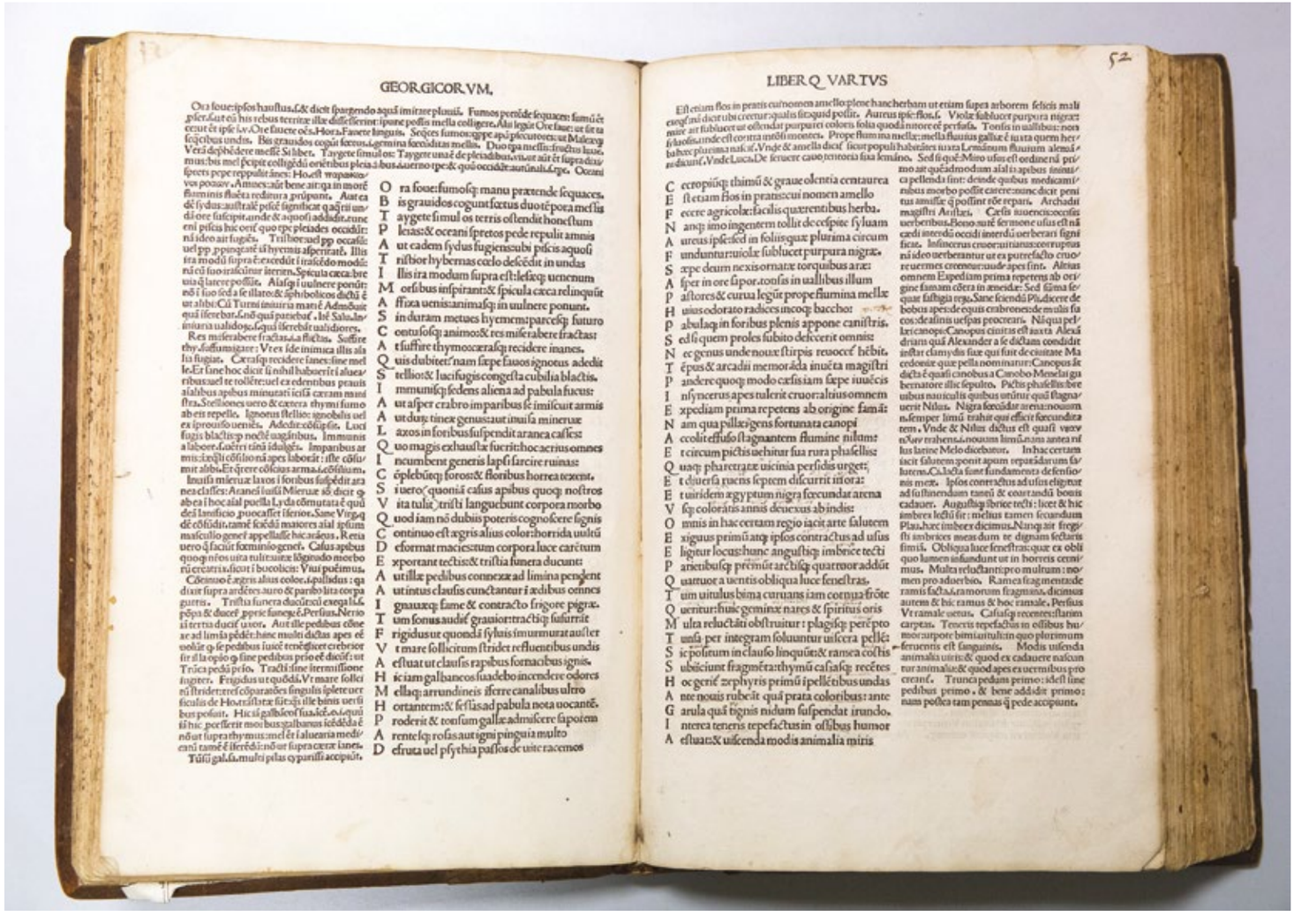
First edition of Leopold of Austria's astronomical treatise, written in the thirteenth century, and elegantly printed here by Ratdolt with numerous woodcut diagrams and illustrations.

(Previous page) Woodcut showing personifications of the planets and stars, together with symbols for their associated signs of the zodiac.

The first translation of the *Naturalis historia* was into Italian by the Florentine humanist Cristoforo Landino, published in Venice in 1476. This edition is a reprint dated 1489.

Pliny, the Elder, AD 23–79
Historia naturale di. C. Plinio secondo tradocta di lingua latina in fiorentina per Christophoro Landino fiorentino ... – [Impresso in Venesia : per Bartolamio de Zani de Portesio, 1489]. – [260] c. ; fol

The elder Pliniu's only surviving work is his thirty-seven volumes titled *Naturalis historia*. A comprehensive work on Roman and later Greek natural science, it was the authority on the subject until the sixteenth century.



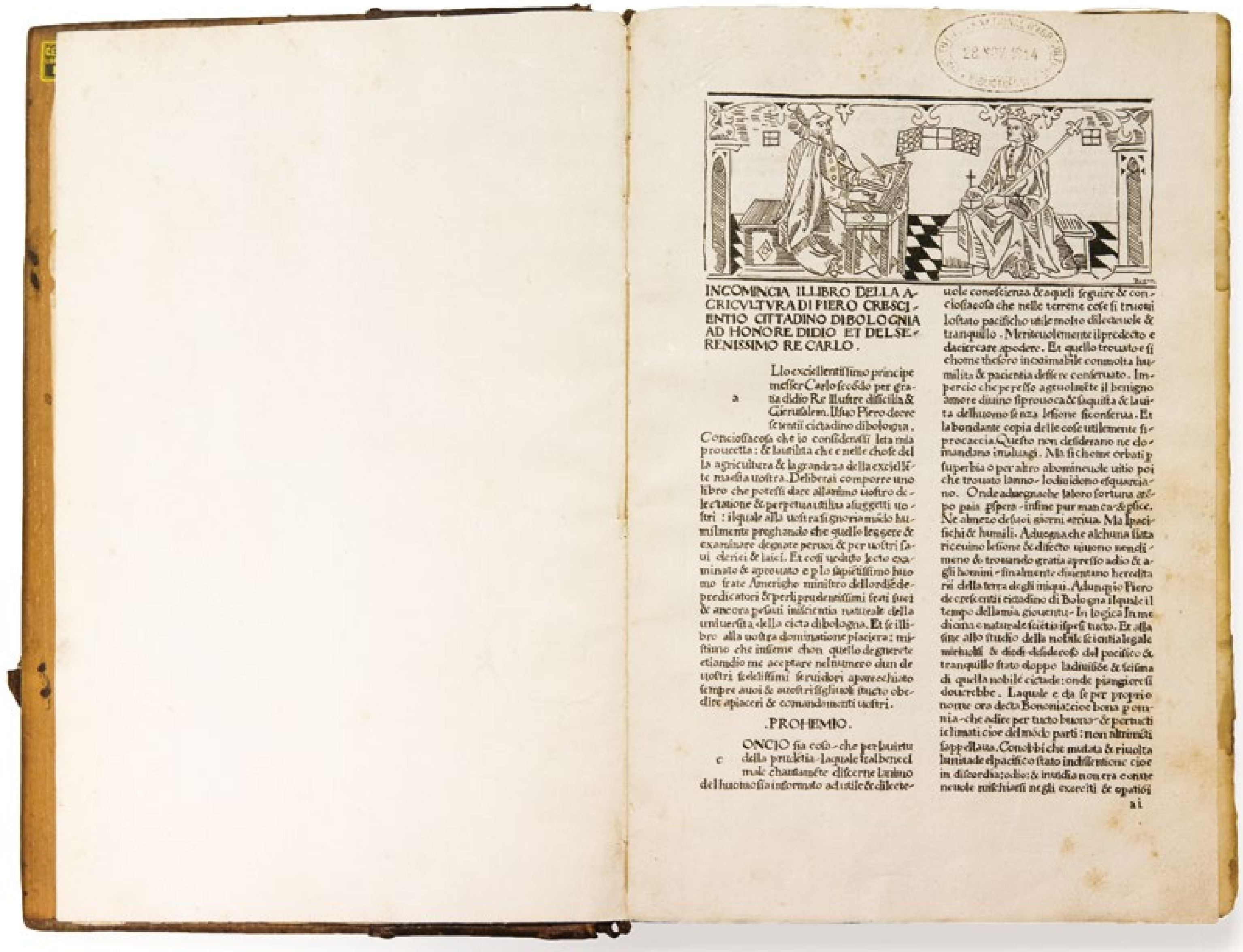
Virgil, 70–19 BC
[Opera cum commentariis servii]. – [Impressum Venetiis : per Bernardinum Benalium, 1487].
– [241] c. ; fol

Publius Vergilius Maro – commonly known as Virgil – (70 BC–19 BC) was a classical Roman poet best known for three major works: the *Eclogues or Bucolics, the Georgics and the Aeneid*. The FAO Library has three different editions of collective compilations of his works by two Italians printers and one German. Each contains parallel columns with text, surrounding text, decorative initials and use of colour.

Virgil, 70–19 BC
Christophori Landini florentini in P. Vergilii interpretationes proemium ad Petrum medicum magni Laurentii filium ... – [Nurnberge impressa : impensis Anthonii Koberger, 1492]. – [8], CCCXLV c. ; fol. – Coloph.: Publi Virgilii Maronis opera cum Servii Maurii

Virgil, 70–19 BC
Bucolica et Georgica... Pomponius Laetus lectori, Hieronymus Maserius foroliviensis, Andreas Flavius Curylianensis. – Impressum Romae : per Eucharius Silber, 1490. – [95] c. – Mancinelli Commentarius 9

Virgil, 70–19 BC Close up.



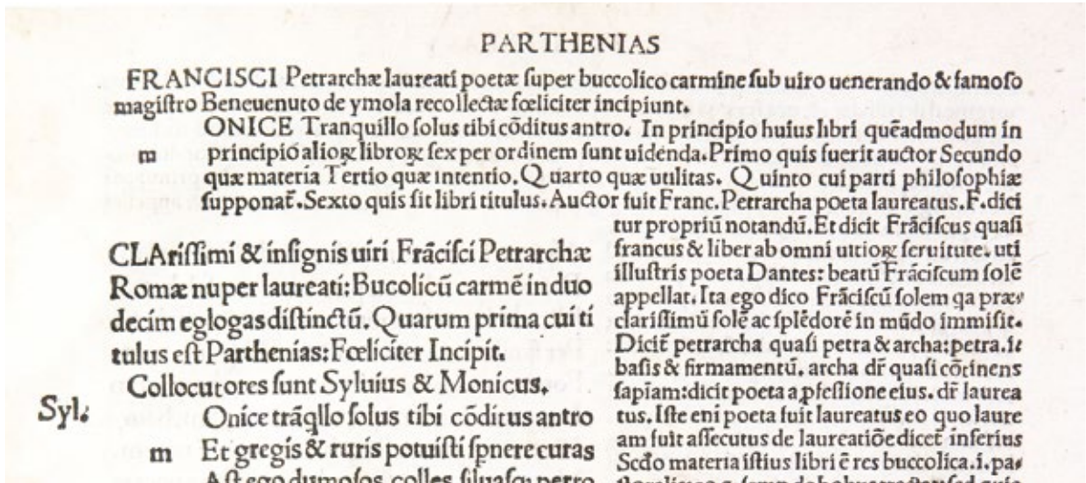
Opening text: woodcut of the author writing to the dedicatee, King Charles of Sicily. Space for the initials and letters as guide.

Crescenzi, Pietro de', 1230?–1320?
Ruralia commoda. – [Impressum Vicencie : per Leonardum de Basiliea, 1490]. – [146] c. : ill. ; 2°

Pietro de' Crescenzi is best known for his manual on agriculture, the *Ruralia Commoda*, first written c.1305. Translated into several languages, it was a standard work on agriculture and hunting.

This second edition in Italian of the first printed book on agriculture, covers all aspects of husbandry and estate management, including hunting, fishing, winemaking, cereal cultivation, trees and plants, the medicinal use of plants and how to treat animal illnesses.

Pages from *Bucolicum carmen*, a collection of twelve eclogues – poetry within a pastoral setting written in dialogue form between allegorical characters. Composed by Petrarch from c. 1346 and published in 1357.



PARTHENIAS

FRANCISCI Petrarchæ laureati poetæ ſuper buccolico carmine ſub uiro uenerando & famoſo magiſtro Beneuenuto de ymola recollectæ fœliciter incipiunt.

m ONICE Tranquillo ſolus tibi cõditus antro. In principio huius libri quẽadmodum in principio aliorꝝ librorꝝ ſex per ordinem ſunt uidenda. Primo quis fuerit auctor Secundo quæ materia Tertio quæ intentio. Quarto quæ utilitas. Quinto cui parti philoſophiæ ſupponaꝫ. Sexto quis ſit libri titulus. Auctor fuit Franc. Petrarcha poeta laureatus. F. dicitur propriũ notandũ. Et dicit Frãciſcus quaſi francus & liber ab omni uitiorꝝ ſeruitute. uti illuſtris poeta Dantes: beatũ Frãciſcum ſolẽ appellat. Ita ego dico Frãciſcũ ſolem qa præclariſſimũ ſolẽ ac ſplẽdorẽ in mũdo immiſit. Dicit petrarcha quaſi petra & archa: petra. ſi baſis & firmamentũ. archa dr quaſi cõtinens ſapiam: dicit poeta a pfeſſione eius. dr laureatus. Iſte eni poeta fuit laureatus eo quo laureatus fuit aſſecutus de laureatiõe dicet inferius Scdo materia iſtius libri ẽ res buccolica. i. pa

CLAriſſimi & inſignis uiri Frãciſci Petrarchæ Romæ nuper laureati: Bucolicũ carmẽ in duodecim eglogas diſtinctũ. Quarum prima cui titulus eſt Parthenias: Fœliciter Incipit.

Collocutores ſunt Syluius & Monicus.

Syl: Onice trãqllo ſolus tibi cõditus antro

m Et gregis & ruris potuiſti ſpnere curas

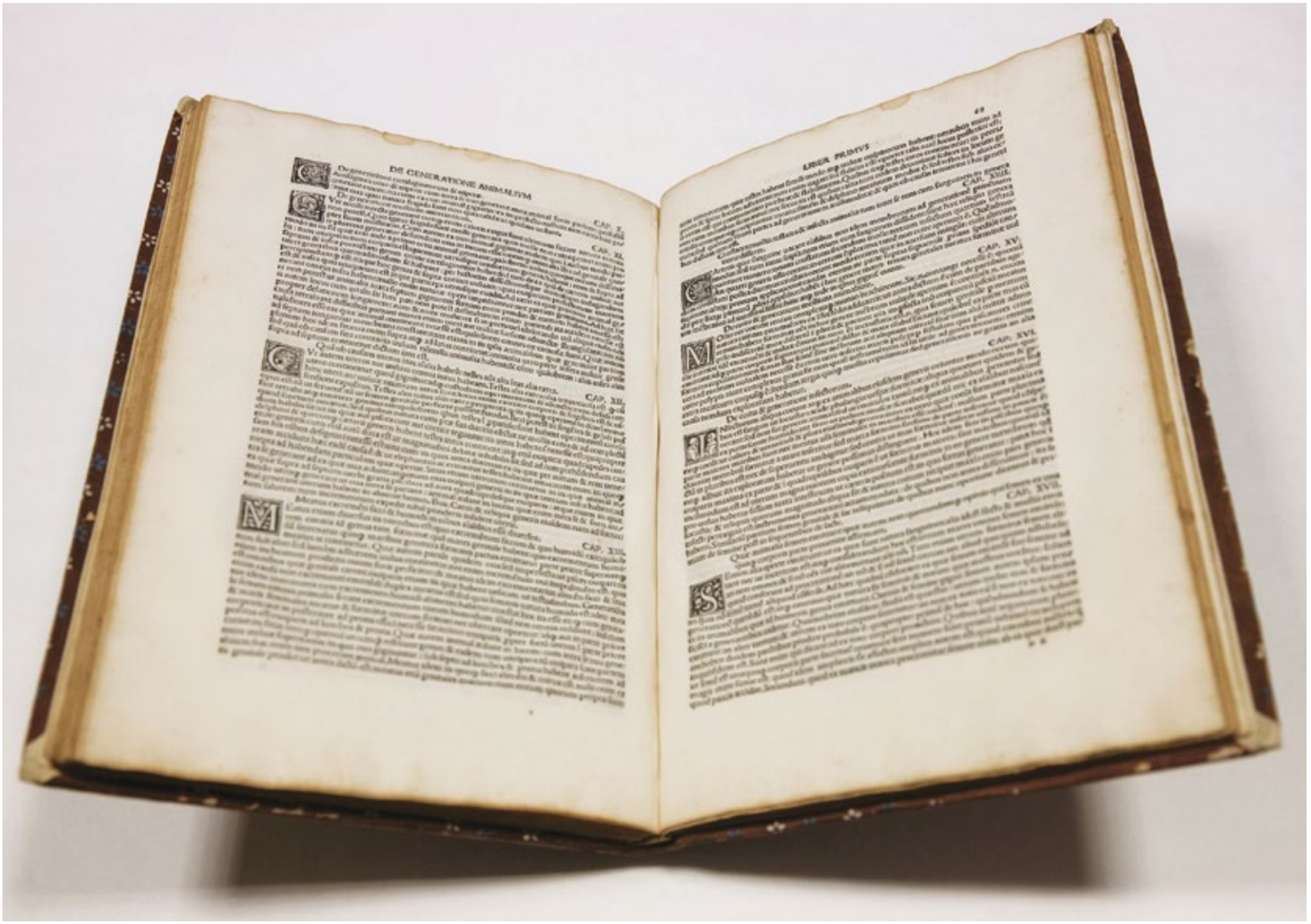
A ſt ego dumoſos colles ſiluaſq; petro

Petrarca, Francesco, 1304-1374
Bucolicum Carmen in duodecim eglogas distinctum cum comento Benvenuti Imolensis viri clarissimi. – Impressum Venetiis : Marcum Horigono, 1496. – [30] c. ; fol

Page of the fourth edition of Theodorus Gaza's translation of Aristotle's zoological works, with white-on-black historiated and decorative woodcut initial.

Aristotle, 384–322 BC
Aristotelis De natura animalium: libri novem. De partibus animalium: libri quattuor. De generatione animalium: libri quinque. Interprete Theodoro Gaza. – [Impressum Venetiis : mandato & expensis ... Octaviani Scoti Civis Modoetiensis : per Bartholameum de Zanis de Portesio, 1498]. – [6], 89, [1] c. ; fol

Aristotle's works on animals were the first collection of treatises on biology to be printed. They contain an immense collection of biological data – anatomical, physiological, behavioural – on over five hundred species of animals.



Woodcut printer's mark: a ring with a double cross on the top and the OSM initials inside.

(Above) Page of the fourth edition of Theodorus Gaza's translation of Aristotle's zoological works, with numerous white-on-black historiated and decorative woodcut initials.

Arnaldus, de Villanova, –1311
Inicipit [sic] tractatus de virtutibus herbarum. – [Impressum Venetiis : per Simonem Papiensem dictum Bivilaquam, 1499]. – [4], CL, [18] c. : ill. ; 4°

This edition erroneously attributes the work to Arnaldus de Villanova (physician and author of medical works) due to a printer's error in Simon Bevilacqua's Venice 1499 edition. The error was perpetuated in the 1509 and 1520 Latin editions. In spite of the long popularity of the *Herbarius Latinus* in Italy, most of the species depicted are native to Germany. The woodcuts of the Italian editions, originally cut for the 1491 Vicenza edition and transferred to Venice by Simon Bevilacqua for this 1499 edition, are generally considered superior to their German counterparts.

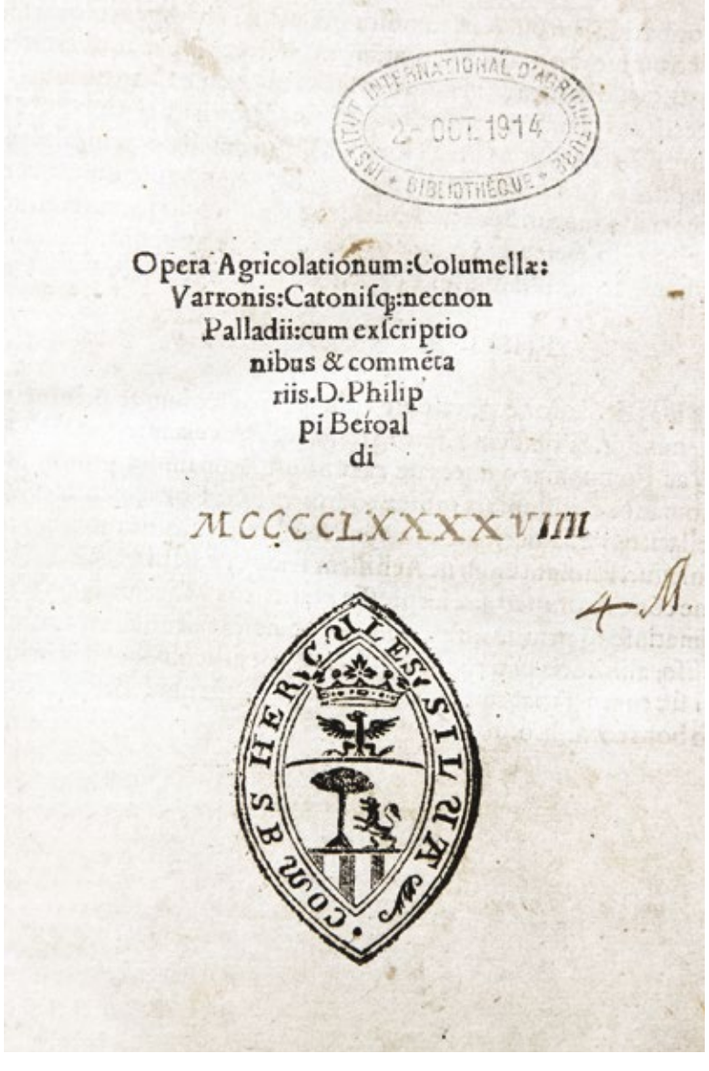
Plate no. 41 taken from the *Inicipit tractatus de virtutibus herbarum*, depicting an image of the plant Coriandrum (coriander).

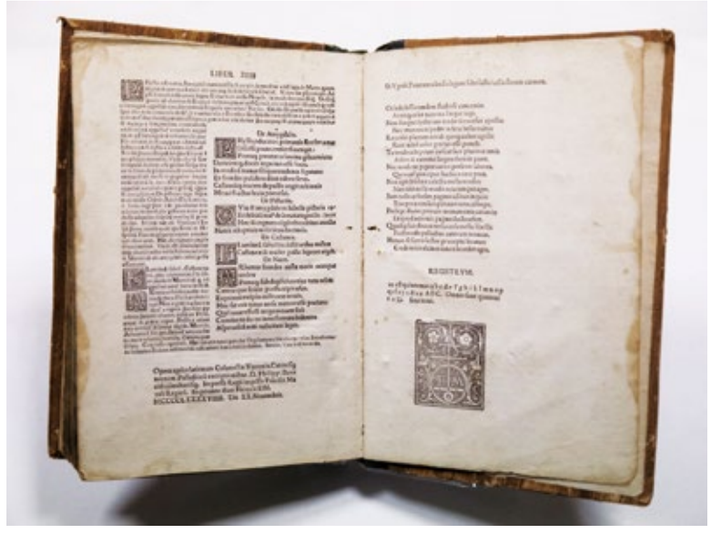

XLI

CORIANDRVM

℣ Coriādrū ē plāta cui⁹ ſemine cōmuniter utīur ī medicinis. & ē frigidū ī prīo & ſic. ī ſcdo. Auicen na. Sed Serapio dicit ipſū declinare ad caliditatē: ſimiliter Galienus. Sed dyaſcorides cōtra dicit & uult ꝙ ſit frigidū. Nota ſuccus ei⁹ ualet apoſtema tib⁹ calidis cū aceto & ſucco ſēperuiue miſcēdo. Itē ſuccus coriādri cū farina fabarū & furfure tritici cū roſ & aceto miſcēdo remouet īflationē teſticu

f





Opera Agricolationum: Columella: Varronis: Catonisque: necnon Palladii: cum exscriptionibus & commentariis D. Philippi Beroaldi. – [Impressa Regii impensis Francisci Mazali Regien, 1499]. – 144 c. ; fol

This collection of works from the sixteenth century was called *Liber de re rustica*. It is a combination of didactic prose on agriculture and rural life, written by the four great ancient agronomists, Cato the Elder, Varro, Columella and Palladius. It contains texts from Latin antiquity on agricultural matters and life in the countryside, such as farming and gardening, beekeeping, maintaining fisheries, rural economy, recipes and medicine.

These texts are traditionally printed in collective editions and adopt a scientific and didactic tone. They were therefore published periodically and collectively under the aegis of Europe's largest printers – first in Italy, then in France and Germany.

This edition is the result of comments and studies by Philippo Beroaldo, renowned scholar in the study of ancient texts.

(From left to right)
- Colophon: "Opera agricolationum Columellae: Varronis. Catonisque necnon Palladii: cum excriptionibus. D. Philippi Beroaldi: commentariisque. Imperante diuo Hercules Este. MCCCCLXXXXVIIII."
- Close-up of pages containing initials decorated with plant motifs or characters. Numerous handwritten notes and underlining of the time on the margins.
- Close-up of decorated initial.

GEORGIVS Alexandrinus Petro Priolo. M. filio Veneto: S.

BRiſcas dictiones de tribus rei ruſticæ ſcriptoribus annotatas: ut tibi latinæ elegantiæ ſtudioſo patricio morem gererem: pro tempore breuiſſime enarraui. Quãquã aut plura annotaſſe: aut enarratius ea interpretatus eſſem: ſi mihi uel plus otii a lectione publica relictũ: uel magis ab impreſſoribus ſpatium conceſſum fuiſſet. Nã tu optimus teſtis es: hos libros potius tranſcurſim & in tumultu perlectos: q̃ diligentius emendatos fuiſſe: adeo me morbo grauiter tentatum impreſſores urgebant. Cætera mi Petre ſi κατ' ἐξοχήν ruſtica præcepta euolueris: magna ex parte ſine tradente cognoſces. Illius tamen & te & reliquos: qui Catonis: Varronis: & L. Columellæ libros legent: commonefacio: ut de multis medicos conſulant: alia ab herbariis diſcãt: nonnulla a ueterinariis requirant. Sed ante omnes eũ adeãt uirum: quem diutius ruri uerſatum colendo agro: tuendo pecori: fructibus condendis. ſalgamiſq; faciendis egregie operam dediſſe nouerint: quando res: diſciplinaq; ruſtica potiſſimũ uſu: & experiẽtia docẽte habeat. Vale.

PHILIPPI Beroaldi epiſtola.

DE agricolatione præcipere apud priſcos regium ac principale munus fuit. Si quidem Hiero: Attalus: & Archelaus reges: Xenophon: ac Pœnus mago duces de ea re non parum multa prodiderũt. Sed apud Romanos clariſſimi rei ruſticæ cõditores ſunt Portius Cato. M. Varro: Columella: atq; Palladius: quibus ueluti ſoliſſimis ſulturis omnis ruſticatio innixa fulcitur. Plinium enim ut Achillem ſemper excipi par eſt. Hoſce uno uolumine cõnexos nupertime impreſſit Franciſcus Mazalus Regienſis caſtigatius limatiuſq; q̃ priores impreſſores factitauerint ut uolumine. iiii. cap. xxi nonnulliſq; aliis locis patet additis paucis appendiculis: quod ueluti illiciũ emptori ſit: eumq; factat emptutientem magis. Quicquid ideſt lector candide queſo boni conſulito.

MARCI CATONIS PRISCI DE RE RVSTICA LIBER PRIMVS.

EST INTERDVM PRAESTARE MERCATURIS tem quærere: ni tã periculoſum ſit: & itẽ fœnerari: ſi tam honeſtũ ſit. Maiores. n. noſtri hoc ſic habuere: & ita in legibus poſuere: futem dupli cõdemnari: fœneratoté q̃drupli. Quãto peioré ciué exiſtimarint fœnetatoré q̃ furẽ: hic licet exiſtimare. Et uirũ bonũ quom laudabãt: ita laudabãt. Bonũ agricolã bonũq; colonũ: ampliſſime laudari exiſtimabãt: qui ita laudabãt. Mercatoré aũt ſtrenuũ ſtudioſum que rei quærendæ exiſtimo: uerũ (ut ſupra dixi) periculoſum & calamitoſum. At exagricolis & uiri fortiſſimi & milites ſtrenuiſſimi gignuntur: maximeq; pius quæſtus ſtabiliſſimuſq; conſequitur: minimeq; inuidioſus. Minimeq; male cogitantes ſunt: qui in eo ſtudio occupati ſunt. Nunc ut ad rem reddeam: quod promiſi inſtitutum primum hoc erit.

Fœneratot quadrupli

Mercator. Strenuiſſimi.

Quæſtus ſtabiliſſim⁹

Quomõ agrũ emi parariq; oporteat. Caput Primũ.

PRædiũ cũ cõparare cogitabis: ſic in animo habeto: uti ne cupide emas neue opa tua parcas uitere: & ne ſatis habeas circũire. Quotiens ibis: totiens magis placebit: quod bonũ erit. Vicini quo pacto niteãt: id animaduertito. In bona regione bene nitere oportebit: & uti cũ introeas & circũſpicias uti inde exire poſſis: uti bonũ cælũ habeat: ne calamitoſum ſiet: ſolũ bonũ ſua uirtute ualeat. Si poteris ſub radice mõtis ſiet: in meridiem ſpectet loco ſalubri: operario: copia ſiet bonũ: in quẽ aquatiũ oppidũ ualidũ ppe ſiet. Si aũt mare aut amnis quo naues ambulãt: aut uia bona celebriſq; ſiet: ut his agris q̃ nõ ſæpe dños mutãt: q̃ in his agris ꝑdia uẽdiderint: quos pigeat uẽdidiſſe: uti bene ædificatũ ſiet. Caueto ne alienã diſciplinã temere contẽnas. De dño bono colono bonoq; ædificatore melius emet'. Ad uillã cũ uenies: uideto uaſa: tonicula: & dolia multa ne ſint. Vbi nõ erũt: ſcito ꝓpter rationẽ fructũ eſſe. Inſtrumẽti magni ne ſiet bono loco ſiet. Videto q̃ minimi iſtrumẽti. Sũptuoſus ager ne ſiet. Scito idẽ agrũ qd' homini ẽ q̃uis quæſtuoſus ſiet: ſi ſum ptuoſus erit: ne liquere nõ multũ. Prædiũ qd' ptimũ ſiet: ſi me rogabis: ſic dicã de oibus agris. Optimo loco emito iugera cẽtũ agri. Vinea ẽ ꝑma: ſi uino multo ẽ: ſecũdo loco hortus irriguus: tertio ſalictũ: quarto oletũ: quinto pratũ: ſexto cãpus frumẽtarius: ſeptimo ſilua cædua: octauo arbuſtũ: nono glandaria ſilua.

Sũptuoſus ager ne ſiet

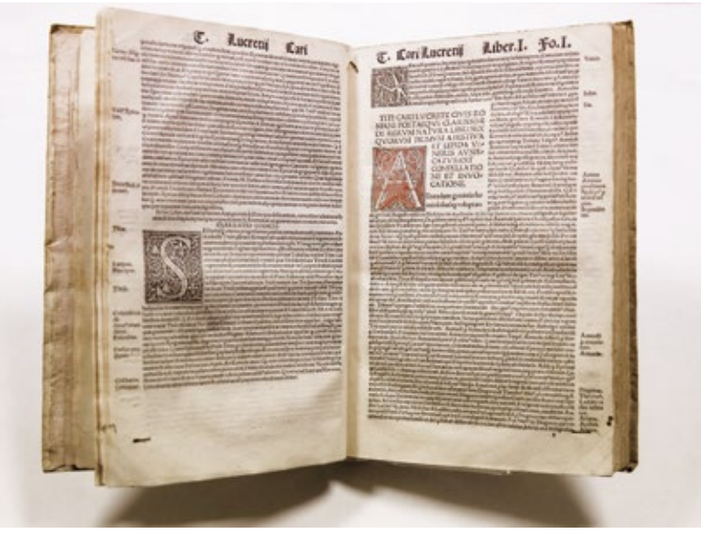
Oletum.

Patriſſamilias officia. Cap. ii.

PAterfamilias ubi ad uillã uenit: ubi laré familiarẽ ſalutauit: fundum eodem die ſi poteſt circumeat: ſi nõ eodem die: at poſtridie. Vbi cognouit quomõ fundus cultus ſiet: opera quæq; facta: infecta q; ſint poſtridie eius diei uillicũ uocet. Roget quid operis factũ: quid reſtet: ſatiſue tempori operã ſiant cõfecta quæ durare poſſint: aut quæ reliqua ſient cõficere: & quid factũ ſit frumẽti aliarũq; rerũ omniũ. Vbi ea cognouit: rationẽ inire oportet operarum. Si ei opus non apparet: dicit uillicus ſedulo ſe feciſſe: ſeruos nõ ualuiſſe: ẽpeſtates malas fuiſſe: ſeruos auſugiſſe: opus publicum effeciſſe. Vbi

Poſtridie eius diei.

a

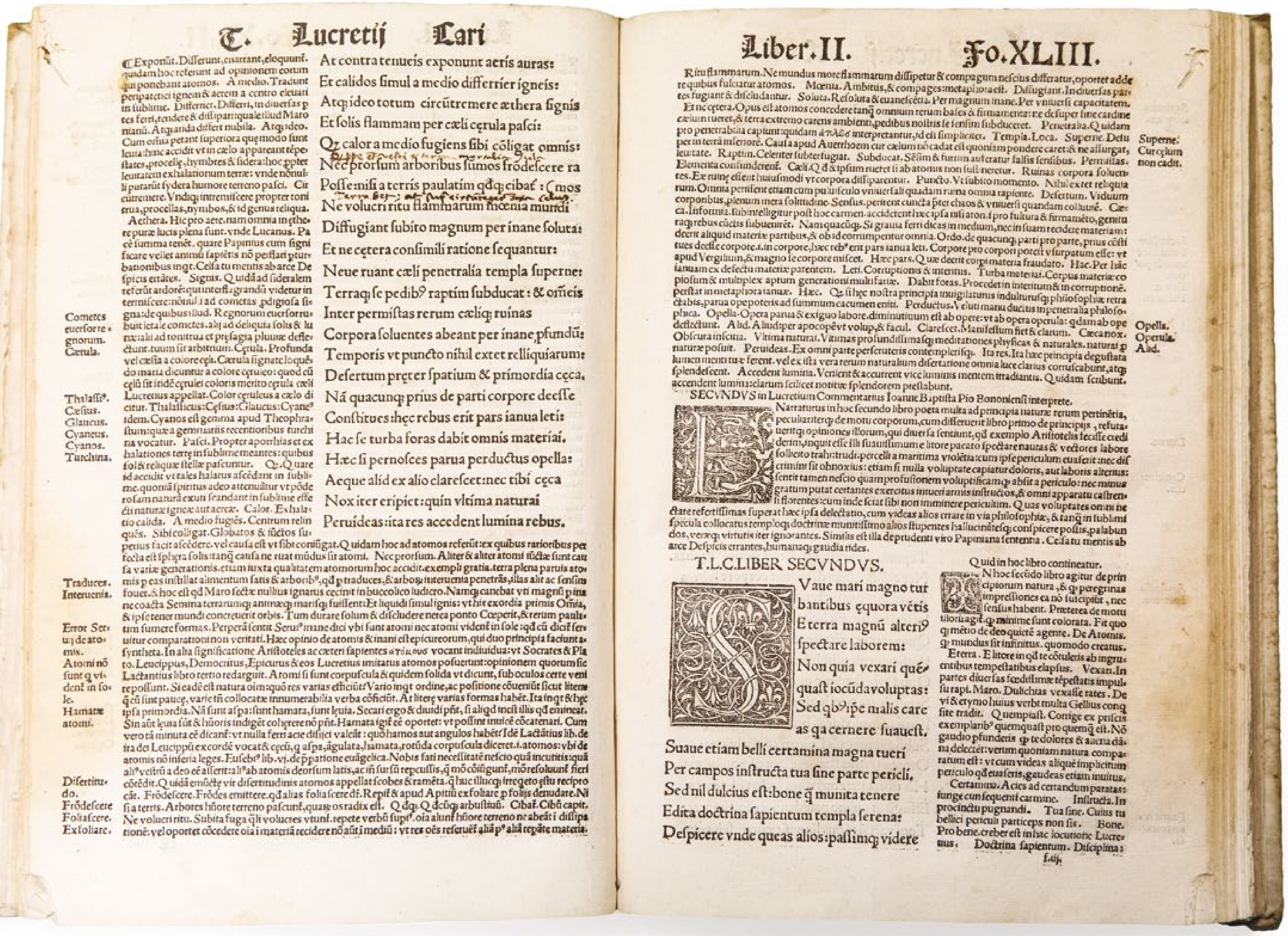


Lucretius Carus, Titus
In Carum Lucretium poetam commentarii a Ioanne Baptista Pio editi: codice Lucretiano diligenter emendato: nodis omnibus & difficultatibus apertis: obiter ex diversis auctoribus tum Graecis: tum Latinis multas leges enucleata: ... - [Paris]: Vaenundantur ab Ascensio & Ioanne Paruo, 1514. - [10], CLXXXIIII, [6] c. ; 2°

Lucretius followed the doctrines of the Greek philosopher Epicurus, who argued that the natural world was made up of atoms and had not been created by the gods. He explained his reasoning in the six books of this poem, widely known as De rerum natura.

His manuscript had been forgotten until it was discovered in Germany by the humanist Francesco Poggio Bracciolini. The first printed edition appeared in 1473, and the 1514 edition also contains an extensive commentary by the Italian humanist Giovan Battista Pio.

(Left) Title page in red and black, with fine engravings by Jehan Petit and full woodcut borders in the Renaissance style, including columns, trophies, youths on horseback and a poet in his study. Commentary in parallel columns with text, or surrounding text. Decorated initials.
(Right) Illustration of the first book with decorated capital letters and surrounding text.
(Next page) Illustration of the second book with decorated capital letters, surrounding text and parallel columns.


T. Lucretij Cari

At contra tenueis exponunt aeris auras:
Et calidos simul a medio differrier igneis:
Atq; ideo totum circu͂tremere aethera signis
Et solis flammam per caeli cerula pasci:
Q; calor a medio fugiens sibi co͂ligat omnis:
Nec prorsum arboribus summos frondescere ra
Posse: nisi a terris paulatim q̄dq; cibat: (mos
Ne volucri ritu flammarum moenia mundi
Diffugiant subito magnum per inane soluta:
Et ne cetera consimili ratione sequantur:
Neue ruant caeli penetralia templa superne:
Terraq; se pedib9 raptim subducat: & om̄eis
Inter permistas rerum caeliq; ruinas
Corpora soluentes abeant per inane, p̄fundu͂:
Temporis vt puncto nihil extet relliquiarum:
Desertum preter spatium & primordia ceca.
Na͂ quacunq; prius de parti corpore deesse
Constitues: hec rebus erit pars ianua leti:
Hac se turba foras dabit omnis materiai.
Haec si pernosces parua perductus opella:
Aeque alid ex alio clarescet: nec tibi ceca
Nox iter eripiet: quin vltima naturai
Peruideas: ita res accedent lumina rebus.

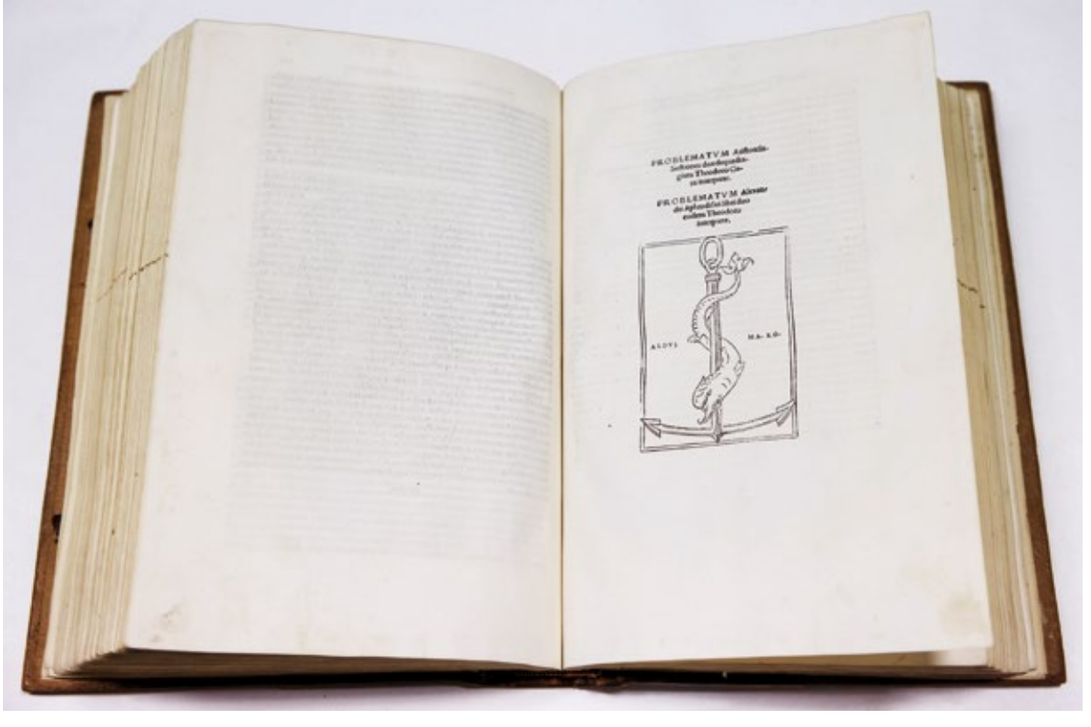
Liber. II. Fo. XLIII.

SECVNDVS in Lucretium Commentarius Ioanne Baptista Pio Bononiensi interprete.

T.L.C. LIBER SECVNDVS.

Quid in hoc libro contineatur.

Suaue mari magno turbantibus equora ve͂tis
E terra magnu͂ alteri9 spectare laborem:
Non quia vexari que͂quast iocu͂da voluptas:
Sed qb9 ip̄e malis care as qa cernere suaue st.
Suaue etiam belli certamina magna tueri
Per campos instructa tua sine parte pericli.
Sed nil dulcius est: bone q̄ munita tenere
Edita doctrina sapientum templa serena:
Despicere vnde queas alios: passimq; videre



Aldus Manutius

Aldus Manutius (c. 1451–1515) was one of the most influential figures among the early Venetian printers. Publications printed by Aldus from 1502 onwards bear his emblem (a dolphin curled around an anchor) which represents speed combined with calmness and is a reference to Aldus's motto – *festina lente* (make haste slowly). The emblem was to become a hallmark of high quality printing.

Following Aldus's death in 1515, the Aldine Press was continued by his brothers-in-law, the Asolani. In 1533 Aldus's third son, Paulus Manutius, took over the business and continued to maintain the firm's production of high quality editions.

The IIA library rare book collection includes several Aldine editions, including by the founder Aldus Manutius and by his son Paulus.

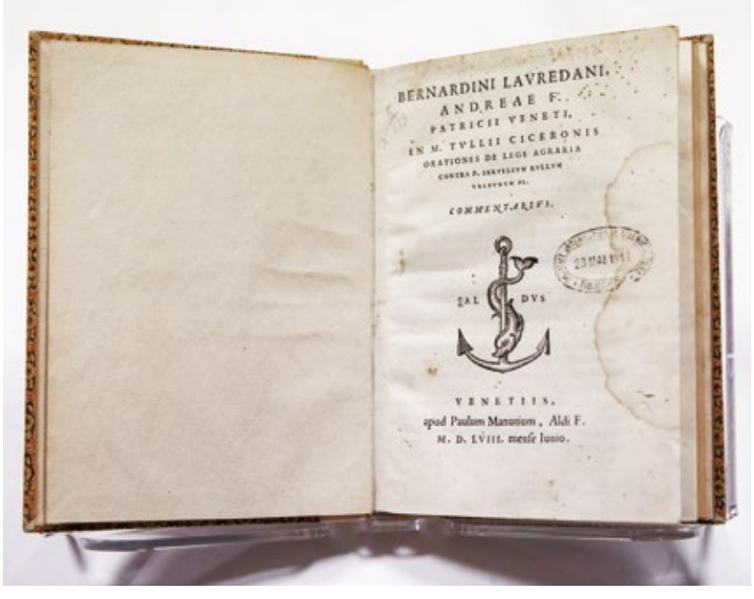
Aristotle, 384–322 BC
Habentur hoc volumine haec Theodoro Gaza interprete. Aristotelis de natura animalium. lib. 9. Eiusdem de partibus animalium. lib. 4. Eiusdem de generatione animalium. lib. 5. Theophrasti de historia plantarum. lib. 9. Et decimi principium duntaxat. Eiusdem de causis plantarum. lib. 6. Aristotelis problemata in duas de quadraginta sectiones ... Alexandri Aphrodisiensis problemata duobus libris non unquam ante impressa eodem Theodoro interprete ... – [Venetiis : Aldo Manuzio <1.>], 1504. – 12, [16], 273, [1] c. ; fol

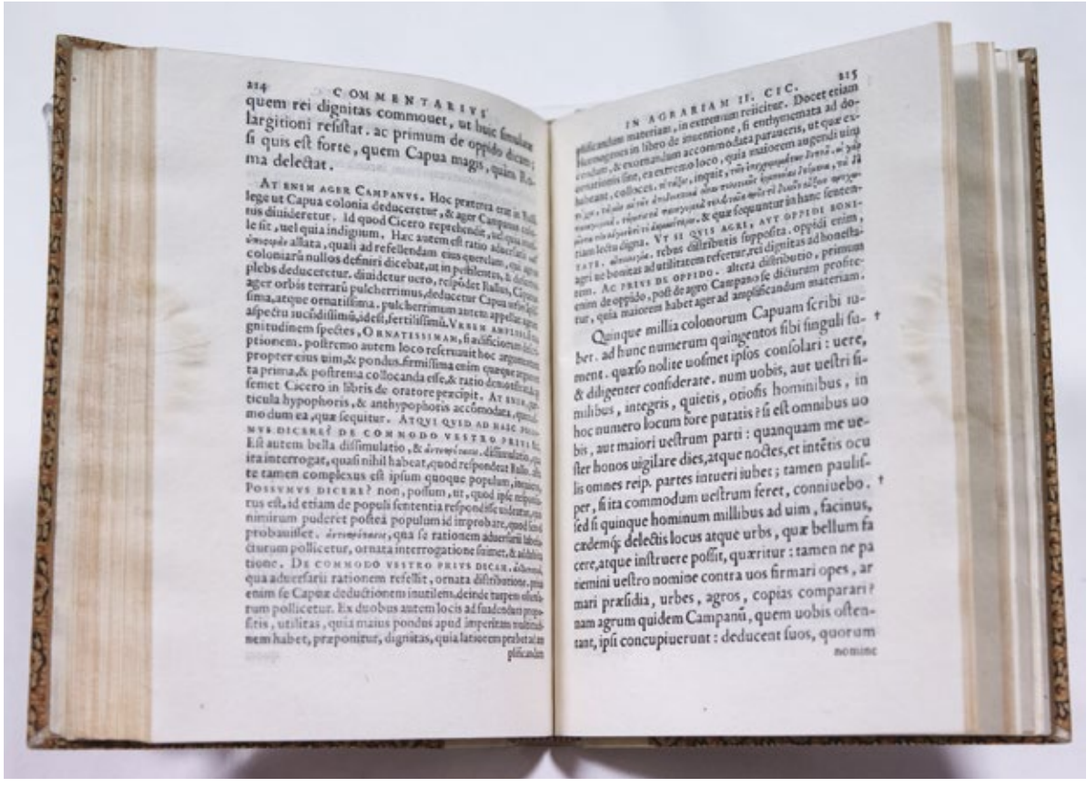
Rare first Aldine edition of Theodorus Gaza's Latin translation from Greek of Aristotle's works on animals and Theophrastus' works on plants. The fifteenth century Italian historian, Giovanni Aurispa, brought from Constantinople the original Greek manuscripts that were translated into Latin by Theodore Gaza around 1450. Gaza – scholar, scribe and teacher from Thessaloniki – translated many works of Greek science, literature and theology into Latin. He was renowned for the style and accuracy of his translations.

Aldus was particularly keen to preserve through the art of printing the most important examples of Greek literature that had survived the age of the manuscript book.

(Previous page) Dolphin and anchor printer's emblem of Aldus Manutius. Aristoteles, Habentur... (Venice: Aldus Manutius, 1504).

This edition additionally contains Latin–Greek and Greek–Latin glossaries of technical terms found in the works of Aristotle.


BERNARDINI LAVREDANI,
ANDREAE F.
PATRICII VENETI,
IN M. TVLLII CICERONIS
ORATIONES DE LEGE AGRARIA
CONTRA P. SERVILIVM RVLLVM
TRIBVNVM II.
COMMENTARIVS.
VENETIIS,
apud Paulum Manutium, Aldi F.
M. D. LVIII. mense Iunio.


214 COMMENTARIVS
quem rei dignitas commouet, ut huic simulatæ largitioni resistat. ac primum de oppido dicam; si quis est forte, quem Capua magis, quàm Ro-ma delectat.
AT ENIM AGER CAMPANVS. Hoc præterea erat in Rulli lege ut Capua colonia deduceretur, & ager Campanus colo-tuis diuideretur. Id quod Cicero reprehendit, uel quia indi-le sit, uel quia indignum. Hæc autem est ratio aduersarii ad ὑποφορὰν allata, quasi ad refellendam eius querelam, qui agro coloniarũ nullos definiri dicebat, ut in pestilentes, & deserto plebs deduceretur. diuidetur uero, respõdet Rullus, Campa-ager orbis terrarũ pulcherrimus, deducetur Capua urbs pul-sima, atque ornatissima. pulcherrimum autem appellat agrum aspectu lucidissimũ, ideóq; fertilissimũ. VERSVS ARTIFICIOSVS. gnitudinem spectes, ORNATISSIMAM, si artificiorum delectus ptionem. postremo autem loco referunt hoc argumentum propter eius uim, & pondus. firmissima enim quæque reponenda ta prima, & postrema collocanda esse, & ratio demonstrandi semet Cicero in libris de oratore præcipit. AT ENIM. ticula hypophoris, & anthypophoris accõmodata, quæ-mo dum ea, quæ sequitur. ATQVI QVID AD HAEC PRO-NVS DICERE? DE COMMODO VESTRO PRIVS DICAM. Est autem bella dissimulatio, & ἀντιφόρημα. dissimulatio ita interrogat, quasi nihil habeat, quod respondeat Rullo. de-te tamen complexus est ipsum quoque populum, inquiens, POSSVMVS DICERE? non, possum, ut, quod ipse respon-rus est, id etiam de populi sententia respondisse uideatur, ex-nimirum puderet posteà populum id improbare, quod ipse probauisset. ἀντιφέρεται, qua se rationem aduersarii liberi-citurum pollicetur, ornata interrogatione firmet, & adhibi-tione. DE COMMODO VESTRO PRIVS DICAR. Adnotat, qua aduersarii rationem refellit, ornata distributione. pro-enim se Capuæ deductionem inutilem, deinde turpem osten-rum pollicetur. Ex duobus autem locis ad fundendum pro-fectis, utilitas, quia maius pondus apud imperitam multitudi-nem habet, præponitur, dignitas, quia latioem prebet ad am-plificandum

IN AGRARIAM II. CIC. 215
plificandum materiam, in extremum reiicitur. Docet etiam Hermogenes in libro de inuentione, si enthymemata ad do-cendum, & exornandum accommodata paraueris, ut quæ ex-ornationis sint, ea extremo loco, quia maiorem augendi uim habeant, colloces. τί τάξις, inquit, τῶν ἐπιχειρημάτων δεόμενα, τὰ δὲ παντελῶς, τέρποντα παντελῶς τελευταῖα πρὸς τὸ δοκεῖν αὔξειν σφοδρό-τερον τὸν λόγον ἐστὶ τὰ ἀκμαιότερον. & quæ sequuntur in hanc senten-tiam lecta digna. VT SI QVIS AGRI, AVT OPPIDI BONI-TATE. αἰτιολογία. rebus distributis supposita. oppidi enim, agri ne bonitas ad utilitatem referatur, rei dignitas ad honesta-tem. AC PRIVS DE OPPIDO. altera distributio, primum enim de oppido, post de agro Campano se dicturum profite-tur, quia maiorem habet ager ad amplificandum materiam.
Quinque millia colonorum Capuam scribi iu-ber. ad hunc numerum quingentos sibi singuli su-ment. quæso nolite uosmet ipsos consolari: uere, & diligenter considerate. num uobis, aut uestri fi-milibus, integris, quietis, otiosis hominibus, in hoc numero locum fore putatis? si est omnibus uo-bis, aut maiori uestrum parti: quanquam me ue-ster honos uigilare dies, atque noctes, et intẽtis ocu-lis omnes reip. partes intueri iubet; tamen pauli-per, si ita commodum uestrum feret, conniuebo. sed si quinque hominum millibus ad uim, facinus, eúdemq; delectis locus atque urbs, quæ bellum fa-cere, atque instruere possit, quæritur: tamen ne pa-tiemini uestro nomine contra uos firmari opes, ar-mari præsidia, urbes, agros, copias comparari? nam agrum quidem Campanũ, quem uobis ostẽ-tant, ipsi concupiuerunt: deducent suos, quorum nomine

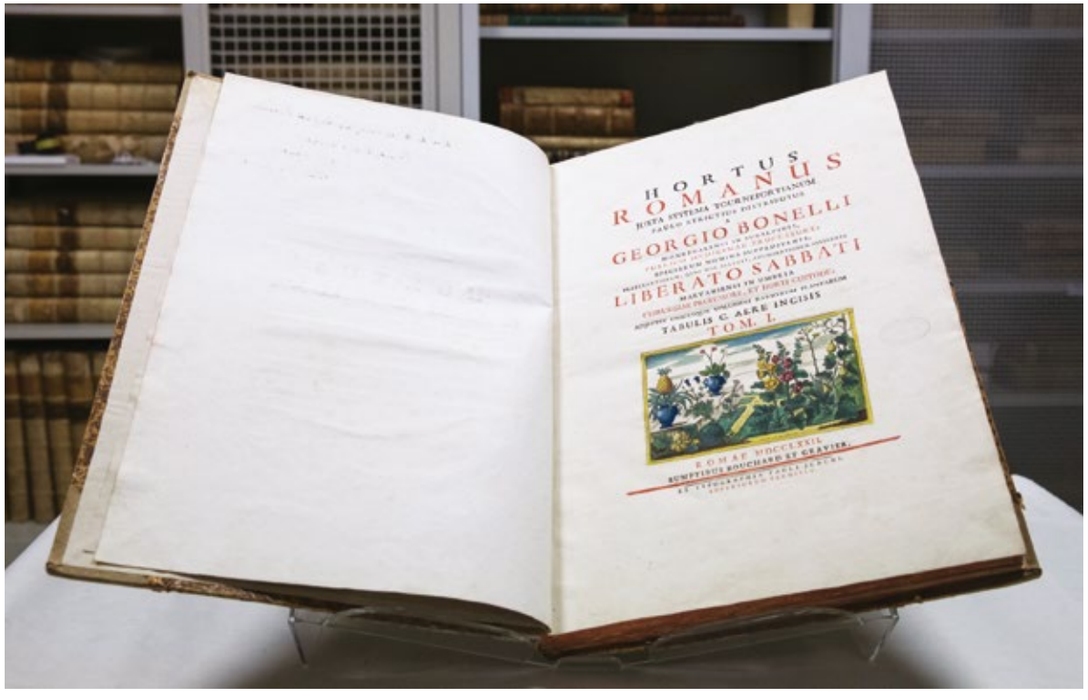
Loredano, Bernardino
Bernardini Lauredani... In M. Tullii Ciceronis orationes de lege agraria contra P. Servilium Rullum Tribunum pl. commentarius. – Impressum Venetiis : apud Paulum Manutium, Aldi F., 1558. – 297, [3] p. ; 4°

This edition shows Aldine typographical innovations with various Greek, Roman and Italic fonts.

Durante, Castore, 1529-1590
Herbario nuovo di Castore Durante medico, & cittadino romano. Con figure, che rappresentano le vive piante, che nascono in tutta Europa, & nell'Indie orientali, & occidentali. ... Con discorsi, che dimostrano i nomi, le spetie, la forma, il loco, il tempo, le qualità, & le virtù mirabili dell'herbe ... Con due tavole copiosissime, l'una dell'herbe, & l'altra dell'infirmità, & di tutto quello che nell'opera si contiene. – In Roma : appresso Bartholomeo Bonfandino & Tito Diani, 1585. – [24], 492 [i.e. 480] p. : ill., 2 ritr. ; 2°

Castore Durante was an Italian botanist and poet of the Renaissance. He published *Herbario Nuovo* in 1585, a description of medicinal plants of Europe, East and West Indies. Each plant is illustrated with a woodcut and accompanied by a description, with particular reference to the beneficial properties of the plant.

The first editions were illustrated by Leonardo Parasole da Norcia.



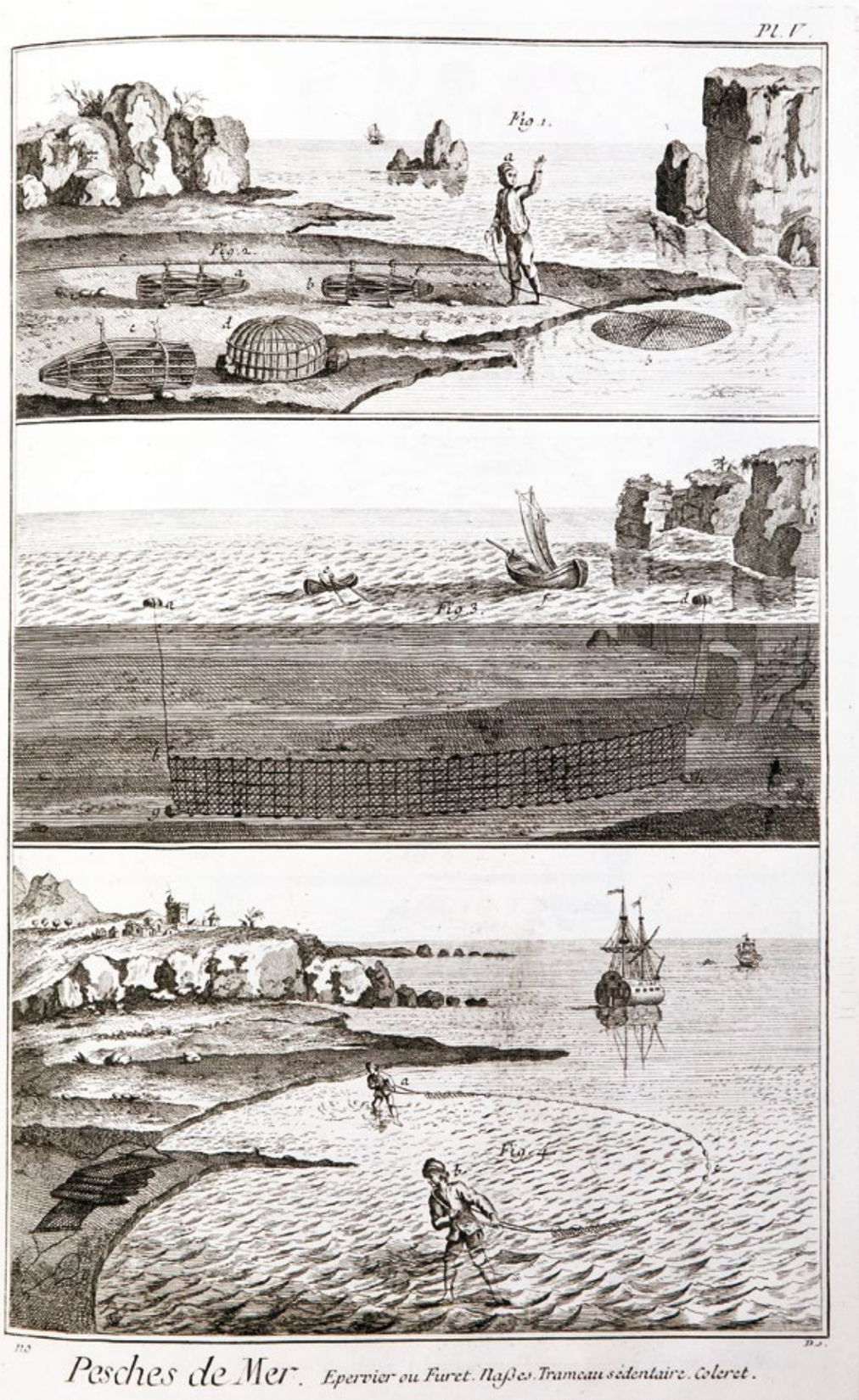
Bonelli, Giorgio, 1724–1803?
Hortus Romanus juxta systema Tournefortianum paulo strictius distributus a Georgio Bonelli Monregalensi ... specierum nomina suppeditante, praestantiorum, quas ipse selegit, adumbrationem dirigente Liberato Sabbati Maevaniensi ... adiectis unicuique volumini rariorum plantarum tabulis 100. aere incisis. Tom. 1. [-8.]. - Romae : sumptibus Bouchard et Gravier : ex typographia Pauli Junchi, 1772-1793. - 8 v. : ill. ; atl

Giorgio Bonelli's *Hortus Romanus* was one of very few Italian contributions to the botanical works of the eighteenth century. Bonelli provided only a short text to volume one, while the rest of the volumes are by Niccolo Martelli. The flowers and vegetables in the plates were painted by Cesare Ubertini and engraved by Maddalena Bouchard.

This is a very rare edition, as fewer than 300 copies were believed to have been published. Of these, only a limited number were hand-painted in the bold, exuberant style of the eighteenth century. The work is luxurious, printed on sumptuous, thick, handmade paper.

Hortus Romanus juxta systems Tournefortianum paulo [engraved title page, Vol. 1].

Hortus Romanus juxta systems Tournefortianum paulo, pictures.
(Left) Picture 137: Iris Susiana, flore maximo, ex albo nigricante - Giglio di Faraone - L'Iris, ou Flambe – vol. 6 : t. 62
(Up) Picture 143: Tulipa coccinea, alberscentibus, oris Eyst. - Tulipano Scarlattino - Tulipe. (Scarlet tulip) – vol. 6 : t. 90
(Down) Picture 136: Lilio Asphodelus-pheniceus - Lilium rubrum - Asfodelo con il fior di Giglio - Lys Asphodele. (Day lily) – vol. 6 : t. 46



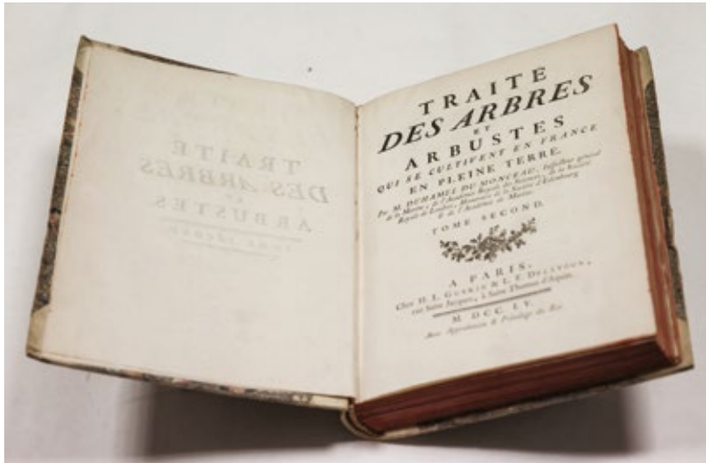

A SON ALTESSE ROYALE
PIERRE LÉOPOLD
MONSEIGNEUR.
A Toscane a toûjours été la patrie ou l'azile des Sciences & des Arts, & les talents, qui n'y ont pas

Diderot, Denis, 1713-1784, Alembert, Jean Le Rond d', 1717-1783
Encyclopédie, ou Dictionnaire raisonné des sciences, des arts et des metiérs, par une société de gens de lettres. Mis en ordre & publié par m. Diderot ... & quant à la partie mathématique, par m. D'Alembert ... - Troisième édition enrichie de plusieurs notes. - À Livourne : dans l'Imprimerie des Éditeurs, 1770-1778. - 17 v. + 10 v. di tav. "Recueil de planches..." : ill. ; fol

This twenty-eight volume French encyclopaedia was edited by Denis Diderot and Jean d'Alembert, with the aid of Quensay, Montesquieu, Voltaire, J. J. Rousseau, Turgot, and others. Intricately illustrated, it championed the scepticism and logic of the Enlightenment period and played a major role in the intellectual preparation for the French Revolution. In fact, D'Alembert's introduction, the Preliminary Discourse, has often been called a manifesto for the French Enlightenment. More than 3 000 engraved illustrations accompanied the text volumes. The plates are equally detailed and wide-ranging in subject matter.

(Next page) Title page from vol. 1 of the *Encyclopédie*.


ENCYCLOPÉDIE,
OU
DICTIONNAIRE RAISONNÉ
DES SCIENCES,
DES ARTS ET DES MÉTIERS,
PAR UNE SOCIÉTÉ DE GENS DE LETTRES.
Mis en ordre & publié par M. DIDEROT, de l'Académie Royale des Sciences & des Belles-Lettres de Prusse; & quant à la PARTIE MATHÉMATIQUE, par M. D'ALEMBERT, de l'Académie Royale des Sciences de Paris, de celle de Prusse, & de la Société Royale de Londres.
Tantum series juncturaque pollet,
Tantum de medio sumptis accedit honoris! HORAT.
TROISIÈME ÉDITION ENRICHIE DE PLUSIEURS NOTES
Tantum
DÉDIÉE
À SON ALTESSE ROYALE
MONSEIGNEUR L'ARCHIDUC
PIERRE LÉOPOLD
PRINCE ROYAL DE HONGRIE ET DE BOHEME, ARCHIDUC D'AUTRICHE,
GRAND-DUC DE TOSCANE &c. &c. &c.
TOME PREMIER.
A LIVOURNE
DANS L'IMPRIMERIE DE LA SOCIÉTÉ
M. DCC. LXX.
AVEC APPROBATION.



Duhamel du Monceau, Henri Louis, 1700–1782
Traité des arbres et arbustes qui se cultivent en France en pleine terre. Par m. Duhamel du Monceau .... – À Paris : chez H.L. Guérin & L.F. Delatour, rue Saint Jacques, à Saint Thomas d'Aquin, 1755. – 2 v. : ill. ; 4°

French physician, naval engineer and botanist, Duhamel developed and tested new methods of horticulture, agriculture and forestry on his father's large estate, which he expanded into a modern farm. In 1757 Duhamel released the *Descriptions des Arts et Métiers* and opposed the writers of the *Encyclopédie*. Nevertheless, Diderot included Duhamel's articles such as "*Agriculture*".

The *Traité des arbres et arbustes* contains 250 full-page woodcuts and 190 small engravings in the text.

(Left) Picture 192: Engraving of cork oak (Quercus suber L.) – tome II : pl. 80.

Valuable chinese books

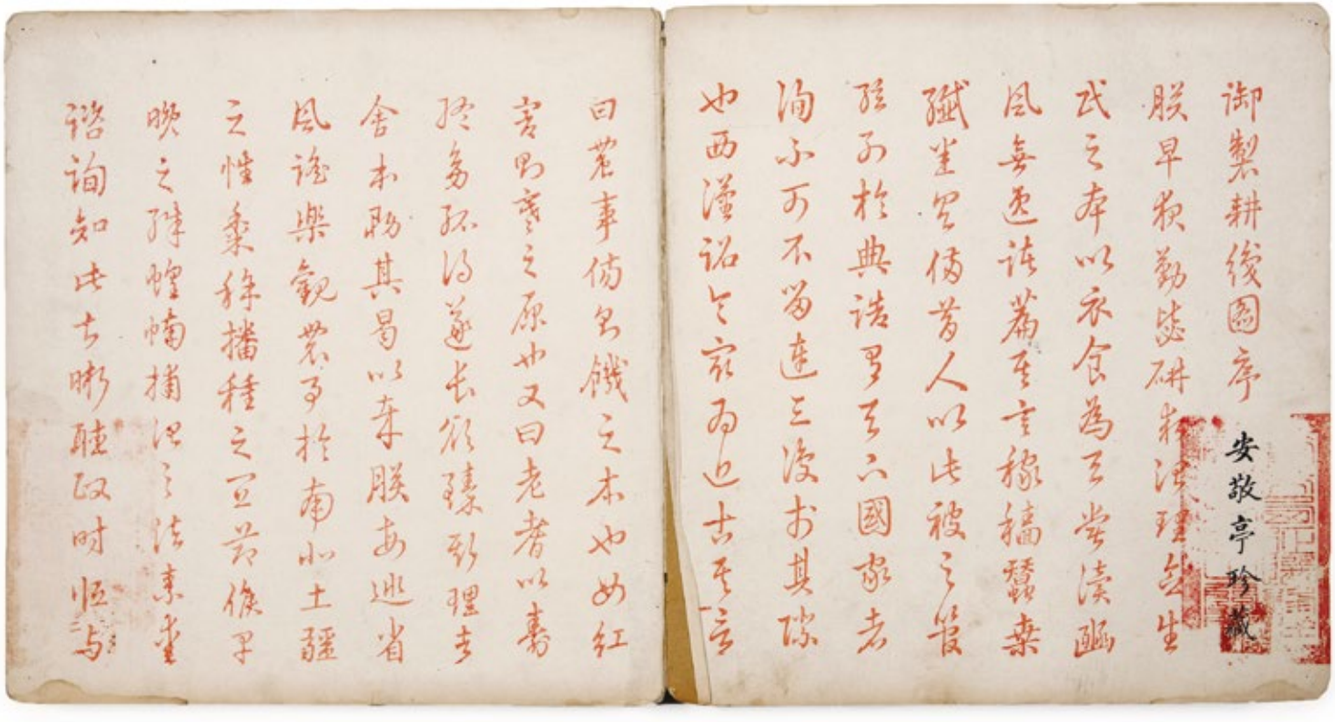
When the President of China, Xu Shichang, and the former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Lou Tseng-Tsiang, donated a number of classic Chinese works to the IIA Library on the subject of agriculture, the IIA Permanent Committee decided to publish a brief review in its monthly bulletin[14] as a testament to their gratitude and the significance of the gifts.

康熙御製耕織圖詩
Chinese title in transliteration: Kangxi Yuzhi Gengzhi Tushi - Shangce Gengtu Ershisan Ye
English title: Emperor Kangxi's Poems for Images of Agriculture and Sericulture
Authors: Qing Emperor Kangxi 清聖祖康熙; *Jiao, B.-Z.* 焦秉貞 *(images)*

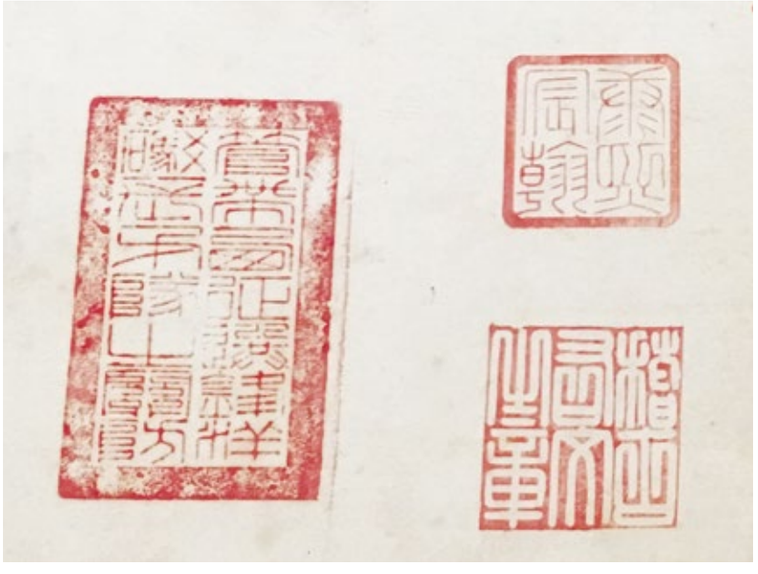
The President of China Xu Shichang, donated *Kangxi Yuzhi Gengzhi Tushi*, a rare and exquisite volume on agriculture and silk culture in China published by the Emperor Kang Shi (1662–1722). Dating from the twelfth century, the original poems and pictures of agriculture and weaving enjoyed an

Cover of the second volume of the *Kangxi Yuzhi Gengzhi Tushi* adorned with silk brocade.

[14] Perris, G. 1921. *Description of valuable Chinese books presented to the Library of the International Institute of Agriculture*. Monthly Bulletin of Agricultural Intelligence and Plant Diseases, XII, 9. Rome, IIA.



First page of the preface by Emperor Kang Shi.



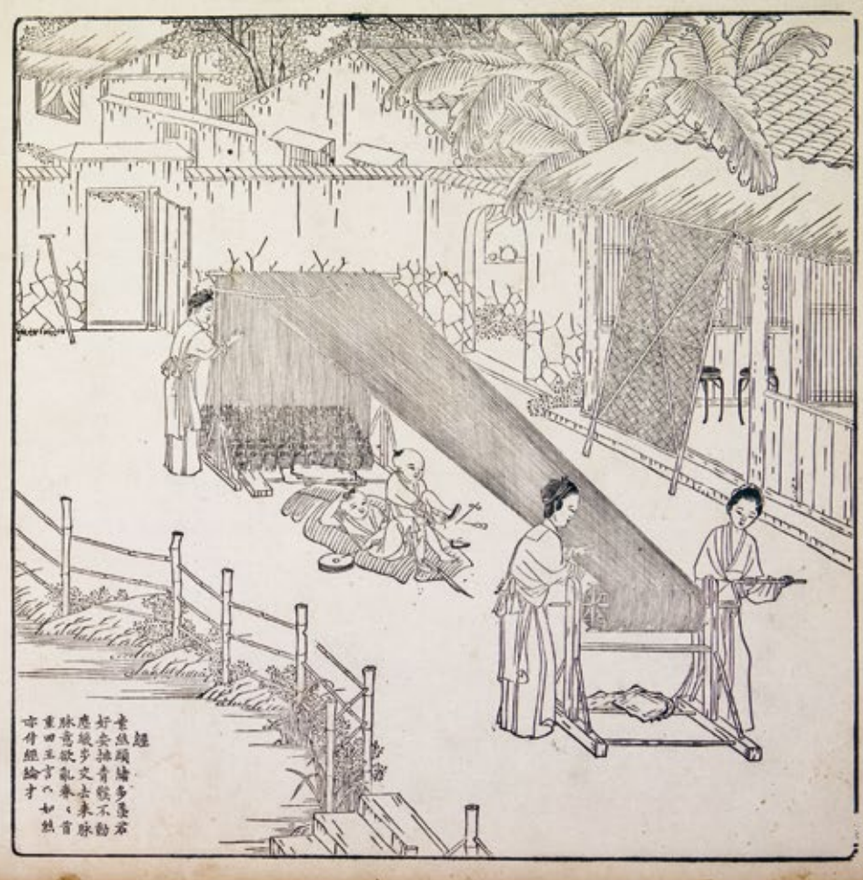
enduring popularity. While the poems survived intact until today, the pictures had been lost until a reprint was discovered in Japan, in the seventeenth century, and copies with the original illustrations were made. The edition donated by the President contains engravings on wood plates, hand-painted with remarkable delicacy and precision. The work consists of two large volumes, the first devoted to rice culture (agriculture) and the second to weaving (sericulture).

Second and last page of the preface by Emperor Kang Shi.

Picture of the first part
of the book on agriculture,
with the corresponding verses.

織經圖第十九

織紝精勤有季蘭牽絲分理製羅紈鳴機
來往桑陰裏已作吳綃匹練看
昨為簍上絲今作軸中經均勻細分理珍
重相叮嚀君看千萬縷始成丈尺絹城市
紈袴兒辛苦何嘗見
砌下風飄待女蘭新絲經理欲成紈安排頭
緒分長短約伴同來仔細看



Picture of the second part of the book on weaving, with the corresponding verses.

Close-up of the intricate and rich covering case adorned with silk that encloses all albums with a tree-like design.

After visiting the IIA in 1919, the formerly Minister of Foreign Affairs Lou Tseng-Tsiang expressed his wish to complement the gift of the President of China by donating a number of classical works on agriculture. These included: *Nongzheng Quanshu, Qinding Shoushi Tongkao, and Zhiwu Mingshi Tukao*. These editions add value to an already existing collection that was donated to the library in 1909 by the Chinese Government.

農政全書
Chinese title in transliteration: *Nongzheng Quanshu*
English title: [Complete Treatise on Agriculture]
Author: Xu, G.Q. (明)徐光啟
Publication place: Shanghai
Publisher: Shangdong Shuju 山東書局
Year: [1874]

Nongzheng Quanshu is a classic sixty-volume treatise on agriculture, written for the Ming Dynasty. Its author, Hsu Kuang-chi (1562-1633), died before completing the work. The first edition appeared in 1639 and was widely circulated throughout China, with numerous subsequent editions printed. It is considered an encyclopaedia of agricultural sciences, along with its wider scope as a form of study on political science.

The Library has two editions, dated 1843 and 1874.

- Books 12 to 20: for the first time European hydraulic science is referred to in a Chinese book.
- Book 33 and 34: drawings of the plant used in silkworm breeding/spinning and silk weaving.

欽定授時通考
Chinese title in transliteration: *Qinding Shoushi Tongkao*
English title: [Complete Compendium of Works and Days – with Imperial Approval]
*Author: E'ertai et al. (*清*)*鄂爾泰等
Year: [s.d.]

Produced by the Qing Dynasty (1644–1912), *Qinding Shoushi Tongkao* was written on the orders of Emperor Chien-lung in 1737. The Emperor wished to provide a boost to the Empire's agricultural sector and demonstrate to his people that this was a matter of utmost importance to the highest authority in the country. The work was published in 1742 with a preface from the Emperor, and contains 78 books. It is generously illustrated and contains a large number of original engravings.

The Library has two editions, one undated but likely belonging to the latter half of the 1800s, and one copy dated 1826.

- Books 31–41: field labour and harvesting with illustrations.
- Books 52–53: drawings of agriculture and weaving.

Illustration of
Zhiwu Mingshi Tukao.

植物名實圖考
Chinese title in transliteration: *Zhiwu Mingshi Tukao*
English title: [Illustrated Account of Plants]
*Author: Wu, Q.J. (*清*)*吳其濬
Publication place: Taiyuan
Publisher: Qiushan Xiguan Shuju 秋山西館書局
Year: [1919]

Zhiwu Mingshi Tukao was written by the botanist Wu Chi-chun, from the province of Honan. It is a classification of all plants with detailed descriptions and realistic pictures. The FAO Library has an edition printed in 1866 and a second edition dated 1919. It is a treatise of 38 volumes with an appendix of 22 volumes.

Arturo Marescalchi

Arturo Marescalchi (1869–1955) donated his extensive collection of books to the IIA library in 1941.[15]

Marescalchi pursued a political career that would lead him to the Italian Ministry of Agriculture as Undersecretary of State, before being appointed Senator in 1934. A renowned oenologist, in 1891 he founded the Italian Association of Wine in Conegliano.

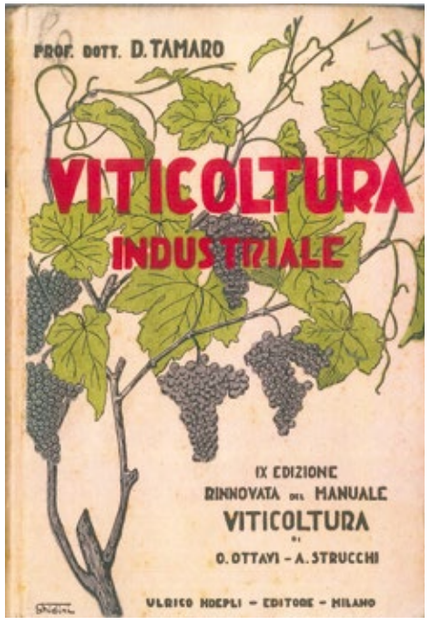
He was a prolific author as well as publisher of the *Manuali Marescalchi* and editor of *Enotria*, an Italian journal of wine.

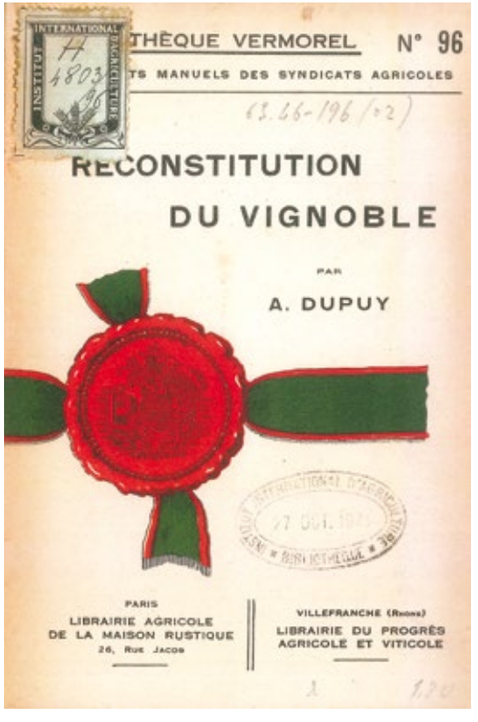
His vast knowledge and expertise on wine made him one of the most renowned Italian researchers on the matter.

The collection donated to the library comprises books, pamphlets, bulletins and journals on the various aspects of viniculture. The works are mostly written by Italian authors, with some by French and German writers as well. They include pieces beautifully edited by Ulrico Hoepli (1847–1935); 177 manuals on agricultural trade unions from *La Bibliothèque Vermorel* (1848–1927), written by various specialists about diverse areas of rural engineering, economy and legislation; several editions of the *Annuario vinicolo* (1921–1942) with advertisements from the era; 148 volumes (1921–1931) from the *Biblioteca Agraria Ottavi* founded by the Ottavi family; 107 volumes of the *Manuali Marescalchi* (1914–1938); several issues of the Italian journal on wine, *Enotria*, from 1928 to 1942; and a number of works by Marescalchi himself.

Arturo Marescalchi in his studio.

[15] IIA. *Comité permanent. Procès-verbaux 1941*. Rome, IIA.





Selection of works from the Marescalchi collection

Two works beautifully edited by Ulrico Hoepli.

JOHANN ULRICH (ULRICO) HOEPLI (Tuttwil, 1847– Milano, 1935) was born in Switzerland but moved to Milan in 1870. During his lifetime, he printed 2 000 *Manuali Hoepli* and specialized in technical and scientific publications. His editorial work is well known for its quality and beautiful designs.

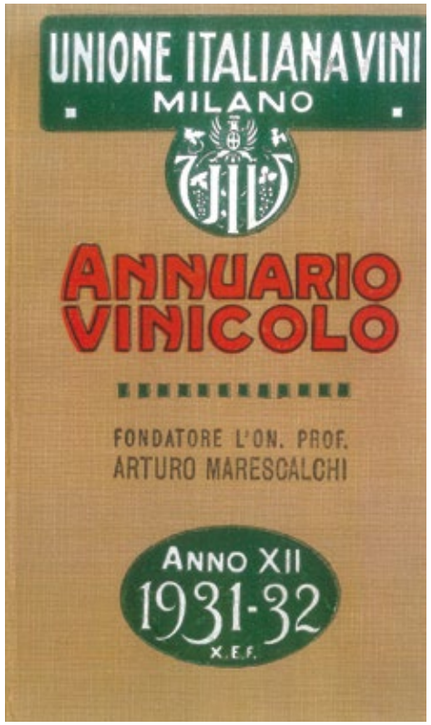
The Library has 177 manuals of agricultural trade unions from *La Bibliothèque Vermorel* (1848–1927) written by various specialists about diverse aspects of rural engineering, economy and legislation.

Tamaro, Domenico, 1859–1939
Viticoltura industriale: manuale pratico ad uso dei viticoltori italiani / D. Tamaro. – 9. ed. rinnovata del manuale Viticoltura di O. Ottavi – A. Strucchi. – Milano : Hoepli, 1930. – XV, 387 p. : ill. ; 16 cm. – (Manuali Hoepli).

Strucchi, Arnaldo
I migliori vini d'Italia / Arnaldo Strucchi. – Milano : Hoepli, 1908. – XIX, 258, 64 p., [45] c. di tav. : ill. ; 16 cm. – (Manuali Hoepli).

Vermorel, Victor, 1848–1927
Le greffage de la vigne / par V. Vermorel. – Paris ; Villefranche : Librairie Agricole de la Maison Rustique : Librairie du Progrès Agricole et Viticole, [19..]. – 62 p., [2] c. di tav. : ill. ; 22 cm. – (Bibliothèque Vermorel ; 93).

Vermorel, Victor, 1848–1927
Reconstitution du vignoble / par V. Vermorel. – Paris ; Villefranche : Librairie Agricole de la Maison Rustique : Librairie du Progrès Agricole et Viticole, [19..]. – 62 p., [2] c. di tav. : ill. ; 22 cm. – (Bibliothèque Vermorel ; 96).



Several editions of the *Annuario vinicolo* (1921–1942) with advertisements from the era, from the Unione Italiana Vini based in Milan.

Marescalchi, Arturo, 1869-1955
Annuario vinicolo d'Italia /
fondato da Arturo Marescalchi ;
Unione Italiana Vini (Milano). –
12. edizione, 1931-32. – Milano :
Tip. E. Gualdoni, 1931. – LXVJ, 594
p. ; 17 cm.

Advertisement p. 90,
Annuario vinicolo d'Italia, 1931.
Advertisement p. 108,
Annuario vinicolo d'Italia, 1922.

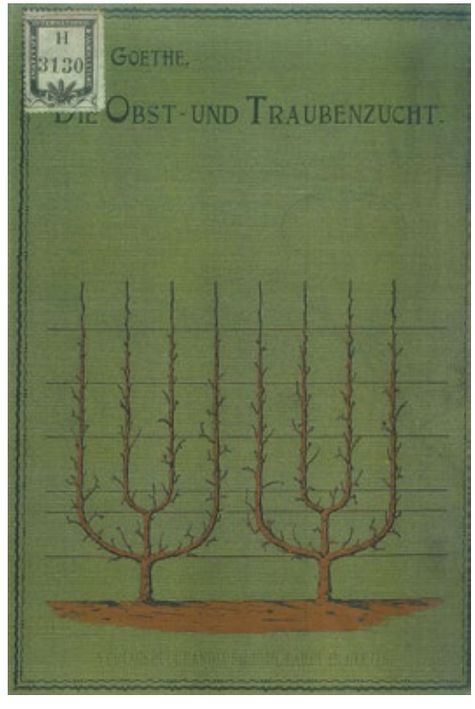
❧ The library has 148 volumes from the *Biblioteca Agraria Ottavi* founded by Edoardo Ottavi (1860–1917). *The Manuali Marescalchi* showcase how prolific an author he was.

Poggi, Tito, 1857–1944
La coltivazione del vigneto in pianura / Tito Poggi. – 3. ed. – Casale Monferrato : Tip. Cassone, 1908. – VII, 297 p., [1] c. di tav. : ill. ; 19 cm. – (*Biblioteca agraria Ottavi* ; 8).

Trentin, Guido
La vite a "raggio" / G. Trentin. – 2. ed. – Casale Monferrato : Tip. Cassone, 1920. – VII, 297 p., [1] c. di tav. : ill. ; 19 cm. – (*Biblioteca agraria Ottavi* ; 58).

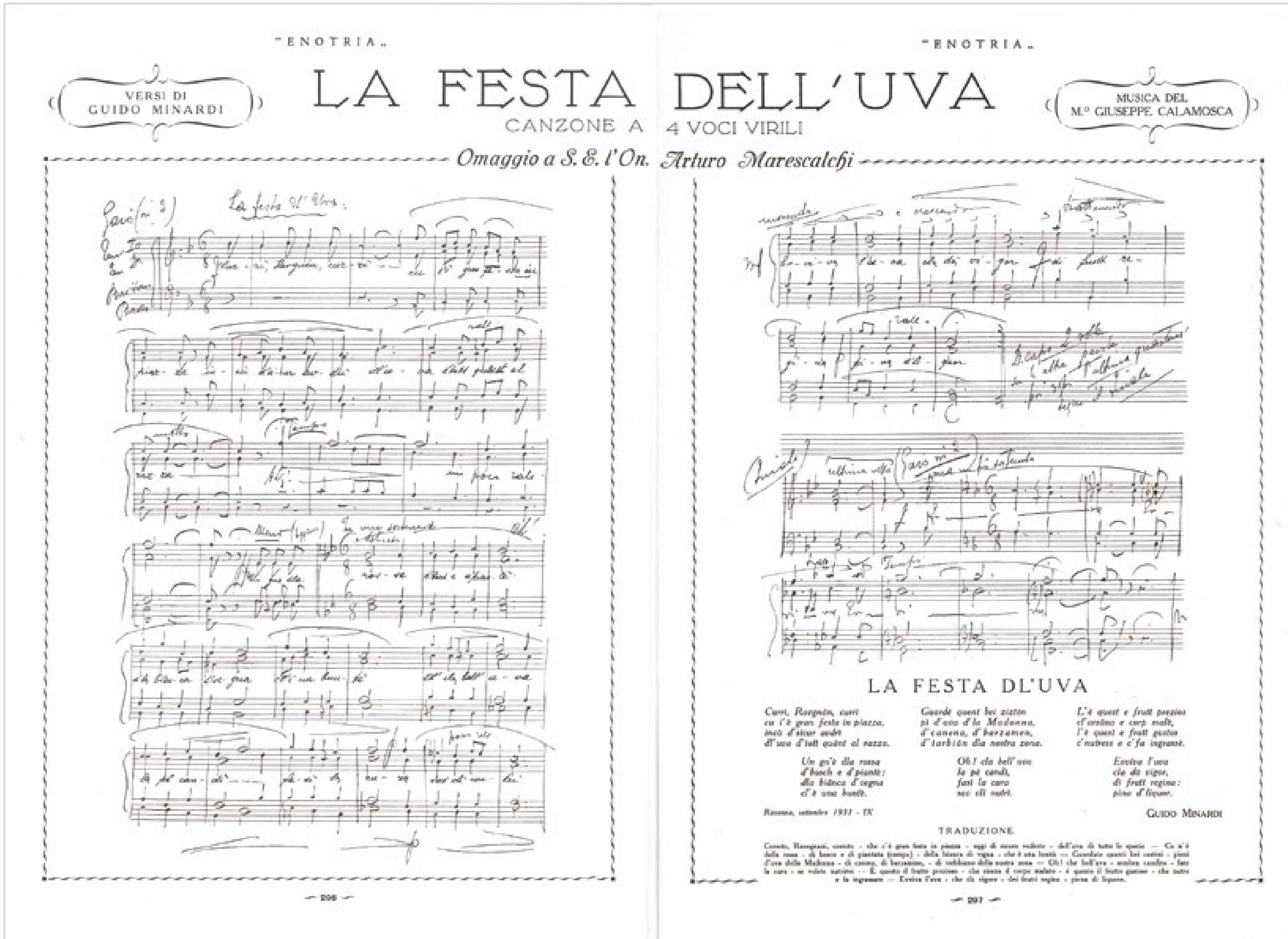
Marchesi, Francesco
Le cantine sociali / Francesco Marchesi. – Casale Monferrato : F.lli Marescalchi, 1925. – VI, 84 p. ; 19 cm. – (*Manuali Marescalchi* ; 72)

Vitetta, Gaspare
La ricostituzione dei vigneti in pratica / Gaspare Vitetta. – Casale Monferrato : F.lli Marescalchi, 1913. – XI, 166 p. : ill. ; 20 cm. – (*Manuali Marescalchi* ; 12)



- Marescalchi, Arturo, 1869-1955. *Per lo sviluppo della industria enologica italiana* / Arturo Marescalchi. - Bologna : Zanichelli, stampa 1919. - 98 p. ; 19 cm. - (L'Italia Nuova. Ser. B ; 4).

- Zulauf, Hermann *Das Rebspalier : Anleitung zur Anpflanzung und Pflege der Rebe am Haus und im Garten* / von Hermann Zulauf. 5. vollständing neubearbeitete Aufl. - Aarau : Wirz, c1977. - 114 p. : ill. ; 17 cm.
- Goethe, Rudolph, 1843-1911 *Die Obst- und Traubenzucht an Mauern, Häuserwänden und im Garten : für Unterricht und Praxis* / bearbeitet von Rudolph Goethe. - Berlin : P. Parey, 1900. - VII, 215 p. : ill. ; 25 cm



"ENOTRIA"

VERSI DI GUIDO MINARDI

LA FESTA DELL'UVA

CANZONE A 4 VOCI VIRILI

MUSICA DEL M.º GIUSEPPE CALAMOSCA

Omaggio a S. E. l'On. Arturo Marescalchi

"ENOTRIA"

LA FESTA DL'UVA

Curri, Ravgnân, curri
ca l'è gran festa in piazza,
incù d'sicur avdrì
dl'uva d'tott quânt al razza.

Un gn'è dla rossa
d'bosch e d'piantê;
dla biânca d'vegna
cl'è una buntê.

Guardê quant bei zistin
pi d'uva d'la Madonna,
d'canena, d'barzamen,
d'tarbiân dla nostra zona.

Oh! cla bell'uva
la pê candì,
fasì la cura
sa vlì nutrì.

L'è quest e frutt prezios
c'arsâna e corp malê,
l'è quest e frutt gustos
c'nutress e c'fa ingrassê.

Evviva l'uva
cla dà vigor,
di frutt regina:
pina d'liquor.

Ravenna, settembre 1931 - IX

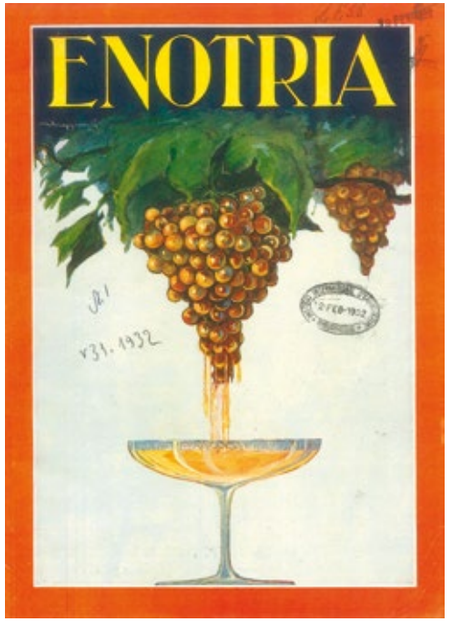
GUIDO MINARDI

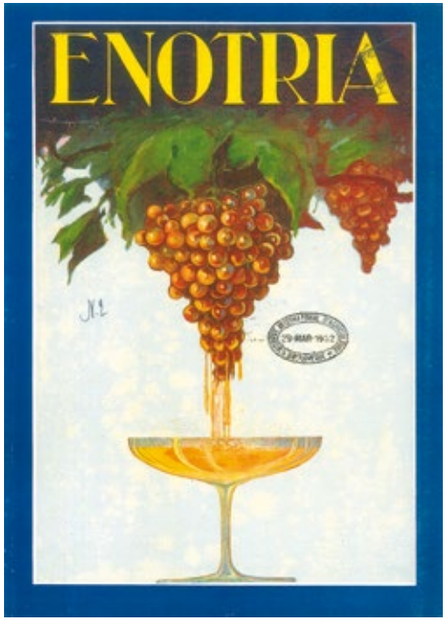
TRADUZIONE

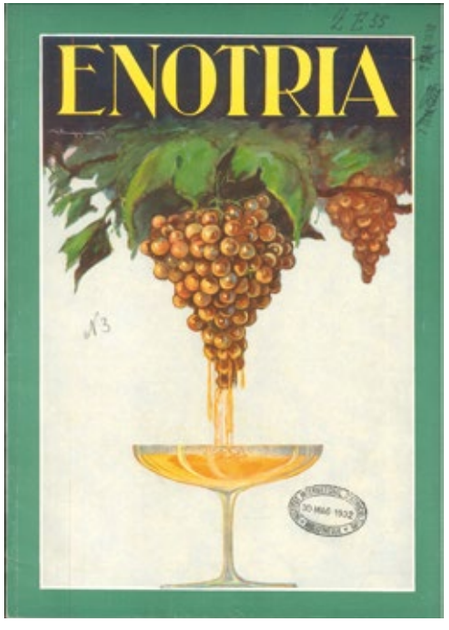
Correte, Ravegnani, correte - che c'è gran festa in piazza - oggi di sicuro vedrete - dell'uva di tutte le specie — Ce n'è della rossa - di bosco e di piantata (campo) - della bianca di vigna - che è una bontà — Guardate quanti bei cestini - pieni d'uva della Madonna - di canina, di barzamino, - di trebbiano della nostra zona — Oh! che bell'uva - sembra candita - fate la cura - se volete nutrirvi — È questo il frutto prezioso - che risana il corpo malato - è questo il frutto gustoso - che nutre e la ingrassare — Evviva l'uva - che dà vigore - dei frutti regina - piena di liquore.

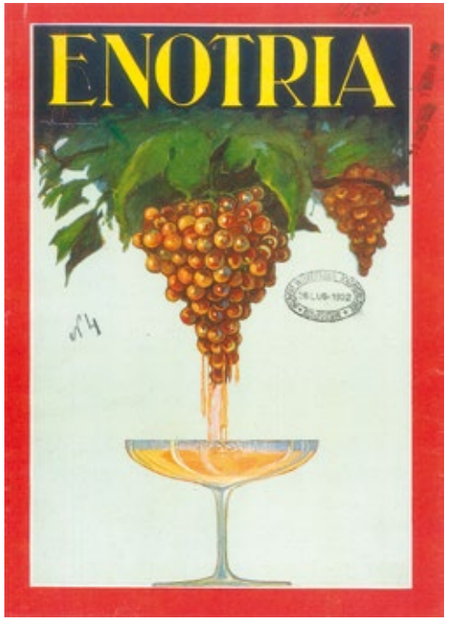
— 296 —

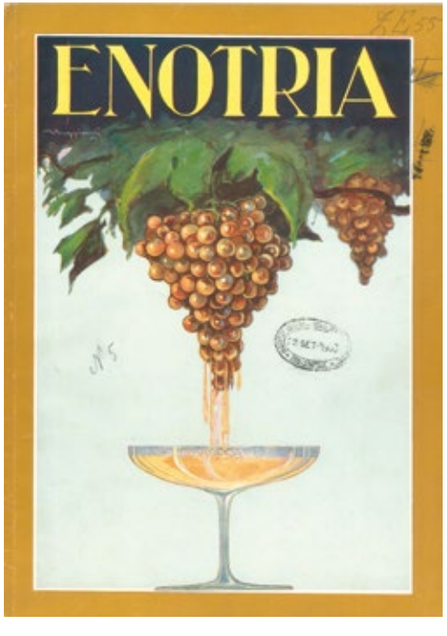
— 297 —

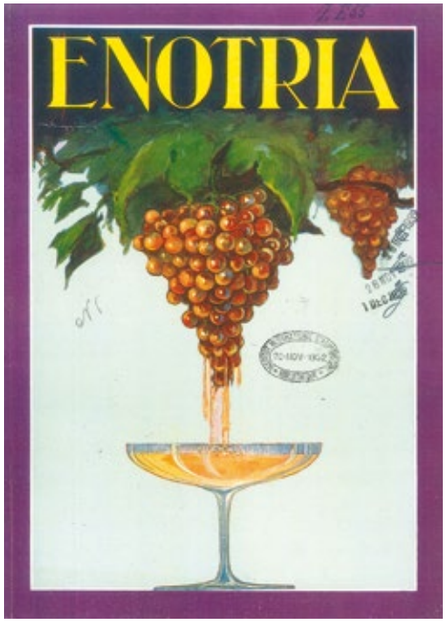












Enotria (1928–1932) was an Italian wine magazine edited by Marescalchi.

Enotria : rivista letteraria delle attività vitivinicole italiane / fondatore Arturo Marescalchi. – Milano : Unione Italiana Vini, 1928–1932 ; 34 cm.

(Previous page)
Song in honor of Marescalchi, published in Enotria, A.XXX, n.10 (October 1931).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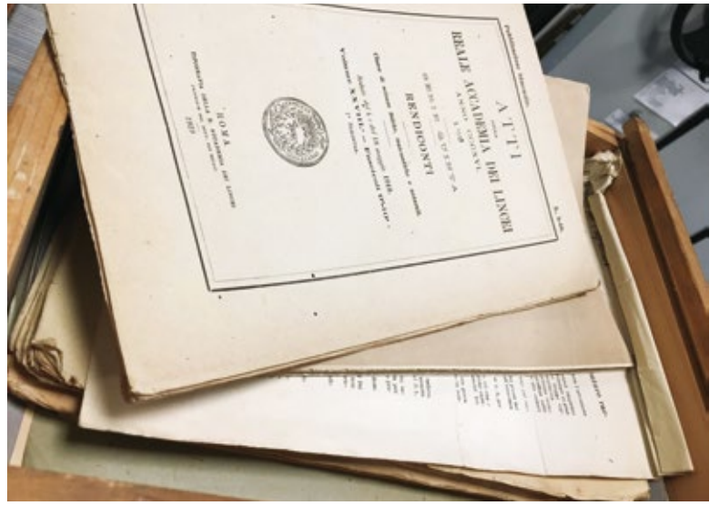
Italo Giglioli

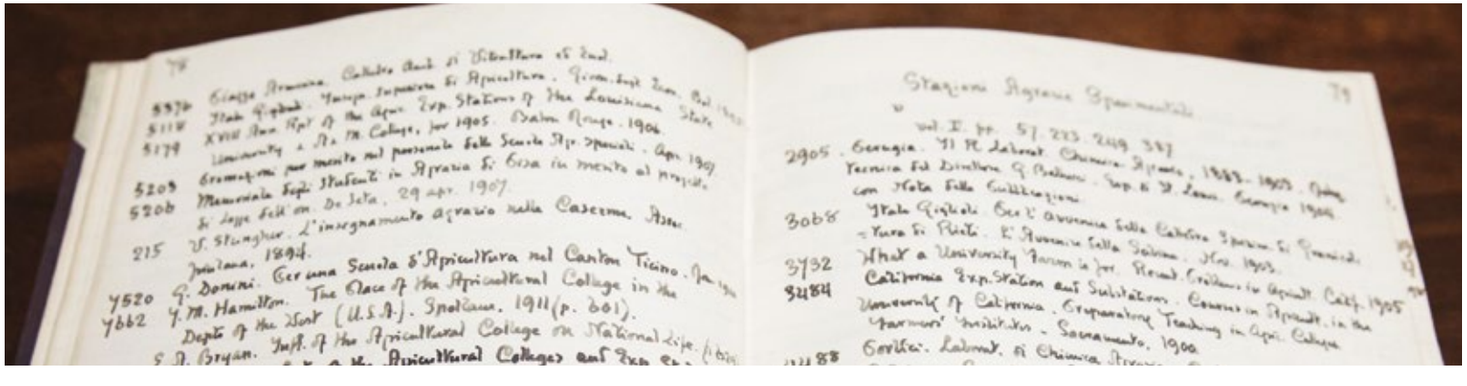
TALO GIGLIOLI (1852–1920), was professor of agricultural chemistry at the University of Pisa and was Head of Agriculture at the International Institute of Agriculture (IIA) in Rome. In the latter role he was in charge of a range of agricultural issues, from wheat cultivation to camphor production, and agrochemistry.

In 1925, his unparalleled private collection of publications and reference books was donated to the library. Comprising approximatively 10 000 volumes and brochures on agriculture and related topics, most published prior to 1905, the collection also includes a catalogue of 60 000 cards with full bibliographic references.



Italo Giglioli.
Close-up of the files containing pamphlets and brochures from the Giglioli collection.

(Previous page) Giglioli collection preserved in the FAO Library.



Card Catalogue of the Giglioli collection.
Handwritten catalogue inventory by Giglioli.

Digitalizing

OVER THE LAST CENTURY most UN libraries have become leading knowledge centers in their respective working areas, from the UN Dag Hammarskjöld Library in New York to the FAO Library in Rome. They have built collections of millions of printed publications which with the arrival of the World Wide Web have started to include always more digital publications. For example the FAO Library digitalized in recent years the entire *State of Food and Agriculture* series, making this important FAO resource accessible from any location in the world.

The Digital Age has enlarged the possibilities of libraries in terms of knowledge gathering and accessing in an unprecedented way. It has also raised a lot of questions within the library community about the sustainability of libraries in their traditional form, especially: Will libraries be substituted by the World Wide Web – according to many the ultimate global library, in which all past, present and future knowledge will be preserved?

Most likely libraries will evolve more and more into online libraries, but they will also increasingly become the places where quality information is extracted or – to use an agricultural metaphor – where the wheat is separated from the chaff. Most likely the FAO Library will continue to have the task of preserving its extraordinary patrimony of agricultural knowledge and making it accessible to its users, both in paper as in digital format.

[1] Rockmore, D. *The case for banning laptops in the classroom*. The New Yorker, June 6, 2014.

[2] Gray, R. *The world's knowledge is buried in a salt mine*. BBC future, 18 October 2016.

[3] Idem.

CHAPTER 5

The FAO Library Today

The Digital Age

Sarah Dister and Véronique Montes Baffier

Renovating the Library

From the end of the twentieth century, the renovation of the FAO Library was a high priority for the Organization. The most important reason was to create a Library suitable for the third millennium.

In 1998, FAO Library staff visited the newly constructed British Library in London. The goal of the visit was to view the new structure as it could serve as a benchmark for a good modern library layout and design and could provide some background with which to approach the renovation issues of the David Lubin Memorial Library.

A Project Team for Library Restructuring was set up meeting on a weekly basis to review development progress and to plan course of action. In 2000, the team issued the *Functional requirements of the new David Lubin Memorial Library: The FAO Library of the future* report.[1]

The Italian government decided to support the project. The renovation of the FAO library was carried out by "Architetti Associati" under the guidance of Piero Sartogo and Nathalie Grenon. Architetti Associati had already completed many famous buildings from the Italian Embassy in Washington, the Bulgari showroom in New York's 5th Avenue, to the Chiesa del Santo Volto di Gesù (Church of the Holy Face of Jesus) in Rome.

In 2001 the design for the Library was approved and in 2003 the works started. FAO Library staff moved to a temporary structure for two years to ensure that the library services could remain open. The book collection was moved outside of the Organization and could not be consulted for a couple of years. Only frequently consulted material was moved to an accessible reading area.

[1] FAO Archives. GIL. M17C4 Jan99-Dec2000: *the Functional requirements of the new DLML: The FAO library of the future*.

The design for the David Lubin Memorial Library realized by Architetti Associati under the guidance of Piero Sartogo.

The new structure contained a lot of glass, glass walls, glass floors and a glass cupola, to allow in as much light as possible into a space that due to its position on the ground floor was naturally dark. Its most striking architectural element consisted of a study platform with a dome-like glass roof. In library architecture the dome often over-arches the reading room, mainly as an inspiring reference to the origins of the library building: the first libraries were housed in temples and palaces. The dome represents the heavens, but also honor and prestige, the circle perfection.[2]

The new structure provided engaging and dynamic spaces for FAO staff to meet, discuss and undertake training. It offered a computer room or e-learning lab for training sessions and two large rooms for meetings called the Facility and the Culture Change rooms, with flexible furniture to accommodate teaching interactions. In 2012, with the inauguration of the international media and knowledge centre, donated by the United Arab Emirates, an e-learning facility was built in the Library.

A reading room with five spacious tables and closing doors provided the users with a quiet space for research study. It also contained part of the reference collection that included dictionaries, encyclopaedias, bibliographies, directories, indexes, statistical yearbooks and related materials. A reference room was located next to the reading room with the remaining reference collection, a reference desk where a librarian assisted users with their inquiries and 12 computers for their use.

The new look of the Library also proved to be to be an excellent setting for special events.

[2] Wiegand, W.A. & Davis, D. G. Jr., eds. 1994. *Encyclopedia of Library History*, New York, London, Routledge, p. 348-356.

(Facing page) The Italian Government decided to support the project of the library renovation. In 2005, the newly renovated FAO Library was opened.

1981
1960s


THE FAO LOGO

(First line, from left to right)

- 11 October 2012, Rome, Italy – FAO/AgMIP meeting, Global Annual Workshop, The Agricultural Model Inter-comparison and Improvement Project, Library, Culture Change Room, FAO headquarters.
- 17 October 2008 – Certified CountrySTAT Administrator Training in the Learning Lab, FAO Library, FAO headquarters.
- 04 June 2009, FAO headquarters, Rome – Results-based management workshop held in the "Facility" room of the FAO Library.

(Second line, from left to right)

- 15 October 2010, Rome – American actress and newly nominated FAO Goodwill Ambassador Susan Sarandon – being interviewed on the occasion of the World Food Day Ceremony in the FAO Library.
- 17 June 2013, Rome, Italy – Inauguration of Slovak Glass Art Exhibition, FAO Conference, 38th Session. FAO Library.
- 22 November 2016, Rome, Italy – For the International Year of Pulses (IYP) the library selected the most striking book covers on pulses and legumes from the 1910s to the present.

Reaching out to the field

Early on FAO understood the crucial role that the library could play within the framework of the Organization. As such, there was a firm commitment to facilitating access for FAO staff in the field to ensure that they would have the appropriate information resources available to them for regional projects. Already at the 7th session of the FAO Conference in 1953, it was recommended that "library facilities should be drawn upon by Regional Offices to increase their ability to assist the work being carried out in the regions"[3]. At the following session in 1955, the Conference noted with satisfaction the increase in library services in the field[4] and considered it important to continue extending these at the regional level.[5] In fact, this particular topic would be discussed at every FAO Conference from 1953 into the 1960s.[6]

During the decentralization programme in 1977, the FAO Representations – serving almost 90 developing countries – were urged to establish reference libraries in their offices. The aim was to provide support to staff and disseminate the Organization's work through their services and collections.[7] The first guidelines for organizing these collections and services were developed in 1980.

In recent years, new digital platforms for libraries have emerged, becoming significant vehicles for global information dissemination. The FAO Library has therefore been focusing on managing a more comprehensive approach to digital library resources in order to support the field offices in the most effective and seamless way.

[3] FAO. 1953. *Report of the Conference of FAO*, seventh session, Rome, 23 November – 11 December 1953, par. 207.

[4] FAO. 1955. *Report of the Conference of FAO*, eighth session, Rome, 1-25 November 1955, par. 289.

[5] FAO. 1955. *Report of the Conference of FAO*, eighth session, Rome, 1-25 November 1955, par. 293.

[6] At the 9th Conference the issue was raised of extending library services not only to FAO technical staff, but also to Member Governments, their institutions and staff engaged in FAO's fields of work. The Director-General requested a more active exploration on how to achieve this. At 10th session the Conference was gratified to learn that the FAO library services had been scaled up and reaffirmed its aim at serving not only Headquarters but the regional offices and field staff. In 1961 the Conference recognized the need to have FAO library services in countries without well-developed library systems of their own and suggested these could be best provided through corresponding libraries in each Member Country. At its 12th session in 1963, the Conference stressed the need to make more extensive use of the vast amount of technical information collected by FAO and make it widely available to Member Countries and technicians, if possible by establishing documentation centres. In 1965, the Conference recommended a generous policy of granting Depository Library status in Member Countries and re-examining the question of granting libraries to Regional Offices.

[7] David Lubin Memorial Library. 1986. *FAO representation libraries. Guidelines for their organization and management*, Rome, FAO.

Barbados FAO library.

FAO library in San Salvador, El Salvador.

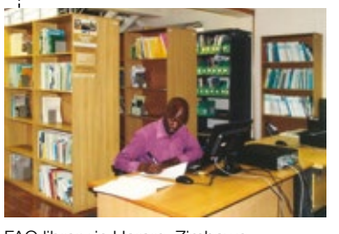
FAO library in Honduras.

FAO library in Ecuador.

FAO library in Bolivia.

FAO library in Libreville, Gabon.

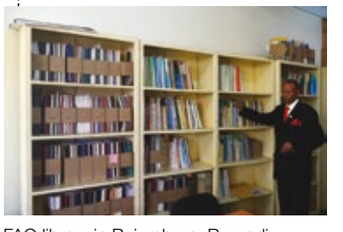
Central African Republic – FAO project to fund the Centre national de documentation agricole.



FAO library in Harare, Zimbawe.

Entrance of the FAO Library in Bangkok, Thailand.

The library of FAO's Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (RAP) in Bangkok.



FAO library in Bujumbura, Burundi.

Libraries in the field 1952–2016

Operative libraries in the field

FAO Libraries in the field 1952-2017

This map shows the wide range of libraries in the decentralized offices from 1952 to date. In the 80s an average of 35 libraries were operative. In recent years, the FAO Library has been focusing on managing a more comprehensive approach to digital library resources in order to support the field offices in the most effective and seamless way.

Merging the Archives with the Library

In September 2015, the FAO Archives, which were established in 1957, were merged with the FAO David Lubin Memorial Library. The Archives comprise inactive records of the Organization's Secretariat (i.e. its headquarters, regional and country offices) which have been selected and preserved for their historical or continuing administrative value. The records document the growth of FAO and its administrative history, policies, major programmes and working methods.

The Organization's acts, proceedings and agreements of significant legal, administrative or financial value are also preserved in the archives as are the records of several predecessor bodies of FAO such as the International Institute of Agriculture (IIA), and the Centre International de Sylviculture, CIS). Furthermore, the FAO Archives serve as the depository for the historical records of the joint UN/FAO World Food Programme. In 2016 alone, the equivalent of 79,4 metres of new archival material was accessioned.

Throughout its existence, the archives have been serving thousands of staff members and external researchers of Member Countries. In 2016, 800 historical records were consulted by external researchers and approximately 300 were consulted by FAO staff.

Shelves containing 2 500 linear metres of hard copy records (paper) and more than 2 500 microfilm reels on 16-mm size.

The UN Sustainable Development Goals and libraries

On 25 September 2015, Heads of State and Government and High Representatives decided on new Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) while meeting at the United Nations headquarters in New York:

> "On behalf of the peoples we serve, we have adopted a historic decision on a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Goals and targets. We commit ourselves to working tirelessly for the full implementation of this Agenda by 2030."[8]

This universal agenda consists of 17 SDGs and 169 targets. The SDG that most refers to the library community is SDG 16.10: Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation. Although other SDGs are of interest to the library sector, including quality education (SDG 4), gender equality (SDG 5), industry, innovation and infrastructure (SDG 9), sustainable cities and communities (SDG 11), and partnerships for the goals (SDG 17), the FAO Library is naturally involved in the zero hunger (SDG 2) goals and targets.

By focusing on its acquisition programme, the library is enhancing the collection with the newest literature issued on the SDGs. In-depth literature searches retrieved from the most comprehensive online databases are performed on a daily basis to support FAO staff in achieving the targets. In addition, all publications in the FAO Library catalogue are indexed with the AGROVOC thesaurus – a multilingual controlled vocabulary covering all the areas of interest of FAO – by mapping its concepts to the various SDGs in order to extract SDG-specific bibliographies.

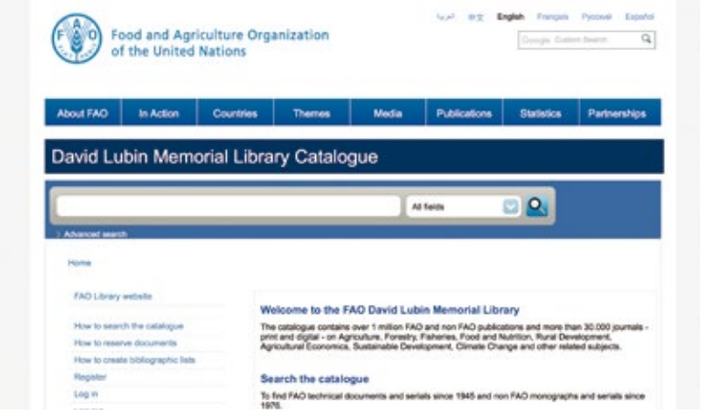
[8] UN. 2015. Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In: UN Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform [online]. [Cited 9 October 2017]. https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld

Providing access to digital content

SINCE 2010, THE LIBRARY HAS BECOME FULLY IMMERSED IN THE DIGITAL AGE, exploring and implementing new technologies and computerizing services.

In 2014, the Library implemented a new open source Integrated Library System (ILS) named KOHA. It reinforced the metadata input of all FAO and non-FAO publications and its delivery to external providers to disseminate FAO publications with the highest quality metadata.

Apart from investing in a modern library system, the acquisition team also started to shift its focus towards e-books instead of printed books. Agreements with publishers have increased the access to thousands of ebooks for FAO staff.



In addition, the Library has started to work closely with aggregators, platforms and publishers to find ways to bundle content and delivery. Several agreements were reached with providers to disseminate FAO publications through their platforms and databases, increasing FAO input exposure and discoverability worldwide.

The official Document repository of FAO provides free access to all its publications in a digital format.

Accessing digital FAO publications

FAO is committed to broad and open access to all its publications. They are made freely available in a digital format through FAO's official online repository. The repository provides direct access to all corporate FAO publications, official reports, conference meetings and infographic documents.

In terms of digitalizing, the Library has made huge efforts and progress in digitalizing FAO publications. For example, all FAO Conference, Council and Regional Conference reports are available online, as are also many Committee reports, such as those of the Committee on Commodity Problems.

Many important FAO series have already been digitalized, such as the State of Food and Agriculture and the Yearbook of Forest products, and many more are to follow. The goal is to have all FAO publications available in a digital format in the FAO repository, accessible from any location in the world.

A primary school visiting the Library, looking at FAO publications published for children. 2016.
21 March 2017, Rome, Italy (from left to right) José Graziano Da Silva, Director-General, Veronqiue Montes Baffier, OIC FAO Library and Konousi Konrote, President of Fiji, in front of the portrait of David Lubin.

Serving the agricultural community

THE PRIMARY GOAL OF THE FAO LIBRARY is to sustain research in all fields of work of FAO, providing access to a wide range of core information resources, serving FAO staff in headquarters and the field offices, as well as stakeholders and member countries.

The FAO Library today is as relevant as ever, receiving every year thousands of visitors and information queries, from FAO staff to researchers, from elementary schools to head of states. On 10 June 2017 the FAO Library celebrated its 65th anniversary. Its motto has invariably be the guiding principle of librarians and libraries around the world: *aliis inserviendo consumer*.[9]

[9] In 1820 Friedrich Ebert, Chief Librarian of the Dresden Royal library, wrote *The Education of the Librarian*. In this treatise he suggested the motto: *aliis inserviendo consumer* (consumed in the service of others) - the librarian must put himself entirely at the service of others.

UPON ENTERING FAO HEADQUARTERS, most visitors are unaware that they are literally walking on top of one and a half million publications on agriculture and all its infinite related fields. They are stored one floor below in the basement of the entrance building, a wealth of knowledge, there to be consulted, to help shed light on or put into perspective, the issues FAO is working on today.

The end

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(1) Archives (acronyms):

ASC. Archivio Storico Capitolino (Rome).
DLA. David Lubin Archives (FAO, Rome).
IIA/CIS. Institut International d'Agriculture/Centre International de la Sylviculture (FAO, Rome).

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THIS BOOK TELLS the story of the historic events that shaped the Library of FAO. It starts with the International Institute of Agriculture (IIA), the predecessor of FAO, founded in 1905 in Rome by King Vittorio Emanuele III upon the initiative of David Lubin. When FAO was founded in 1945 it was quickly decided that it should become the custodian of the IIA and its Library, which at that time was one of the largest agricultural research collections in the world.

The FAO Library was officially opened in Rome in 1952 and named the David Lubin Memorial Library in recognition of Lubin's contribution to international cooperation in the field of agriculture. Over the last 65 years the Library has amassed its own collection, collecting and preserving each and every FAO document ever published. Today the David Lubin Memorial Library preserves one and a half million volumes, which together form the memory of FAO.

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