

SUMMARY:

Large quantities of 16th-Century Italian ‘popular’ books – the books read or ‘listened to’ by everyone during the Early Modern Period, printed with poor quality material and having usually a short life expectancy – sometime after the 16th century found their way to the UK to join the largest single collection of Italian 16th-century books outside Italy, the British Library (BL). This library preserves today a substantial number of early Italian editions which do not survive in any Italian library and are still not adequately recorded.

The objectives of the PATRIMONIT project were:

A) Bibliographical:

- 1) To survey all the 16th-century Italian ‘popular’ books now at the BL which do not survive in any Italian library;
- 2) to define new rules for cataloguing 16th-century ‘popular’ books and catalogue approx. 250 items in the PATRIMONIT database, entering the data in EDIT16 and in the CERL Thesaurus.

B) Historical: study the edition history of these books using archival sources, that is to examine the historical circumstances related to their survival and international circulation with a new methodology.

Carnelos demonstrated that this ephemeral material is of great importance in reconstructing the socio-cultural history of a country. Specifically, her aim was to understand when and why ‘popular’ books underwent a change in their perceived value, from books to be used and reused to books that were considered worthy of collection, and how historical events and cultural policies working across time and space influenced this change.

Supported by three centres of excellence (the Consortium of European Research Libraries or CERL, the British Library and the Istituto Centrale per il catalogo unico delle biblioteche italiane e per le informazioni bibliografiche or ICCU), the PATRIMONIT project combined the more recent developments in three main disciplines (Library Science, History and ICT), to tackle historical questions which cannot be approached and successfully solved individually.

WORK PERFORMED FROM THE BEGINNING OF THE PROJECT TO THE END OF THE PERIOD COVERED BY THE REPORT AND MAIN RESULTS ACHIEVED SO FAR (FOR THE FINAL PERIOD PLEASE INCLUDE AN OVERVIEW OF THE RESULTS AND THEIR EXPLOITATION)

The applicant soon identified the genre on which she wanted to focus and which has enabled her to trace the history of these popular books from Italy to the UK: *Sacre Rappresentazioni*. At the same time, the study of this type of editions allowed her to reconstruct the interest of the Library and more generally of 19th-century England towards this kind of material.

The research has been conducted on **256** 16th-century books in the British Library, mainly part of the collection of *sacre rappresentazioni* of the library, which is one of the biggest collections of these books outside Italy. In addition, for a comparison, **74** similar books have been analysed at the Bodleian Library in Oxford. **Of a total of 330 records now in PATRIMONIT, 81** (68 unique copies, 8 unique variants, 5 books surviving only abroad) **are the books which do not survive in any Italian libraries, that is 24.5% of the total!**

The analysis 'book in hand' of the books has been integrated with systematic study of archival material of the BL, which is now partially at the British Museum and partially in the British Library.

OBJECTIVE A: *To create the PATRIMONiT database and to enter the data in EDIT16*

Part of the PATRIMONiT project has involved the creation of a database, PATRIMONiT, that was constructed using international standards for describing the specific material, textual and visual characteristics of popular books and their provenance history. Developed by Alexander Jahnke of Data Conversion Group (University of Göttingen), the PATRIMONiT database has been realised in accordance with CERL's criteria of transferability and re-usability of bibliographical data. This means that it is an open access database with fields specifically created for the study of popular books, the data from which can be intelligently retrieved, combined and manipulated, as well as transferred into digital and other research contexts, so becoming useful for other research projects.

PATRIMONiT is operational from December 2016 and is available on line, hosted and maintained by CERL, and freely available on its website [http://data.cerl.org/patrimonit/_search]. All the preliminary operations have been supervised by Dr Cristina Dondi who is the creator of MEI (Material Evidence in Incunabula), which is used as a model, and supervisor of the current project.

Every record in PATRIMONiT has an ID number composed of the letter "PT" followed by an internal number and it is composed by three different areas or data sets:

1. *Bibliographical data* relating to 16th-century Italian popular **editions** which are preserved often in a single or very rare copy in the British Library (BL). These data include authors, titles, printers, place and year of publication, the physical description of the editions. They are entered directly into EDIT16, the open-access Italian National Census of all books printed in Italy between 1501-1600 and of books in Italian printed elsewhere, and then imported into PATRIMONiT via the Heritage of the Printed Book Database (=HPB), the 7.5 million-records strong bibliographical database of books printed up to the 1850, run by CERL. *New authority data* concerning authors, editors, printers, booksellers, etc. were entered in EDIT16 and then imported into the CERL Thesaurus, an open-access database with currently over 1.3 million records containing forms of imprint places, imprint names, personal names and corporate names as found in material printed between 1450 and c. 1830.
2. *Provenance data* relating to the **specific copy** held by the BL (or, in future, any other library). They concern the holding information (library, country, collection, shelfmark) and any material evidence (i.e. the physical evidence of ownership, use and transmission, such as bindings, ex-libris, manuscript notes, stamps, prices, etc.) which can be found in the books. This area of PATRIMONiT has the same fields and structure as the MEI database template. In this way, the two databases are interconnected in order to explore new possibilities for integrated researches. For this reason, the index of owners, the geonames, the classification of historical shelfmarks are shared with MEI. The emphasis on documentary sources of PATRIMONiT resulted in the creation of a new field in MEI itself relating to documentary evidence (invoice number, quotes in related correspondence, etc.).
3. *Other data related to the books*, such as genre, text form, other texts in the book, fonts, images, physical conditions of the copy (paper and type defects, status and restorative measures), constitute other new fields in PATRIMONiT, expressly planned to describe popular books and to track their journeys from Italy to England.
4. *Images*: all the images printed in the books are currently being described in PATRIMONiT in words and with ICONCLASS codes. They will also be included in 15cILLUSTRATION, the image-matching tool developed for the 15cBOOKTRADE by the Visual Geometry Group of the Engineering Dept. of the University of Oxford. The inclusion of 16th-century illustration will allow the detection of the re-use, copying, and iconographic continuity of woodblocks and images across the 15th and 16th centuries. To facilitate their storage, retrieval and usability and the future

comparisons which will be made, any image is identified with the following ID: Library name (according to CERL Holding Institutions codes)_shelfmark_foliation. A preliminary test on images of 16th-century Italian popular books was presented on 23 February 2018 at the Seminar in the History of the Book, Oxford, Weston Library. The same system will be employed by other researchers in their projects on 16th century books.

All these data are available in open access in the corresponding databases (EDIT16, CERL Thesaurus) and with a direct link to them from PATRIMONiT.

Standards and Metadata

1. The *bibliographical data* are recorded into EDIT16 according to the Italian standards for cataloguing rare books (*Guida alla catalogazione in SBN. Materiale antico*, Rome, ICCU, 2016, available online at the link http://norme.iccu.sbn.it/index.php/Guida_antico). The database is provided under the term of the CC-BY 3.0 licence and it is powered by Soseby Srl.
2. *Provenance data* are collected in PATRIMONiT developed by Alexander Jahnke of Data Conversion Group, University of Göttingen following the same data model adopted in MEI (<http://15cbooktrade.ox.ac.uk/distribution-use/mei-fields/>), for which see below, “Data sharing”.
3. *New authority data* in the CERL Thesaurus can be accessed by a remote software application (e.g. a database system) via the Search and Retrieve URL (SRU) protocol. SRU is a newly emerging protocol for querying remote databases. It might be understood as a descendant of the widely used Z39.50 protocol, but based on XML and HTTP and thus remarkably reducing the complexity of Z39.50. Records are available in MARCXML and a specific output format for implementations of Assisted Searching. The CERL Thesaurus data is available under the terms of Etalab’s Open Licence, which can be considered equivalent to ODC-BY and CC-BY 2.0.
4. *Other data related to the books:* genres are extracted from the controlled vocabularies of the Rare Books and Manuscript Section (RBMS) of the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL), a division of the American Library Association (ALA) (<http://rbms.info/vocabularies/index.shtml>). Subjects and keywords are based on a new classification created by Dr Dondi within the 15cBOOKTRADE Project and applied to MEI. Paper quality is classified using the grades adopted by Timothy Barrett and his team (University of Iowa) in their analysis of 14-19th century European handmade papers (T. Barrett *et alii*, ‘Non-Destructive Analysis of 14th–19th Century European Handmade Papers’, *Restaurator*, 2016, 37(2), pp. 93-135); the description of type defects is based on the most recent studies (C. Bolton, *The Fifteenth Century Printing Practices of Johann Zainer, Ulm, 1473–1478*, Oxford, Oxford Bibliographical Society, 2016); the cutting of the edges, i.e. the three outer edges of a book’s leaves, is defined according to the Ligatus Bookbinding glossary (Ligatus Research Centre, University of the Arts, London). Type defects with the related photos will be available on the website of PATRIMONiT.

Data sharing

PATRIMONiT went live at the beginning of 2018; it is hosted by CERL and widely and freely accessible to everyone. The Consortium of European Research Libraries (CERL, <http://www.cerl.org>) is a company limited by guarantee, incorporated in England, whose membership is composed of an active community of over 250 European and American libraries including national and state libraries, research libraries, and smaller institutions with specialist collections. Its services include the HPB database, the CERL Thesaurus, MEI and the CERL Portal.

Like MEI, PATRIMONiT is an Apache **CouchDB** database (open source). It is a NoSQL or non-relational database, which uses **JSON** (= Java Script Object Notation, an open standard format) as internal data format. CouchDB is used for data storage and for the generation of alphabetical browse lists. Searches (full-text, boolean and fuzzy), geographical searches, aggregations, and statistics, are supported by **Elastic Search**, a Lucene-based open source indexing engine. **YAML** is used for editing

administration and facets can be set up according to individual's requirements. Further information at the links

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CouchDB>; <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/NoSQL>;
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/JSON>; <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elasticsearch>;
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lucene>; <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/YAML>;
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Faceted_search

PATRIMONiT shares with MEI a number of satellite databases: Personal and institutional names of ownership are collected in the database Owners of Incunabula (http://data.cerl.org/owners/_search), where further bio-bibliographical information can be found. This provides links to all the copies owned by the same person or institution, allowing for the reconstruction of dispersed collections. Provenance locations are also linked to another satellite database, Geographic Regions (http://data.cerl.org/area/_search), which offers geocoordinates (georeference.com) and map locations. Finally, the database Holding Institutions (http://data.cerl.org/holdinst/_search) contains the names of the libraries listed in MEI, PATRIMONiT and ISTC. The shared use of these resources guarantees maximum interoperability.

Archiving and preservation (including storage and backup)

All the data are safely stored and regularly subject to a backup process in certified repertories for long term preservation and curation.

The *bibliographical data* is preserved by the Istituto Centrale per il catalogo unico delle biblioteche italiane e per le informazioni bibliografiche (ICCU) as part of the National Census of 16th-century Italian books financed by the Italian Ministero per i beni e le attività culturali.

CERL ensures a long-term preservation of all the data entered into PATRIMONiT. The Data Conversion Group of Göttingen University hosts and maintains PATRIMONiT on behalf of CERL.

OBJECTIVE B: *To study the history of the Italian editions in the British Library using archival sources*

The PATRIMONiT project demonstrated that British collectors were keen on buying Italian popular books of the 16th century especially from the second half of the 18th century onwards, when in Italy the same material was often neglected. The main bibliophiles in the UK, such as William Roscoe (1753-1831), John Towneley (1731-1813), Richard Heber (1773-1833), possessed in their libraries volumes of Italian 16th-century popular books. When they died, this material tended to be dispersed at auction sales. Due to changes in the scope of acquisition and preservation policies led by Antonio Panizzi, who worked in the British Museum Library from 1831 to 1866, becoming Keeper of Printed Books and later Principal Librarian, the British Museum turned into a potential buyer. Official reports, letters and minutes confirmed that many collections sold in France, Italy, Belgium, Germany, England were bought by the British Museum Library mainly during the first 70 years of the 19th century. The analysis of similar material at the Bodleian Library has highlighted the participation also of this library to the main sales of 16th-century Italian popular books in the country, with an increase in the second half of the 19th century, probably due to a higher purchase grant in this period.

The following series have been systematically seen in the British Museum:

- CE 1 - General Meetings, Vols 6-8 (1836-1866)
- CE 3 - Trustees Standing Committee Meeting Minutes, Vols. 16-26 (1837-1856)
- CE 4 - Trustees Original Papers (Letters), Vols. 16, 17, 21, 30,
- CE 5 - Officers' Reports, Vols. 18-85 (1837-1869)
- CE 7 - Sub_Committees, Vol 1 (1837-1849); vol 2 (1849-1876)

The following series and volumes have been systematically seen in the British Library:

DH 1, Panizzi Papers, 15 vols.

DH 2, Correspondence, Trustees' Minutes and Keepers' Reports, vols 1-8, 16, 37 (II), 44 (I), 45 (II), 47 (II), 51 (II), 75, 78, 89, 139
DH 52, Accession registers, vol. 1, 2, 3, 9, 10, 11, 12, 15, 18, 19, 25, 26, 27, 28
DH 65/1 Staff list 1849
Box 751
Box 861, Rye, "Growth of the British Museum, 1838-1872"

In order to have a more general overview of the period, the printed reports of the library and Panizzi Correspondence (Panizzi's Correspondence 1823-1880, Add. MSS. 36714-27, vols. I-XIV) have also been analysed.

PROGRESS BEYOND THE STATE OF THE ART, EXPECTED RESULTS UNTIL THE END OF THE PROJECT AND POTENTIAL IMPACTS (INCLUDING THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT AND THE WIDER SOCIETAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE PROJECT SO FAR)

MILESTONES

The PATRIMONiT project has reached some important bibliographical milestones:

1. The Agreement EDIT16-BL: for the first time EDIT16, the Italian National database of all books printed in Italy between 1501-1600 and of books in Italian printed elsewhere, was officially opened to a foreign library, the British Library. Thanks to an agreement signed on 10 May 2017, the BL appears among other Italian libraries in the searchable field dedicated to extant copies. Now more than **8,945** BL books are searchable in EDIT16 and, of these, more than **800** are unique copies. A similar operation has started also at the Bodleian Library of the University of Oxford: now 72 records, of these 16 unique copies, are fully described in EDIT16. An agreement EDIT16-Bodleian is under consideration.
2. Contributions to EDIT16: around 500 bibliographical entries; around 800 images of editions; circa 170 links to digital copies.
3. The creation of the PATRIMONiT database: the Marie S. Curie pilot project allowed to create this fundamental research tool for the material, historical and bibliographical study of popular books and for tracing the copies of Italian books abroad. The database imports the bibliographical element from the Heritage of Printed Books database (**HPB**), which in turns has received it from EDIT16, and it is totally interoperable with MEI. There are now **330** records from the British Library and the Bodleian Library, but this number will soon increase with the creation of new records for hundreds of further items the applicant has already identified.
4. The opening of HPB to the general public: the project has contributed to make the Heritage of Printed Books database available without any restrictions. The HPB is now freely available from hpb.cerl.org (January 2018).
5. Material characteristics of popular books: the research has scientifically proved for the first time that popular books were printed on low quality paper and cheaply. On a corpus of 250 books, the paper quality was usually between average (114) and poor (124) and more than three printing defects were found in each book.
7. The results of the in-depth and systematical analysis of archival material are visible in the records described in PATRIMONiT and fully accessible to everyone. The monograph 'From Cheap Print to Rare Ephemera: 16th-Century Italian 'Popular' Books at the British Library' (provisional title) containing these results has been drafted and the applicant will continue to work in order to publish it soon. Partial results have been disseminated over the two years through conferences, talks and seminars.
8. The testing of a new methodology to study book history which combines material, archival, bibliographical sources to analyse a book, its history and the socio-cultural contexts of its production,

circulation and multiple uses was discussed by expert scholars in book history in the international conference “New sources for Book History. The Combined Methodological Approach for Manuscript and Printed Books”, organised by the applicant in collaboration with CERL and the BL, in the person of respectively Dr Cristina Dondi and Dr Stephen Parkin, held at the British Library on November 28th 2017. The proceedings, the video and the photos of the event will be published on the CERL website in spring 2018.

PATRIMONiT was a successful pilot for finding a model to catalogue the copy specific aspects of post-incunabula in the same way incunabula are catalogued in the Material Evidence in Incunabula (MEI) database: other projects and libraries are now planning to use it.