

PALEO
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TREASURE MAPS

Twenty Itineraries
Designed to Help
You Explore the
Cultural Heritage
of Palermo and
its Province



Soprintendenza per i Beni culturali
e ambientali di Palermo

PAPER TREASURES

LIBRARIES AND ARCHIVES

edited by **Claudia Oliva**

REGIONE SICILIANA
Assessorato dei Beni culturali
e dell'Identità siciliana



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“Investiamo nel vostro futuro”

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Twenty Itineraries Designed to Help You Explore the Cultural Heritage of Palermo and its Province

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CIP - Biblioteca centrale della Regione siciliana “Alberto Bombace”

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PAPER TREASURES

Libraries and Archives

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In Italian one says “carta”, a word of Latin origin borrowed from the Greek. However, in English one says *paper* and in French or German *papier*, clearly derived from the word papyrus, the plant used by the Egyptians to obtain their writing material, which they conserved in long rolls (*volumina*: volumes or that which is wound up or rolled up). In Late Antique times a book made up out of single sheets, sewn together along the spine was known as a *codex* and the surface prepared to receive writing was originally animal skin, known as parchment. But let us use, for the sake of brevity and convenience, the word paper to indicate that ductile and lightweight material that for 5,000 years has been used by man to jot down his thoughts: one of the most humble of inventions, but simultaneously perhaps one of enormous historical importance. Writing has permitted man to transmit the memory of the human race; but it has been paper (papyrus, parchment), infinitely more versatile than stone or terracotta tablets (and far more vulnerable unfortunately), that has allowed writing, rather than just accompanying history, to become an extension of it and has rendered possible the development of civilisation.

By its very nature, paper is subject to accumulation. It has served, century after century, to register everything thought worthy of preserving: works of poetry and philosophy, every kind of legal and administrative document (regulations, title deeds, legal proceedings, taxation). And, by its very process of silent accumulation, paper has created over time the need for large depositories, nearly always private or even secret and belonging to the authorities, holy orders or social groups. But from the start of the Renaissance, and with ever-increasing efficiency due to the

rationalism of the 17th–18th century, the paper depositories were opened to the public. This fostered knowledge (the libraries) and historical research (the archives); and they ultimately became both theoretically and effectively, part of the common good.

Libraries and Archives possess a most peculiar sense of fascination by virtue of their secluded character (even if they are no longer secret), of their long history and of the enormous store of historical memory that they house. This fascination has increased over the last thirty years since, thanks to the book “*In the name of the Rose*” by Umberto Eco, libraries and archives have become the setting for stories of intrigue and mystery. This also depends, most likely, on the fact that paper is no longer the principal means of preserving enormous amounts of data. It has been replaced by digital and electronic support systems.

But it is exactly the fact that paper belongs to another era that renders it interesting. Palermo and its surroundings offer a great many absorbing places for those who want to explore “the world of paper”. One cannot allow the tourist to forget that the city can boast of possessing the very first European paper document (from 1109, now in the Palermo State Archives). Moreover, the story of the Libraries and the Archives together with the most interesting pieces in their collections, can be likened to a drill that pierces the various levels of the history of the city, for so many years the capital (or main city) of a kingdom. A story not only of dry information and data—that of the immaterial content impressed on the paper—but also of fascinating and incredibly beautiful objects. This volume of the Treasure Maps can only be an introduction to this complex and multifaceted world.

LIBRARIES

Claudia Oliva

The development of Libraries over the course of time is without a doubt one of the indispensable elements necessary for the evaluation of the history, as well as the cultural and scientific leanings of a society. Intellectual activity is closely linked to books and therefore to Libraries that, albeit they have diverse tasks and functions, are an indispensable support of learning and favour the diffusion of information and scientific progress. The historical evolution of Libraries in Italy is closely related to the profound historical and geographical changes that have altered the country over the centuries, and particularly from the 18th century onwards. There are several fundamental stages in this process.

In the Middle Ages the amanuensis or scribe had a determining role in the monastic *scriptoria* as their work ensured the transmission of texts by Greek and Latin authors, thereby furthering the formation of new book collections. During the Renaissance the humanistic culture boosted the creation of new secular Libraries at the various Courts. Furthermore the invention of the printing press, which greatly increased the number of books in circulation, also helped form the modern day concept of the Public Library. The 17th and 18th centuries were a further determining moment, when the impulse of the Illuministic culture created a heightened awareness of the value of information and its diffusion. The first large Italian Public Libraries, founded in the 17th and 18th centuries, such as the Ambrosiana in Milan, the Angelica in Roma, some of today's National Libraries in Florence, Rome, Naples, Milan, Turin as well as numerous University Libraries, became places of study and not just buildings for the preservation of

memorabilia.

And finally, during the period of the Unification of Italy, the intense moral and political tension of those years resulted in the complete overhaul of the role of the Public Libraries.

1869 marked the approval of the first "Guidelines for the Management of Public Libraries" together with intense cultural debate and the consequent profound renewal of the concept of librarianship. The National Libraries of Florence and Rome assumed a leading role as central National Libraries, University Libraries were given specific responsibilities for the support of scientific research, Local Libraries were created in many cities and minor towns and the "public libraries" were born. However, the historical expansion of Libraries in Italy has not been consistent and there are profound regional differences, the greatest concentration of Libraries being in the North.

In 18th century Sicily the first large Public Libraries were founded in the Island's principal cities. As the result of a

cultural climate characterised by zealous philosophical and historical research, the Libraries expanded greatly throughout the following century. Up to then scholars had only been able to utilise either the ecclesiastical libraries or the private collections of the nobility, such as the magnificent library of Francesco Sclafani in Palermo, which was later donated to the Congregation of the Oratory of San Filippo Neri all'Olivella, in 1647, with the proviso that it be open to the public. The first Public Libraries were created in Sicily by members of the High Clergy or the Sicilian Nobility or as the result of the patronage of men of learning who donated their book collection for public consultation. Newly founded Libraries also enriched their collections with books from the libraries of various Religious Orders as a result of two historical factors: in 1767 the Jesuits were expelled from the Island and in 1866 the Italian State suppressed the monastic orders and confiscated their property. In chronological order the first was the Library founded in Messina by the scholar Giuseppe Longo, who, in 1734, left his private collection of books to the Cathedral Chapter. In 1755, the Benedictine Abbott Vito M. Amico of Catania, who had acquired the collection of the historian Gian Battista Caruso (1673-1724), founded the University Library. This was further endowed with a part of the collection from the Jesuits of the Val di Noto, the rest of which went to the Civic Library of Catania, founded in 1869 with the precious manuscripts from the Abbey of the Cassinian Monks of San Nicolò l' Arena, and further endowed with the personal library of Antonio Ursino

Recupero. In 1760, Palermo, having received an important gift from the Bishop of Mazara, Marco La Cava, was granted by the City Senate the possibility of founding a Library in the Casa Professa, in premises which had been obtained by Alessandro Vanni, Prince of San Vincenzo, from Ferdinand III in 1755. In 1778, on the instigation of Gabriele Lancilotto, Prince of Torremuzza, Ferdinand also decreed the founding of the Royal Library, inaugurated in 1782 in rooms in the Collegio Massimo of the Jesuits with an initial grant of the book collection confiscated to the priests. In 1765, in Agrigento, a donation from the Bishop Andrea Lucchesi Palli created the "Lucchesiana" which still bears the following inscription in the entrance hall: "*Nihil solvito, ditior abito, frequentius redito*" (you will not pay anything, you will leave enriched, return more frequently). In 1757, in Syracuse, the Library Alagoniana was founded at the behest of G.B. Alagona. The other principal Sicilian cities founded Libraries in the 19th century: the Fardelliana in Trapani in 1825, the Scarabelli in Caltanissetta in 1862, the Civic Library in Enna in 1867. This "*Itinerary*" in no way pretends to offer an exhaustive panorama of the various Libraries present in Palermo and its Province, but endeavours to provide a guide to the tourist or scholar wishing to discover just a few of the more significant Libraries, not only because of their history or their precious collection of manuscripts, but also for the architectural and artistic value of the buildings housing these important collections. Let us begin our itinerary.

Biblioteca Centrale
della Regione Siciliana.
Portico and arcade

**BIBLIOTECA CENTRALE DELLA
REGIONE SICILIANA
"ALBERTO BOMBACE"**

Rita Di Natale

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bcrs@regione.sicilia.it

Opening Hours

Monday to Friday 8.30–18.45

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The Biblioteca Centrale della Regione Siciliana "A. Bombace" (Central Library of the Sicilian Region "A. Bombace") is situated in the monumental building of the Collegio Massimo of the Jesuits, an imposing edifice built by the Society of Jesus in 1586 on the Cassaro, Palermo's main road, nowadays Corso Vittorio Emanuele (**fig. 1**).

The foundation of this *Royal Library* dates from 1782. Ferdinand IV of Naples and III of Sicily, following the expulsion of the Jesuits from the Kingdom in 1767, had entrusted the task of constructing a *Library of ample proportions, well stocked, and at the service of the public*, to the *Deputazione de' regi studi* (Sicilian Council or the "Deputation of the Royal Studies").

The Library today holds a rich and precious heritage, which over the course of time has grown, thanks to numerous donations, amongst which figures the prestigious collection of Gabriele Lancellotto Castelli, Prince of Torremuzza, considered the real founder of the *Royal Library*, and whose *ex-libris* (bookplate) nowadays is the Library's logo.

The first director of the Royal Library was the German Joseph Sterzinger, a great scholar, who administered it up until 1805, the year in which, with the return of the Jesuits to the Kingdom, the Library and the



College were returned to the Society. In 1812 the Library was chosen as the seat of the Sicilian Parliament and in the night between the 19th and 20th July, the three *branches* of Parliament, ecclesiastical, baronial and state-owned, gathered together in the *grande aula* on the first floor and approved the Foundations of the Sicilian Constitution. Up until 1859, with the sole exception of the period of the National Government of Sicily, from January 1848 to June 1849, the Library was administered by the Jesuits. In 1860, with the Unity of Italy, the Jesuits were expelled for the third time and the Library, under the guidance of Filippo Evola, took the title of Biblioteca Nazionale, the *National Library* of Palermo. The Library became progressively richer with the addition of circa 48,000 manuscripts, originating from the Libraries of the Augustian, Basilian, Benedictine, Carmelitan, Crociferian, Dominican, Franciscan and Oratorian Orders, obtained after the suppression of the Religious Orders, as ordained by Law n. 3036 7th July 1866. Amongst these, of particular significance



are those relative to the Library of the Benedictines of San Martino delle Scale and of Santa Maria Nuova of Monreale. Many of the books of the Library of San Martino are characterised by a typical binding, carried out by the Abbey itself during the years between 1629-1649 and known as the “*Martiniana*”, famous for the elegant execution of the drypoint engravings and impressions made with black and gold onlays by using small finishing irons (fig. 2). The Monreale Collection, gifted in 1939, is also extremely precious, consisting of the 345 documents composing the *Tabulario di S. Maria Nuova*, 33 manuscripts dated between the 12th and 16th century, 57 incunabulae and a sixteenth-century edition of the *Horae divinae virginis Mariae*, printed on parchment in Paris by Germain Hardouyn, around 1521 (fig. 3). The *Tabulario* documents, both those printed on parchment and on paper, were normally privileges granted by the Kings of Sicily to the church or the monastery together with Papal Bulls confirming the royal concessions. Of particular importance amongst these scrolls is



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*Horae divinae virginis
Mariae*. Paris 1521.
Miniature depicting
Psalm 114

the famous *Privilege bestowed on King Henry VI of Swabia*, with a gold seal and dated 11th January 1195, a.ind. XIII, by which the King and his wife Constance took the Church of Santa Maria Nuova of Monreale, founded by William II, under their protection, thereby confirming all its privileges (fig. 5).

The collection of manuscripts from the Archaeological Museum of Palermo is also worthy of note, as it contains, amongst other things, the precious illuminated codex, known as the *Evangelary of Queen Constance of Sicily*, produced around 1180 in the Levant area and included in the *stemma codicum* of the New Testament of Nestle-Aland (fig. 4). Further additions to the Library came from book collections, either donated, deeded or bought, belonging to renown men of letters and of law and last but not least, in 1937, through the acquisition of the Library and papers of the Sicilian historian Michale Amari (1806-1889).

In 1977, the Library became known as the *Biblioteca centrale della Regione siciliana*, after the Region of Sicily had been assigned authority over all Libraries, and in 2004 it

PAPER TREASURES
Libraries and Archives



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Book of the Gospels belonging to Queen Constance.
12th century. Miniature depicting San Luca

5
Charter granted by Henry VI of Swabia.
11th January 1195

was dedicated to Alberto Bombace, Director General of the Department of Cultural Heritage.

A restoration workshop was instituted in 1987 and fulfills an important role in the conservation and valorisation of rare and important documents that are part of the Sicilian heritage. Since 1989 the Library is also the Head office of the Polo SBN Sicilia (National Library System connecting the 4 major Library complexes).

The Library catalogue consists of 703,220 volumes, including 2,373 manuscripts, of which 148 are latin codices, 1,136 incunabulae, as well as 7,000 editions from the 17th century, prints, loose leaves and drawings. There is also an important collection of Palermitan magazines, including the complete 1861 series of the *Giornale di Sicilia* and *L'Orsa*, founded by the Florio family at the beginning of the 19th century, as well as other national and international periodicals from the 19th and 20th century.



BIBLIOTECA COMUNALE OF PALERMO

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Opening Hours

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Wednesday also 14.45–17.45

The Biblioteca Comunale of Palermo (Palermo Town Library) was inaugurated on the 30th August 1760. It is generally recognised that it was founded by Alessandro Vanni, Prince of San Vincenzo, who, by representing numerous Palermitan intellectuals, managed to obtain from the King the necessary funds to open the first city Public Library.

It was originally housed in Palazzo Senatorio but from 1775, as a result of the expulsion of the Jesuits, it was rehoused in two Jesuit Oratories in the Casa Professa complex and permitted to use the splendid antique wooden shelving.

The oldest and most significant part of the collection is composed of donations by numerous Sicilian nobles. Amongst the most important are those of: the Marquis of Villabianca, Francesco Maria Emanuele e Gaetani (1720-1743), the Canon Antonio Mongitore (1663-1743) and Monseigneur Alfonso Airoldi (1729-1817).

The entire collection, of around 370,000 documents, makes it one of the most prestigious Libraries of Southern Italy. First in order of importance is, without doubt, the *Martyrologium* from the Chapel of San Pietro inside the Royal Palace, a parchment scroll dating from the 12th

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Constituciones, ordinaciones, capitula... Regni Siciliae.
Manuscript from the 15th century



century, containing marginal notes referring to the Norman and Swabian dynasties, very useful in establishing the chronological succession of the kings. The 15th century manuscript containing the Body of Laws appertaining to the Kingdom of Sicily, from its Constitution by Frederick up to the Chapters concerning Ferdinand the Catholic (**fig. 6**), are also of fundamental importance in reconstructing Sicilian legislation during the Middle Ages. The extensive collection of *Diaries* and *Pamphlets* of the eclectic Palermitan polygraphist, the Marquis of Villabianca, are a unicum in their exposition of the artistic, cultural and social life of Palermo in the second half of the 18th century (**fig. 7-8**). The manuscripts of the Theatine missionary in Georgia, Cristoforo Castelli (1600-1659) offer an extraordinary insight into the uses and customs of the evangelised population and of the places he visited (**fig. 9-10**). From amongst all the precious manuscripts, the 15th century *Privilegia Urbis Panormi* deserves a special mention (**fig. 11**). The Library has a wide selection of scientific tomes, covering everything from pharmacopeia to botany, spanning a wide temporal period from the Middle Ages to the 19th century. The precious *Manual for Alchemy* dates from the first half of the 14th century, and contains one of the most complete collections of alchemy texts from both Arab and Latin medical traditions, existing from the time of Medieval Europe. There are also 18th century herbaria, including the prestigious thematic collection of the Palermitan botanist Filippo Parlatore (1816-1877), once

Director of the Natural History Museum in Florence.

The Town Library owns the *Nummarium*, a coin collection containing some of the Arab coins issued in Sicily; it also owns some astrolabes as well as the *Famedio dei Siciliani Illustri*, (Memorial of Illustrious Sicilians), a gallery of portraits of the most prominent Sicilians, collected mainly by the Palermitan Agostino Gallo (1790-1872).

The Library's collection of over 60,000 letters is extremely impressive, documenting as it does the personal, and at times intimate, life of Sicilian politicians, writers, historians, men of law and men of science.

The Public Library also offers a service to a wider public through the OPAC of the PA1 Polo, which enables online consultation of catalogues.





7 - 8

F. M. Emanuele e Gaetani, Marquis of Villabianca.
Diari Palermitani. Manuscript from the 18th century



9 - 10

C. Castelli. *Miscellanea de' personaggi praticati in Oriente...* Manuscript from the 17th century



11

Privilegia Urbis Panormi.
 Parchment Manuscript from
 the 15th century



**THE LIBRARY OF THE ASSEMBLEA
REGIONALE SICILIANA**

Giovanna Mazzei

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Opening Hours

Monday to Friday 9.30–14.00
Tuesday and Thursday also 16.30–19.30
(prebooking required)

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The Assembla Regionale Siciliana (Sicilian Regional Assembly) has, since its inception in 1947, had its own Library which provides the members with highly qualified information with regards to their legislative activities.

The ARS is undoubtedly the oldest and best equipped of the Italian Regional Council Libraries with around 130,000 documents consisting of monographs and periodicals. Although it offers books of general culture, it specialises in juridical, political, economical, social and historical texts. As from 1949 the Library began collecting all the principal National and local newspapers, those of political parties as well as the most popular National and foreign weeklies, thus creating an Emeroteca (newspaper library) testifying to the events of modern history, which has become an important source of information for students.

Together with more than 250 dailies and weeklies, of which 25 are still being printed, the collection also contains some 1,360 specialised periodicals, mainly but



not exclusively juridical, of which 220 are current. Amongst the periodicals of particular interest is the monthly review published by the Assembly since 1948, originally under the name *Sala d'Ercole*, but since changed to *Sicilian Parliamentary Chronicle*. It has consistently followed Sicilian Parliamentary life, analysing both political and juridical contemporary subjects as well as the history of the Palazzo dei Normanni (the Norman Palazzo). Nowadays there are about 70,000 monographs. The Library catalogue can be consulted on line via the ARS web site or through bibliographic web browsers. A small but select collection of prestigious books, which deal with Sicilian history, have been acquired through antiquarians. It is composed of about 3,000 volumes comprising manuscripts, incunabulae, sixteenth-century books and other ancient editions, edicts and announcements, photograph albums and archival documents (fig. 12-16). The "Villasevaglios" collection, bought in its entirety, makes up the nucleus, a private



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Fireworks machine for the year of 1847, invented by Nicolò Raineri for the festival of 1847

collection dealing mainly with the Island's history and its institutions. The engravings of the Sicilian editions are of particular value.

The Library's archival endowment consists of the three sections of the "*Fondo Arezzo di Trifiletti*". The first section comprises papers originating from the Protonotarial Office of the Kingdom, interesting for their delineation of the history of the ancient Sicilian Parliaments. Of particular significance is the bunch of manuscripts relating the Parliamentary work leading to the drawing up of the 1812 Constitution, with the subsequent passage of Parliament from the feudal system to the first modern Assembly.

The section relative to the Italian Risorgimento contains important testimony about the Revolution of 1848-1849 in Sicily. The third section contains 284 documents



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The Library of the
Assemblea Regionale
Siciliana . The
Reading Room



signed by the Viceroy and the Presidents of the Kingdom of Sicily and after 1816, the Lieutenants of the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies.

The Library has a very prestigious location inside the Royal Palace, in rooms that were once part of the original Norman building. The consultation room, known as the Armigeri Room is very suggestive (**fig. 17**), with its magnificent groin vault upheld by four large pilasters as well as the Sala of the Zecca, (the Mint), a huge square hall, that nowadays houses the ancient collections as well as the newest acquisitions.

The Library is administered by a Supervisory Commission, composed of three Parliamentarians. The overall responsibility is held by a Parliamentary Councillor. The Library is for members only and access for external scholars is strictly on request.

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Ceremony of
Ferdinand of
Bourbon swearing
fealty in the Cathedral
of Palermo on the
13th April 1760.
Engraving by
A. Bova

**THE LIBRARY OF THE OSSERVATORIO
ASTRONOMICO DI PALERMO
"GIUSEPPE VAIANA"**

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homebiblio.html

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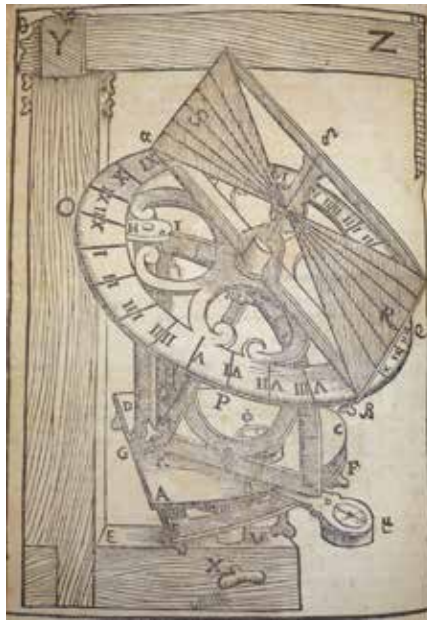
Monday to Friday 9.30-13.00 (prebooking required)

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The Astronomical Observatory of Palermo, one of the oldest in Italy, was founded in 1790 by the King of the Two Sicilies, Ferdinand I of Bourbon. It is located in the highest part of the Torre Pisana in the Palazzo Reale in Palermo. Constituted and directed by the Valtellinese mathematician Padre Giuseppe Piazzi (1746-1826), lecturer in Astronomy in the Royal Academy of Studies of Palermo, the Library was from the very beginning, an important centre of research as well as an academic institution, characteristics that it has maintained to the present day. Since 2002, the Observatory is part of the Italian National Institute of Astrophysics (INAF) and collaborates with the astrophysicists of the University of Palermo.

The library was founded almost at the same time as the Observatory and its collection reflects its long history and its multifaceted research activities. The original endowment was deeded from the personal collection of Giuseppe Piazzi, made up mostly of astronomical, physical and mathematical

texts. This original nucleus of 350 books, including some rare editions from the 16th and 17th century, has been greatly enlarged due mainly to the interchange of publications, at the end of the 19th century, between astronomical and meteorological Observatories all over the world.

Amongst the important works in the collection, of note are *De architectura libri decem* by Vitruvius, printed in Venice in 1567, a first edition in Latin, with an introduction by Daniele Barbaro, enriched with illustrations by the German engraver Johann Krüger, drawings by Palladio (**fig. 18**), as well as *Fabrica et usus instrumenti ad horologiorum descriptionem...*, a treatise on solar clocks and astrolabes written by the German astronomer Christoph Clavius, printed in Rome in 1586 (**fig. 19**), or the *Epistolarum astronomicarum libri* (Francofurti 1610) by Tycho Brahe, (1541-1601), which deals with the astronomical Observatory in Uraniborg (**fig. 20**) and last but not least the work by Ptolemy, published in Basel in 1551 (**fig. 21**). Natural sciences, geography, medicine, chemistry are all well represented as are works on philosophy, history and literature, all of which bear witness to the tastes of the various Directors. In order to further the interests of the Astronomical Observatory, the Library has been provided with a selection of indispensable instruments: Ephemerides of the celestial motions, celestial catalogues and atlases, astronomical observations, opinions published by different Academies and periodicals. The Library possesses circa 10,000 monographs, 1,200 periodicals and 6,000 leaflets and is organised in



18
Water Clock.
Engraving by
I. Krüger. In
Vitruvius. *De*
architectura....1567

19
C. Clavius. *Fabrica*
et usus instrumenti
ad horologiorum
descriptionem... 1586



20
Astronomical
Observatory of
Uraniborg. In T.
Brahe. *Epistolarum*
astronomicarum
libri... 1610

21
Southern
Hemisphere. In
Ptolomeus. *Omnia*
quae extant opera,
praeter Geographiam...
1551

two sections. The historical section, basically in support of research into the history of astronomy and of science in general, consists of around 1,650 ancient manuscripts, monographs published up until the 50/60's of the last century as well as over 1,000 periodicals. This section also covers the historical archives.

The modern section, in support of modern research into astrophysics, consists of over 6,000 monographs and periodicals and has also many of the publications on line.



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Facoltà Teologica di
Sicilia . Atrium

**THE BIBLIOTECA CENTRALE PER LE
CHIESE DI SICILIA AND THE
THEOLOGICAL LIBRARY
"MONS. CATALDO NARO"**

Francesca Paola Massara

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Opening Hours

October-June: Monday to Thursday 9.00-19.00
Friday 8.00 - 18.00
1st July-15th September: Monday to Friday
8.30-12.30
16-30 September: Monday to Thursday 9.00-
12.30 and 15.30-19.00
Friday 8.00-12.30 and 15.30-18.00
Fondo "Rosario La Duca" - Via Regia Zecca, 8
Mondays 9.30-12.30 (prebooked).
The Library is closed on Saturdays and from the
1st -31st August.
.....

The Biblioteca Centrale per le Chiese di Sicilia (Central Library for the Sicilian Church) in the Pontifical Sicilian Faculty of Theology "San Giovanni Evangelista" in Palermo was founded on 14th September, 1981 by Cardinal Archbishop Salvatore Pappalardo, in the historical seat of the *Seminarium Clericorum*. This famous building, commissioned by the Archbishop Cesare Marullo in 1583, was designed by Giorgio Di Faccio, finished in 1591 and is embellished internally by a harmonious colonnaded atrium. The building was progressively enlarged and made taller in the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries (**fig. 22**).

The pieces of the valuable Antiquarian core Collection come mainly from the Seminary Library, at this moment being reorganised and housed in the ex 16th century Chapel of Santa Barbara. It consists of manuscripts, *incunabula* and a significant group of books from the 16th century (**fig. 23-25**). However, the most important collections are from the 17th and 18th century totalling around 12,000 volumes. There is a rare example, in Latin and Chinese, of the works of Confucius, translated in the 17th century, under the title *Scientiae Sinicae* by the Sicilian Jesuit missionary Prospero Intorcetta (**fig. 26**). A small section holds unpublished manuscripts and documents; amongst these are the impressive biblical commentaries by Placido Nigido.

Various Libraries have been incorporated into the Central Library including that of the Theological Faculty (recently renamed in honour of the Archbishop and scholar Cataldo Naro, who worked hard for its aggrandisement), as well as those of the Institute of Religious Sciences, the Library



of the Seminary of Palermo and a variety of important private donations. Nowadays it has a collection of around 168,000 publications, continuously updated and 1,000 periodicals both historical and modern. The collection concentrates on theological, biblical and philosophical tomes, but also offers philological and historical documents with particular reference to Sicily.

There are significant collections of repertoires, sources and series of studies amongst which are *The Anchor Bible*, *Bibliotheca Teubneriana*, *Corpus Christianorum*, *Monumenta Germaniae Historica*, *Monumenta Vaticana Selecta*, *Patrologia Graeca*, *Patrologia Latina*, *Studia Ephemerides Augustinianum*, *Studia Ephemerides Liturgicae*, *Thesaurus Patrum Latinorum*.

The Library has also been enriched by deeded gifts and donations, including those of Monseigneur Pietro Marcatajo in 1979 and that of the Library's patron, Cardinal Salvatore Pappalardo in 1996 as

23
Cristoforo Landino.
*Comento sopra la
Comedia di Dantbe
Alighieri...* Florence, per
Nicolò di Lorenzo Della
Magna, 1481

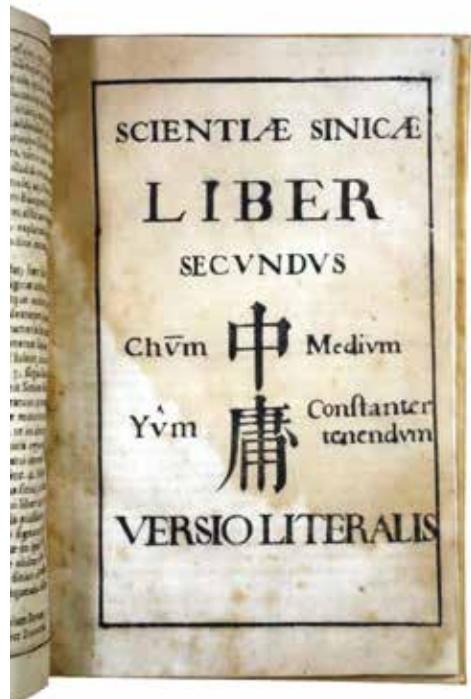
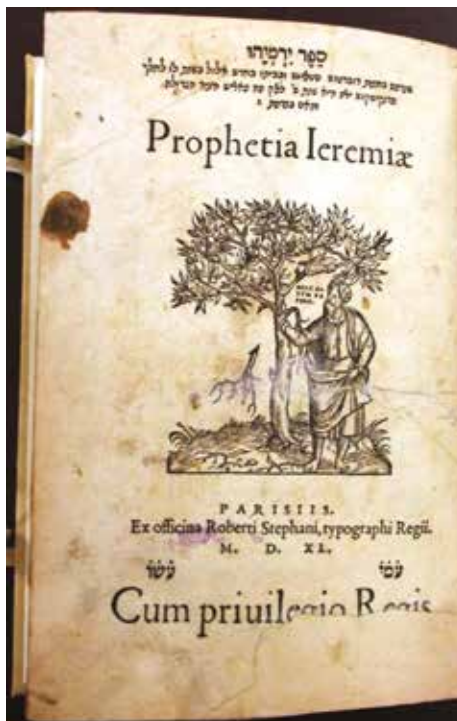
24
Tractatus de modo studendi.
Magdeburg, 1495

well as the important collections: that of “Santino Caramella” in 1992, prevalently philosophical-literary, the biblical-philological “Benedetto Rocco Collection” in 2004, the philosophical-philological “Massara-Tusa Collection”, in 2009 as well as the Sicilian and Palermitan historical-cultural “Rosario La Duca Collection” in 2003 though it had already been formally donated in 1983.

The Library has an online catalogue as well as a card index. In the Emeroteca it is possible to consult the periodical indices in digital form, also accessible on line, so as to allow students a more flexible form of research.

25
Sefer Yrmeyahu.
Prophetia Ieremiae.
Parisiis, ex officina
Roberti Stephani, 1540

26
Prospero Intorcetta.
*Sinarum scientia
politico-morali*, 1669



**THE LIBRARY OF THE MUSEO
ARCHEOLOGICO REGIONALE
“A. SALINAS”**

Piazza Olivella, 24 Palermo
tel. +39 0916116807
fax +39 0916110740
museo.arche.pa@regione.sicilia.it

Opening Hours

Friday 9.00-13.00

Wednesday also from 15.30-17.00

The Museo Archeologico Regionale “Antonino Salinas” (Archaeological Museum), has been housed since 1866 in the grandiose complex that was once the house of the Congregation of San Filippo Neri, known as of the Olivella. It is situated in Palermo and possesses one of the richest collections of Punic, Greek and Etruscan art, together with documents of Sicilian history and archival documents. This National

Museum was dedicated on 8th May 1995, to Antonino Salinas, a celebrated Palermitan archaeologist and numismatic.

On the first floor of the building is one of the most important Sicilian Libraries specialised in archaeology, together with numismatics, ancient history and art. It possesses around 25,000 volumes housed in two large reading rooms and in the adjoining corridors (**fig. 27**).

The original nucleus of the Library came from the donation in 1863 by Girolamo Valenza, President of the Commission of Antiquities and Fine Arts of Palermo. It was further enriched by the subsequent acquisition of the collection that Salinas dedeed in his will, drafted by the Notary Francesco Daddi, 6th July 1913, which stated “*I leave to the National Museum of Palermo, all the books and manuscripts, prints and photographs that I possess...*”. Amongst the most important works of the



27

Library of the
Museo Archeologico
Regionale
“A. Salinas”

28

J. Blaeu. *Atlas maior*.
Amsteladami, 1665.
Engraved title-page

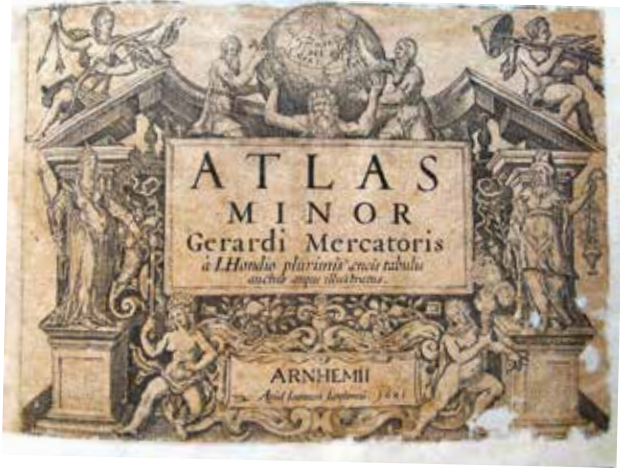


collection composed of an incunabulum of Lucianus *De veris narrationibus* of 1494, 210 sixteenth-century editions, 614 editions from the 17th century and 1,636 from the 18th century, there is the work of Albrecht Dürer *On the Symmetryies of the Human Bodies* of 1591 and that of Dioscorides Pedanius *De medicinali materia* printed in Frankfurt in 1543. The Library contains numerous cartographic material from the 16th and

17th centuries: the most prestigious are perhaps the 11 folio volumes of Joan Blaeu, the *Atlas maior, sive cosmographia blaviana qua solum, salum, coelum, accuratissime describuntur* printed in Amsterdam between 1662 and 1665 (**fig. 28**), the *Atlas minor* by Gerard Mercator, printed in Arnhem in 1621 (**fig. 29**) and the exquisite work by the English cartographer Robert Dudley, the *Arcano del Mare*, (t/n the first maritime atlas made by an Englishman) published in

29

G. Mercator. *Atlas minor*. Arnhemii, 1621.
Engraved frontispiece.



30

R. Dudley. *Arcano del Mare...* Fiorenza, 1661.
Frontespiece

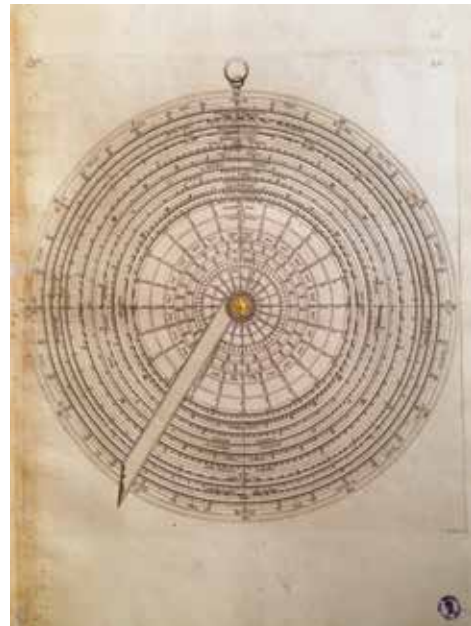


Florence in 1661 (fig. 30-31). As far as the 18th century is concerned, the Library owns a few works by foreigners travelling through Sicily, including the *Siciliae et objacentium insularum veterum inscriptionum nova collectio* by Gabriele Lancillotto Castello, Prince of Torremuzza (Panormi, 1784), bought from the Valenza collection as well as the *Voyage pittoresque des isles de Sicile...* by Jean Pierre Houel, printed in Paris some time between 1782 and 1787. Amongst the numerous volumes of the 18th century there is a copy of *Le antichità della Sicilia* by Domenico Lo Faso Pietrasanta, Duke of Serradifalco (Palermo, 1834 -1842) and the work entitled the *Recueil des monumentes de Ségeste et de Sélinonte* by Jacques I. Hittorff e Ludwig Zanth (Paris, 1870).

The modern section is comprised of some 15,000 volumes, periodicals, monographs, specialised collections, dictionaries, encyclopaedias and books.

31

Instrument for measuring longitude and latitude invented by R. Dudley (*Arcano del Mare...* Fiorenza, 1661)



**THE LIBRARY OF THE CONSERVATORIO
DI MUSICA "VINCENZO BELLINI"**

Dario Lo Cicero

.....
Via Squarcialupo, 45 Palermo

tel. +39 091580921

fax +39 091586742

biblioteca@conservatoriolbellini.it

Opening Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Friday 10.00-13.00

Wednesday and Thursday 11.30-13.30 and

14.30-17.30
.....

The Library of the Conservatorio di Musica "Vincenzo Bellini" (Academy of Music of Palermo), one of the oldest in Italy, was founded between 1617 and 1618 by the Viceroy, Count Castro, as the Orphanage of the Buon Pastore (Good Shepherd). From 1721, music was also taught and in 1747 it became exclusively so. The orphanage archives collected, throughout the 18th century, educational material and during the first half of the 19th century it became a proper Library, due to the donation of his precious private collection (fig. 33), by the Director, Baron Pietro Pisani.

The Library was not only enriched by acquisitions and donations from important patrons, aristocratic families and musicians, but was also directed by famous scholars and musicians. Amongst these figure Fabio Fano, Antonio Garbelotto, Nino Pirrotta (later a Harvard University Professor), Roberto Pagano, (an authority on Alessandro and Domenico Scarlatti) and Giuseppe Giglio (later Director of the Florentine Conservatory). Destroyed by bombing in 1943, the Library was rebuilt and enlarged in the

second half of the last century (fig. 32). Local readers, comprised of students and professors from the Conservatory and the University in Palermo, have at their disposal a range of books, music scores, periodicals and everyday services. Long distance readers are primarily interested in Sicilian music from the past. The majority of scores by important local composers, of increasing renown recently, are to be found solely in this Library.

And this is often the only source of information about their history.

The Library covers various fields of music and musical knowledge: a large section houses generic information with numerous periodicals and the complete works of many composers; ancient essays printed from



33

Ex libris of the Baron
Pietro Pisani

1508 onwards, together with a variety of musical sources; an important collection of cantata and arias from the 18th century; a vast collection of manuscripts of sacred, operatic, orchestral, chamber and piano music written or performed in Sicily between the 19th and the beginning of the 20th century (fig. 34); a notable quantity of piano music (fig. 35), including some rare and unique editions which used to belong mainly to Gustavo Natale and his family; a wide choice of 20th century scores and rare recordings of jazz and American music, donated by Claudio Lo Cascio; documents regarding the actual history of the Library itself, and a lot more. A few of the rare books, mainly discovered or rediscovered in recent years, merit a mention here: two versions of a Handel cantata, not to be found anywhere else; a sonata for piano by Muzio Clemente, unknown until discovered in 1989; the oldest polytonal music scores, composed around 1840 in Palermo by Pietro Raimondi, and those of his pupil Pietro Platania; the manuscripts of Antonio Pasculli (1842-1924), known as “the Paganini of the oboe” (fig. 36); the only copy of a treatise by the Sicilian musician and theoretician Giuseppe Parisi (1815-1884), who lived in Istanbul and synthesised conceptions of oriental and western music; the musical collection of Antonio Scontrino, including a copy of his Romantic Symphony, annotated by its first conductor, Richard Strauss; the surviving works of Rosolino De Maria, Luigi Costantino and Gaetano Impallomeni, Sicilian composers emigrated to the United States. The rediscovery, in 2012, of some musical scores signed by Gioachino Rossini,

34

S. Rispoli, *Cavatina
ridente speme*.
A part of the
manuscript. [1811-
1840]



THE BIBLIOTECA FRANCESCANA

Via del Parlamento, 32 - Palermo
 Tel. +39 091 6113622
 bibliotecafrancescana.pa@virgilio.it
 www.bibliotecafrancescanadipalermo.it

Opening Hours

Monday to Friday 9.30-13.00

Founded, in its actual form in 1933, reborn with a different name and diverse aims after the suppression of the Religious Corporations in 1866, the history of the Biblioteca Francescana (Francescana Library) stretches back over centuries. Its origins, notwithstanding the paucity of surviving documentation, can be established as sometime during the 13th century. The censual inventories of various religious libraries—requested by the Congregation of the Index at the end of the 16th century—are of great help in reconstructing the contents of the Library, differentiating between personal books belonging to the Franciscan Monastery and those of the General Custody of Palermo. The inventory is now kept in the Vatican Library, published in the volume *La circolazione libraria tra i francescani di Sicilia (Circulation of books among the Franciscans in Sicily)*, Palermo 1990.

It is easy to presume that the Library conformed to regulations governing librarianship, set out, a few decades later, in the Provincial Chapter of Enna of 1618, governing monasteries used as seats of learning, like that of San Francesco, which continued to operate, with varying degrees of success, until the suppression of the religious Corporations in 1866. The Monastery was thereby deprived of its library and the



wooden shelving, an authentic work of art. In 1871, 421 volumes and most of its historical archive were transferred to the State Archives. Even if it is connected directly to the suppressed Library, the present day Francescana follows on immediately from another, the *Board of Foreign Missions* of the Franciscan Minor Conventual Friars, inaugurated the 20th november 1933, in the Church of the Sacro Cuore in Piazza Noce in Palermo. This Library housed the collection of the noted historian, Father Luigi Palomes, together with those once belonging to Sicilian Franciscan historians such as Domenico Sparacio and Giuseppe Abate. All these volumes were then transferred, in September 1978, to their present day home and in the process created the new Central Library of the Province of Sicily.

Thus the Francescana Library was born, destined to accomodate all the works from all the various Orders existing in Sicily. This has led to an overall increase in the number of volumes from the original 10,000 to 60,000 at the present day. The visitor admiring the 13th century

37
 Arab Book of Prayer,
 parchment manuscript

PAPER TREASURES
Libraries and Archives



38
Ethiopian Prayer manual. Parchment Manuscript. 18th century?

39
Fragment of a Missal written in Beneventan script from the 12th century

40
Leone Magno. *Sermones et Epistolae*. Rome 1470. c. 4 r.



Basilica of San Francesco d'Assisi as he passes through the 16th century cloister and climbs the grandiose 17th century red marble staircase, with a vault depicting the “*Immaculate*”—attributed to Olivio Sozzi—cannot fail to see the Francescana Library. Its Antiquarian collection is of great importance, with many precious manuscripts (fig. 37-39), described in the *Biblioteca Francescana di Palermo*, edited in 1995. There are also some parchment chorales (choir books) and the permanent exhibition of the “Book Museum”. Amongst the many rare editions is the incunabula with the *Sermones et epistolae* by Leone Magno, printed in Rome in 1470 by Sweynheym e Pannartz, the earliest of the typographers who worked in Italy (fig. 40). The Naselli Flores and Guasconi archives, donated to the Library by their owner, the Marquis Francesco, are also very significant. They contain original autographed manuscripts of well known Franciscan and Sicilian musicians: Antonio Matera, Antonio Nicosia and Luigi Pona. Students of history will find of interest the notes by Monseigneur Filippo Meli, taken from the notarial registers of the time. Receipts for work carried out by the Serpotta family of stucco workers and other artisans are also part of the collection. Numerous donations have been received over the centuries, amongst which of note are those from: the poet and writer Giuseppe Ganci Battaglia, Ignazio Romano, Vito Nobile, Vittorio Riera and the Giarrizzo collection specialised in works pertaining to comparative philology and linguistics. There is also an on-line catalogue that can be accessed through the website: www.sbn.it.

THE LIBRARY OF THE SOCIETÀ SICILIANA PER LA STORIA PATRIA

.....
Piazza San Domenico, 1 Palermo
tel. +39 091582774 fax: +390916113455
info@storiapatria.it

Opening Hours

Monday to Friday 9.00-13.00
.....

The Library of the Sicilian Society for Homeland History (Società Siciliana per la Storia Patria) is located in the historical building of the Monastery of San Domenico, which also hosts the Museum of the Italian Risorgimento. The Library was created in 1873, the same year as the founding of the Society, with “*the aim of promoting the study of all aspects of Sicilian History and of publishing reference works, documents and memories appertaining to it*” (Article 1 of the Statute). Donations flowed in from illustrious Sicilian notables including: Gabriele Ortolani Prince of Torremuzza, Francesco Benso, Duke of Verdura, Michele Amari, Vincenzo Di Giovanni, Giuseppe Lodi, Vito La Mantia, Antonino Salinas and Girolamo Settimo, Prince of Fitalia.

Opened to the Public in 1933, the Library now has a collection of around 101,500 volumes, comprised of modern monographs and 16th–19th century editions, dealing mainly with Sicily, together with 1500 periodicals, some extremely rare collections of archives and manuscripts, and historical maps of Sicily and the Sicilian cities. The Fitalia collection is composed of 124 codices of extraordinary interest, dating from the 15th and 16th century, which had been collected by Girolamo Settimo, Prince

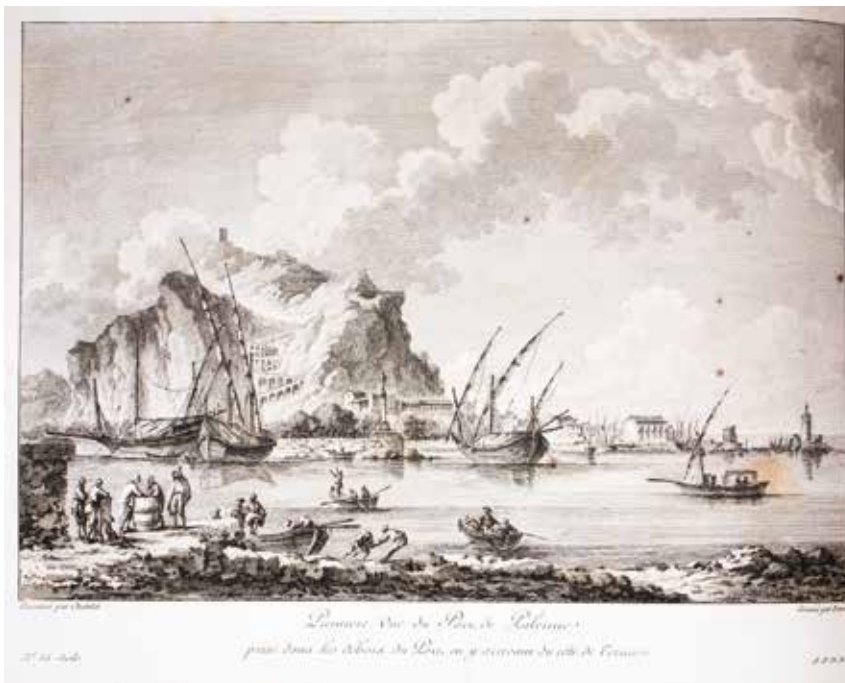
41
Manuscript from
the 17th century.
Fondo Fitalia

of Fitalia (fig. 41-42), and which include the *Swabian-Angevin Chronicles from the 14th century*, *The Maritime Usages of Barcelona from the 15th century* and *Acquisitio insule Sicilie* by Goffredo Malaterra.

The Giuseppe Lodi Reading Room houses 12,000 documents from the Risorgimento as well as documents dating from the 16th and 17th century. Other important collections include: the Roccaforte collection, composed of the letters of Lorenzo Cottù, Marquis of Roccaforte, to the most important figures of the 19th century, the Ragusa Moleti and La Mantia collections, the Archives of the Dukes of Serradifalco, the library which had belonged to Prince Gabriele Castelli di Torremuzza, still with its original 17th library shelving, and finally, the collection of works which illustrate “*The Grand Tour*”, or the

epic journeys of foreign travellers in Sicily from the 18th to the 20th century, which comprises 150 volumes filled with etchings (fig. 43-44). Access to the Library Reading Rooms, spacious, well lit and unpretentiously decorated, is from Piazza San Domenico, via an entrance next door to the Church, Pantheon of the great Sicilians, where the free Sicilian Parliament gathered on the 25th March 1848 under its vaults. The Library and Reading room of the Sala Pitrè, together with the Museum of the Risorgimento, dedicated to Vittorio Emanuele Orlando, and the Sala Crispi, with its portraits and mementos of the statesman, are all accessed from the cloister, jewel of the entire complex. On display in the vestibule are portraits of “The Thousand” [translator’s note: Italy’s Risorgimento leader Giuseppe Garibaldi and his “Mille”, called the “RedShirts”], prints and engravings depicting events from “1848” and “1860”, and this leads through to the grand Sicilian red marble staircase with a marble statue representing an allegory of Sicilian History. The staircase leads to the Sala Michele Amari, which houses the collection of this well known historian of the Sicilian Vespers as well as the compendium of Italian and foreign periodicals, probably the most complete in Sicily. The room next door, dedicated to Father Luigi Di Maggio, has a large fresco of Frederick II and his Imperial Court, flanked by two panels, one of which depicts Count Roger at the Battle of Cerami, whilst the other depicts the triumphant entrance into Palermo by Peter III of Aragon. The stained-glass windows, with decorative elements and symbols, are the work of the painter Pietro Bevilacqua. From this room one passes, through a long corridor, into a succession of rooms known as the Fazello, Lodi and Ragusa-Moleti.





42

G. Settimo.
A manuscript copy
of the *Discorso della
sovranià* 1714

43

Engraving of the View of
Porta Nuova in Palermo.
Voyage pittoresque... Paris,
1781-1786 by J. C. R de
Saint-Non

44

Engraving of the view
of the Port of Palermo.
Voyage pittoresque... Paris,
1781-1786 by J. C. R de
Saint-Non

**THE LIBRARY OF THE FONDAZIONE
SICILIA**

Cettina Coffa

.....
Palazzo Branciforte, Via Bara all'Olivella, 2
Palermo

tel. +39 09160720203 - 60720202

Villa Zito, Via Libertà, 52 Palermo

tel: +39 0917792712,

fax: +39 0917792714

info@fondazionesicilia.it

www.fondazionesicilia.it

Opening Hours

From March to October: Tuesday to
Sunday 9.30-19.30

From November to February: Tuesday to
Friday 9.30-14.30
.....

The Fondazione Siciliana (earlier known as the *Bank of Sicily Foundation*) is one of 88 Banking Foundations existing in Italy. It possesses a Library composed of some 50,000 volumes, amongst which are some examples not easily found in other libraries in the city of Palermo, and is of cultural repute. Housed in the 16th century Palazzo Branciforte (**fig. 45**), it was reopened to the public in 2012, after restoration work carried out by the world famous architect Gae Aulenti. The sections are divided between those of general interest and those covering the history of Sicily, including archaeology, numismatics and history of art. It also has a valuable collection of antique books, with publications between 1501 and 1830. The Library's collection was augmented by the donation of the *Restivo collection* by the heirs of Franco Restivo, politician and university professor. This consists of some 8,000 volumes on Sicily and its history, laws, art,

philosophy and literature. The Library of the Sicilian Foundation documents Sicilian culture with the help of a varied collection of historical, artistic, philological and bibliographical Sicilian works, printed both in Italy and abroad from the start of the 18th century onwards, as well as through rare or indeed unique publications, both Italian and foreign, of certified importance. There is also a numismatic collection, containing some 100 volumes, which had belonged to Victor Emmanuel III, many of which are

45
Library of the Fondazione Sicilia. The Reading Room (photograph by Ezio Ferreri)



signed and sealed by the King.

There is also a collection of engravings, woodcuts, etchings, lithographs, drawings, watercolours, tempera, and line drawings depicting the Sicilian countryside, in the evolution of its urban areas, its buildings and its customs between the 17th and 19th century (fig. 46-47).

Of particular importance are the engravings of well-known foreign visitors describing the myth of the “*Voyage en Sicilie*”, such as: the *Voyage pittoresque ou description des royaumes de Naples et de Sicile* by the

Abbot R. de Saint-Non, (printed in Paris between 1781 and 1786) (fig. 48), the *Voyage pittoresque des isles de Sicile...* by Jean Pierre Houel, (edited in Paris from 1782 to 1787) (fig. 49), and the *Voyages* of A. E. Gigault de la Salle, (Paris, 1822-1826), the album of Lord Spencer Joshua Alwayne Compton (1790-1851), with illustrations in watercolour over traces of graphite, with a grey wash, of the principal sites and monuments of Sicily, and last but by no means least the extremely rare print “*A map containing the Island Kingdom of Sicily with*

46

S. J. A. Compton.
View in the Oak Wood.
Etna May 19th 1823.
Graphite on off-white
wove paper, pen and
brown ink, watercolour.



47

The Palatine Chapel.
Lithograph from H.G.
Knight's *Saracenic and
Norman remains to
illustrate the Normans in
Sicily*. London, 1840



PAPER TREASURES
Libraries and Archives

a part of Naples & other od by W. Hollar in 1676.

In the spacious Reading Room on the first floor—with the marvelous fresco by Ignazio Moncada di Paternò—it is possible to consult a vast assortment of *encyclopedias*, *annuals* and *dictionaries* as well as numerous periodicals, monographs

and miscellanies on a variety of topics. The section dealing with legal-economic arguments is housed in the Villa Zito and possesses many volumes belonging to the two major Sicilian Banks—The Bank of Sicily and the Cassa di Risparmio—of fundamental importance when researching the economic history of Sicily.



48

Châtaignier de l'Etna connu sous le nom de Centum Cavalli, Paris, 1785. Etching taken from *Voyage pittoresque...* Paris, 1781-1786 by J. C. R. de Saint-Non



49

Vue de Latomie, appelée le Paradis, Paris 1785, aquatint from *Voyage pittoresque* by J. P. L. Houel Paris 1782-1787

THE BIBLIOTECA COMUNALE OF MONREALE

Ignazia Ferraro

Piazza Guglielmo II, Monreale

tel. +39 0916564650

fax +39 0916564644

ignazia.ferraro@monreale.gov.it

Opening Hours

Monday to Friday 9.00-13.30

The Biblioteca Comunale di Monreale (Monreale Public Library) “Santa Maria La Nuova”, founded in 1877 as a result of the 1866 law suppressing the Religious Orders, possesses a collection of over 10,000 antique books obtained from the merger of the local libraries of both the Capuchins and Benedictine Orders with that of the Benedictines of San Martino delle Scale. The antique book collection consists of editions from the 15th, 16th and 17th century, as well as a nucleus of precious medieval illuminated manuscripts (fig. 50-52), together with incunabula and other bibliographical rarities, including a fragment of an Evangeliary from the 11th century, written in the Benedictine “*scriptorium*” of Cava dei Tirreni, and transferred to Monreale by the 100 monks who took possession of the monastery, *ab origine*, by order of William II. The Norman king, who founded the Abbey, endowed it with “*libris et sacris vestibus argento et auro*”.

This first group of books that the monks conserved in the Sacristy of the Duomo, together with the religious vestments constitutes the oldest nucleus of the Library.



50
Vaticinia Pontificum.
Parchment manuscript.
France 13th-14th century

51
*Psalterium diurnum
ordinis Montis Oliveti.*
Parchment manuscript.
15th century

PAPER TREASURES

Libraries and Archives

52

*Officium beatae
Mariae Virginis.*
Parchment
manuscript. 15th
century

After the death of William II, however, the succession of political and religious events (wars, internecine struggles and plagues) resulted in the dissolution of the monastery and the dispersal of all the books. It would be Cardinal Ausias Spuig de Podio, archbishop of Monreale from 1458 to 1483, who would repopulate the monastery and endow the library with a further 34 volumes. In the various inventories of the church's treasures, drawn up each time it was consigned to a new treasurer, there is always a list of books, but the numbers differ. At that time the Library of the Duomo was frequented not only by the Benedictine monks, but also by the secular clergy and the young men studying for the priesthood.

In 1591, the Archbishop Ludovico II de Torres, dismantled the Duomo Library and gave some of the books to the archiepiscopal seminary founded by him, some to the Capuchin monastery founded by his predecessor Ludovico I de Torres and

some to the Benedictines.

In 1609, the Benedictine Vincenzo Barralis, under the Abbot Gregorio da Catania, created a modern library inside the monastery. The first librarian was Father Vincenzo da Lucerame and although it was enlarged over time, it was only open to monks and students from the novitiate and was finally suppressed in 1866.

Nowadays, the historical section of the Library is housed inside the Abbey complex, in its present space of around 100sqmts (**fig. 53**) in the part of the new monastery built, in the second half of the 18th century, by the Benedictines over the original refectory.

The room has white majolica floors and a barrel vault ceiling with lunettes, decorated with frescoes. Along the walls there is wooden shelving with gilded moulding.



THE LIBRARY OF THE FONDAZIONE MANDRALISCA IN CEFALÙ

Via Mandralisca, 13 Cefalù
 tel. e fax.: +39 0921421547
 fondazione.mandalisca@gmail.com
 www.fondazionemandralisca.it

Opening Hours

Every day 9.00–19.00 (August 9.00–23.00)

The Library of the Fondazione Mandralisca in Cefalù (Library of the Mandralisca Foundation) occupies two rooms (fig. 54) on the first floor of the 19th century palazzo belonging to the Mandralisca family, accessed from the Via Mandralisca, once known as “strada Badia”. The principal nucleus of the collection that contains some 11,000 volumes, was donated by Baron Enrico Pirajno of Mandralisca (1809–1864). Stimulated by an illuminist and encyclopaedic desire for cultural information, he amassed his valuable collection in support of his research into the natural sciences and his archaeological studies. The need to describe and classify specimens (shells, plants, fossils, etc.) collected during his excursions in the Nebroidi, the Madonie and the Aeolian Islands, caused him to procure a conspicuous number of texts, which he often obtained directly from the author, as evidenced by the numerous dedications. They are the works of some of the most important Italian naturalists: Ulisse Aldrovandi, Andrea Mattioli, Giovanni Battista Brocchi, Ferrante Imperato as well as foreign writers such as Charles Darwin, George Cuvier, Jean Baptiste Lamarck,



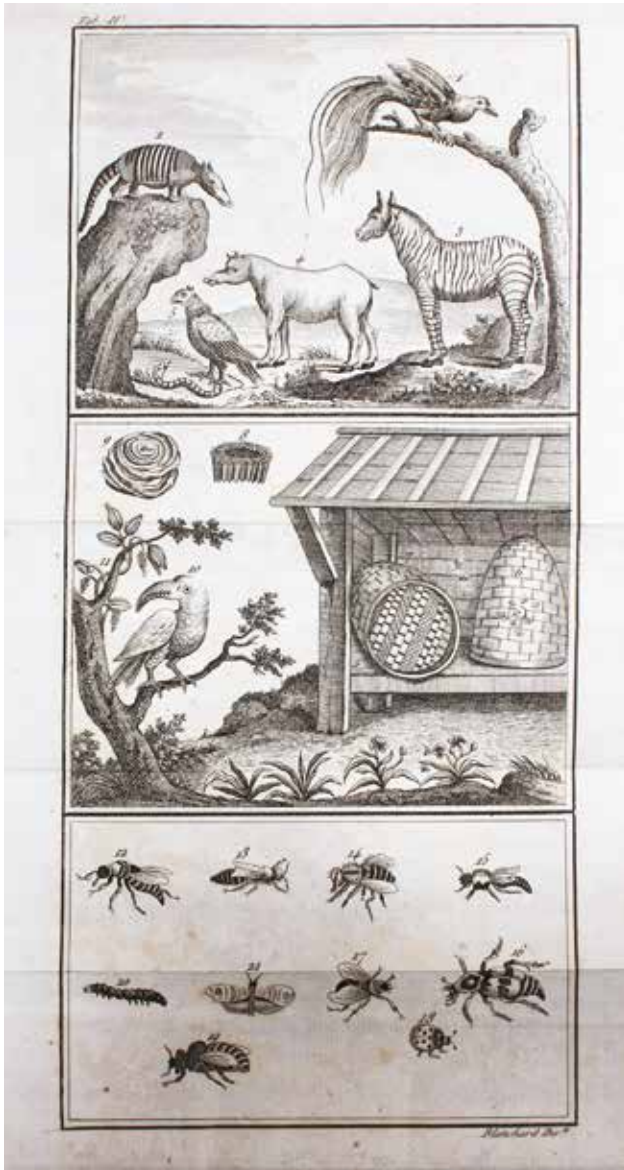
54

Library of the
 Fondazione
 Mandralisca, Cefalù



55

Phoenix dactylifera.
 Botanical plate with
 watercolour



Eberth Zimmermann and Rudolf Philippi, often illustrated with splendid engravings, sometimes overlaid with watercolours (fig. 55-56). The scientific library brings together a large number of pamphlets and extracts on malacology, botany, palaeontology and entomology, often extremely rare, that underscore, together with the letters themselves, Pirajno's close collaboration with contemporary Sicilian naturalists: Gaetano Gemmellaro, Agostino Todaro, Pietro Calcara (fig. 57), Filippo Parlatore, Antonino e Andrea Bivona Bernardi and Giuseppe Seguenza amongst others.

Pirajno himself wrote several treatises expounding the results of his research in the fields of malacology, botany and ornithology. Besides his scientific texts, his personal library, numbering some 2,900 volumes, dating from the 15th century up until 1864, the year of his death, includes many works of historical, literary, archaeological and architectural interest, bibliographically of great historical value, containing as it did, two incunabula and 60 editions from the 16th century. There are numerous texts on archaeology and numismatics, indispensable for the study of the rich collection of specimens and coins conserved in the Foundation's Museum,

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J. F. Dubroca. *Entretiens d'un père... sur l'histoire naturelle*. Paris 1797.
Engraving

A SHORT LIST OF LIBRARIES

Francesca Buffa, Marina Mancino

THE LIBRARY OF THE CAPUCHINS OF PALERMO

Piazza Cappuccini, 1 Palermo
tel. +39 0916526657
pabicap@live.it

Opening Hours

Monday to Friday 9.30-12.30

The Library is situated inside the Monastery built in 1533 by the Capuchins in the Church of Santa Maria della Pace. The original library collection was confiscated under the law of 1866 and was then reconstituted at the end of the 19th century with the aid of acquisitions, donations and with a nucleus of books returned by the State. The collection now numbers around 55,000 volumes, including 37 incunabula, 3,400 sixteenth-century books and some 7,000 editions from the 17th and 18th century.

THE LIBRARY OF THE DOMINICANS OF PALERMO

Via Babinai, 18 Palermo
tel. +39 091329588
bibdompa@alice.it

Opening Hours

Monday to Friday 8.30-13.30; 15.30-17.00

The Library has, since the beginning, been open to the public because it was part of the scholastic education imparted by the Brothers, at that time known as General Studies, also open to non religious scholars. Up until they were all confiscated in 1866, the Library owned more than 12,000 volumes. Recreated with collections from other Sicilian Dominican Monasteries, together with donations and acquisitions, the Library now owns some 70,000 volumes, mainly theological, philosophical and humanistic as well as a valuable collection of antique books composed of 17 incunabula, 3 parchments and 6,000 editions from the 16th to 18th century.

LIBRARY OF THE MONASTRY OF SAN MARTINO DELLE SCALE

Piazza Platani, 11 S. Martino delle Scale
tel. +39 091418104
bibliotecapax@gmail.com

Opening Hours

Monday to Friday 9.00–13.00

The sequence of events involving the Library “Popolare Pax” are closely connected to those of the Benedictine Abbey complex founded in the 6th century by Pope Gregory the Great, destroyed by the Arabs in 837 and rebuilt in 1347 by the Benedictine Angelo Sinisio. Here he also created a Library, progressively enlarged over the following centuries, in which amanuensis monks worked at copying and decorating texts.

As a result of the anticlerical laws of 1866, the Abbey was despoiled of its works of art, the library and the beautiful wooden bookshelves, all transferred to the National Library of Palermo. The actual collection now numbers around 35,000 volumes, of which 900 are manuscripts, 28 chorales, 80 sixteenth-century books and some 1,000 works from the 17th and 18th century.

THE “FRANCESCO BENTIVEGNA” PUBLIC LIBRARY IN CORLEONE

Via G. Valenti, 7 - Corleone
tel. +3909184524281
biblioteca.corleone@libero.it

Opening Hours

Monday to Friday 9.00–13.00; 16.00–19.00

The Library was created on the 6th August, 1872 and dedicated to Francesco Bentivegna, a patriot from Corleone. The original nucleus is made up from collections from the various local Monasteries: Augustinian, Dominican, Capuchin, Oratorian and Jesuit. The Library is housed in the 18th century architectural complex of San Ludovico, owns more than 25,000 volumes and an important collection of antique manuscripts, incunabula and 16th–18th century editions.

**THE "LICINIANA" PUBLIC LIBRARY IN
TERMINI IMERESE**

Via Garibaldi, 24 Termini Imerese
tel. +39 0918128102
biblioteca@comune.termini-imerese.pa.it

Opening Hours

Monday to Friday 9.00–13.00
Monday and Wednesday also 15.00–18.00

The Library, founded on the 17th May, 1800, by the priest Giuseppe Cipri, who named it "Liciniana" after the pseudonym of *Mapso Licinio*, which he himself had chosen from those of the *Accademia Euracea*, is housed in the rooms that used to belong to the Monastery of Santa Chiara.

The original nucleus, donated by Cipri, was enriched, in the second half of the 19th century, by 4,500 volumes from the Library of San Martino delle Scale. Today, the Library possesses over 100,000 volumes, including 150 manuscripts, 13 incunabula, 700 sixteenth-century books and 8,670 editions from the 17th and 18th century.

**THE "FRANCESCO SCAVO"
PUBLIC LIBRARY IN CARINI**

Via Rosolino Pilo, 21 Carini
tel. +39 0918815592
biblioteca.carini@libero.it

Opening Hours

Monday to Friday 8.00–14.00; 15.00–19.00
Saturday 9.00–13.00

The Library, founded by the Archpriest Francesco Scavo in 1775 in the Church of San Pietro, today is housed in the rooms of the ex Monastery of the Carmelites, built between 1566 and 1571 by Baron Vincenzo La Grua. The original nucleus of books has been enriched with collections from the Monasteries of the Carmelites, the Capuchins and the Dominicans of Carini, as well as by numerous donations. Today the Library possesses 24,000 volumes, which also include a special collection of antique volumes comprised of 6 incunabula, 170 sixteenth-century books and 4,645 17th and 18th editions.

**THE "FEDERICO LANCIA DI BROLO"
PUBLIC LIBRARY IN POLIZZI GENEROSA**

Via San Domenico, 6 Polizzi Generosa
tel. +39 0921551613
polizzi.biblioteca@tiscali.it

Opening Hours

Monday to Friday 8.00–14.00
Tuesday and Thursday also 15.30–18.30

The Library, housed in the ancient College of the Jesuits, built during the 16th–17th century, was founded as a result of the bequest made by the Duke Federico Lanza di Brolo in 1866, who left his valuable collection of 12,000 volumes to it. Over time it has been enlarged by collections belonging to suppressed local monasteries as well as from donations. Today the Library's holdings comprise almost 53,000 volumes, including 140 manuscripts, 45 incunabula, 720 sixteenth-century books, 4,619 editions of the 17th and 18th century, 1,900 prints and 280 drawings.

**THE "FRANCESCO SCADUTO"
PUBLIC LIBRARY IN BAGHERIA**

Via Consolare, 105 Bagheria
tel. +39 091903312
biblioteca@comune.bagheria.pa.it

Opening Hours

Monday to Friday 8.30–13.30
Wednesday and Thursday also 15.30–18.00

The Library is housed inside the 18th century Palazzo Aragona Cutò, built for Luigi Onofrio Naselli, Prince of Aragona, between 1712 and 1716. Founded in 1956 the Library possesses a selection of prints, memorabilia and documents donated by various public and private entities. Its total holdings number around 73,000 volumes and a small collection of some 83 antique books.

THE HISTORICAL ARCHIVES

Claudia Oliva

Historical Archives, defined as an organised collection of documents, have existed since Antiquity and consist of a collection of primary source documents accumulated by a public or private entity during the course of a lifetime for purposes relating to practical, political, administrative, judicial, censal, ecclesiastical, military or other such objectives. The organisation of documents in an archive has only recently acquired scientific status, since it has become necessary to enable an archive to be consulted. Once an archive is no longer of political or social interest, it acquires a historical-cultural relevance and becomes an indispensable source for the documentation of historical events.

However, it is a well known fact that many archives, during the centuries, have been subjected to “purges”, dictated either by political or economic reasons, further augmented by dismemberment and dispersion of documents, all of which have led to irreparable damage. Archival science, taken to mean the study and practice of organising, preserving, and providing access to information and materials in archives, was first developed in France and Italy during the 17th and 18th century, in close association with the science of diplomatics, when the proliferation of new archives either secular (belonging to kings, their magistrates, the city or the notaries), or ecclesiastical (belonging to bishops, chapters or religious orders), posed the problem of the need to define the rules and means of conserving, organising and utilising these collections of documents. Italy contributed greatly to the birth of the modern archival science in the 17th century with the publication of the earliest manuals: milestones in this new discipline were the works of Baldassare Bonifacio, who published in 1632 in Venice *De archivis liber singularis* and *the Methodus archivorum* by Nicolò Giussani, printed in Milan in 1684. Scholars such as Francesco Bonaini, Cesare Guasti and Salvatore Bonghi contributed to the development of the theory of archiving by introducing the so-called “historical

method”, which then became the guideline for the State Archives after the Unification of Italy. The growth of the bureaucracy of the various states present in Italy generated vast archives in which were concentrated all the documents originating from previous institutions and therefore emanating from an entity different from that entity which had been detailed to conserve them. Thus the first great State Archives were neither set up nor administered in the interests of a sovereign or an institution, but became a corroboration of the State’s historical identity. After the Unification of Italy, the archives of the Italian State were placed under the care of the Minister of State and the archives of the capital cities of states that existed prior to Unification were granted the documentation originating from those states, under the understanding that such historical archives should henceforth be treated as part of its cultural heritage. Nowadays, archival documents are under the jurisdiction of the Ministry for Cultural Heritage and Cultural Activities. In this *Itinerary* five diverse types of historical archives have been included, all of which are important, both because they house documents of extraordinary importance and because they offer the possibility of visiting historical buildings of particular architectural and artistic interest.

THE ARCHIVIO DI STATO OF PALERMO

Silvana Vinci

The Catena Building:

Corso Vittorio Emanuele, 31 Palermo

The Gancia Building:

Cortile Gancia - Palermo

Tel. +39 0912510628 - 2510634 -

2514743 fax +39 0915080681

as-pa@beniculturali.it

www.archiviodistatodipalermo.it/

Opening Hours

Monday to Friday 8.00-18.00

Saturday 8.00-13.30

The The Archivio di Stato of Palermo (Palermo State Archives), under the aegis of the Ministry for Cultural Heritage, Cultural Activities and Tourism, supervises and improves a very important documentary heritage, a unique and irreplaceable corroboration of the city's history and that of the whole of Sicily itself. Specifically, the Institute holds all the surviving documentation from the political, administrative or judicial central offices of the ancient Kingdom of Sicily under the Norman, Swabian, Angevin and Aragonese dynasties, the Spanish Viceroy and the Lieutenant-Governorship of the Kingdom of Naples, and, after the Unification of Italy, that of the various state administrations whose main office was in Palermo and its province. Amongst the oldest government organs, dating back to the Norman era, are the *Real Cancelleria* and the *Protonotaro del Regno*, but the documentation of the two archives only dates back to the end of the 13th century for the first, and from 1349 for the second. The *Tribunal of the Real Patrimonio*, is

the most important state organ of the Kingdom of Sicily for the financial control of the kingdom, whose origins date back to the Norman era. An imposing archival structure, it holds around 26,000 volumes. It is, however, the Archives of the *Real Segreteria*, which hold the documents covering the viceregal period. A political entity almost always at the service of the Spanish, its collection numbers some 8,500 units and date between 1611 and 1826. There are also numerous and important documents in the archives of the judiciary: the Pretorian Court, court of the first



59

Frederick II gifts a fishing boat to the House of the SS. Trinità in Palermo. Hagenau, February 1219. Tabulario della Magione, 23

instance for civil cases, which has existed since the 14th century, the *Tribunale del Concistoro* (the Consistory), a judicial court of appeal, the *Tribunale of the regia monarchia e apostolica legazia*, whose high magistrate would judge in the Appeals Court in ecclesiastical cases. But the oldest nucleus of the archival collection is that known as the “*Diplomatico*”, consisting almost entirely of extremely valuable parchments, more than 6,000 of which had belonged to churches and monasteries, subsequently confiscated by the State in 1866, along with the archives of other ecclesiastical entities and religious corporations. (fig. 59-60). Many of the parchments date back to the Norman era and are written in the three languages in use at the time; Greek, Latin and Arabic, as testimony of the generosity and tolerance shown by the Normans towards the populace inhabiting Sicily at the time of its conquest.

It is in this very collection that the oldest paper document of all Europe is conserved. Written in Greek and Arabic, it still bears traces of the red wax seal, placed by the Norman chancery in 1109, by order of Countess Adelasia, mother of the future King Roger (fig. 61).

The Bourbon archives date from the 19th century. These are the papers of the administrative, political and judicial offices created after the reforms carried out immediately after the birth of the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies, in 1816. The *Ministero e Segreteria di Stato presso il Luogotenente generale*, (Ministry and Secretary of State to the Lieutenant-General) was the office responsible whilst the *Ministero per gli Affari di Sicilia* (Ministry for Sicilian

Affairs) was responsible for maintaining communications between Sicily and the Central Neapolitan government. Other inexhaustible sources of information are the *Archivi dei Notai di Palermo*, (the archives of the Notaries of Palermo), some 84,000 pieces including registers, minutes and drafts dating back to the Middle Ages and which became part of the State Archives half way through the 19th century, and the *Archivi privati*, which had belonged, primarily to noble Sicilian families, bought in by the Archives over the course of time. The *Raccolta dei sigilli* [seal collection] is a real treasure, containing imperial,

60

King Frederick of Sicily gifts 24 kegs of salted tunafish to the Monastery of San Martino. 9th February, 1364



regal and aristocratic examples, as well as Papal Bulls, from the 12th to 19th century, including the seal which had belonged to Queen Constance of Hauteville, mother of Frederick II (**fig. 62**). The Miscellaneous Collection is very particular, consisting of rare miscellanea, including the Sicilian Constitution of 1812 and documents relating to the Garibaldi expedition. The entire holdings, covering some 50kms of shelving, consist of more than 150 collections (**fig. 63-64**). The Archives are housed in two buildings located in two different areas of the historical centre of Palermo. The original seat is in Corso Vittorio Emanuele, next to the Church of Santa Maria della Catena (**fig. 65**). Built in the initial years of the 17th century as a Theatine Monastery, it was successively abandoned, when the Fathers transferred close to the Quattro Canti, and was then transformed into the permanent seat of the State Archives in 1843. From then until the end of the 20th century the monastic structure was considerably altered and adapted. Restoration, ultimated in 2010, restored the building to its original structure. The other seat is housed in the ex Monastery of Santa Maria degli Angeli, annexed to the Church of the same name, known as 'The Gancia', in the Via Alloro (**fig. 66**). This building, erected at the end of the 15th century by the Franciscans, was subsequently enlarged and embellished by the addition of a refectory, decorated with frescoes and stucco "a tutto tondo" in the style of the Serpotta family, as well as a suggestive cloister. It became part of the State Archives at the end of the 19th century and the first nucleus of documents



61
Handwritten document in Greek and Arabic issued by the Norman Chancellery the 25th March, 1109 on behalf of Countess Adelasia, mother of the future King Roger

62
Red lacquer seal belonging to Constance of Hauteville, Empress and Queen of Sicily (1195-1198)



63
Topographical map of Linguaglossa with a view of Mount Etna. First half 19th century



PAPER TREASURES
Libraries and Archives



64
The Royal conferment to Nicolao Russo of the Office of Public Notary in Sciara. Illuminated parchment. 29th November 1742

was transferred there in 1859. In each of the two seats, the Institute has a reading-room for the consultation of documents with free access. There is also a workshop for the restoration and rescue of the archival documents.

The Archive also organises a variety of events with the aim of promoting its documentary heritage, staging thematic displays, educational meetings, guided tours and offers a specialised course at University level via the School of Archivists, Palaeography and Diplomatics, for the professional formation of Archivists.



65
Archivio di Stato.
Catania Seat.
The Cloister



66
Archivio di Stato.
Gancia seat. Entrance courtyard



THE ARCHIVIO STORICO COMUNALE DI PALERMO

Elena Massa

Via Maqueda, 157, - Palermo
rel. +39 0916160124 fax +39 0916100776
archivispazietno@comune.palermo.it

Opening Hours

Monday to Friday 9.00-13.00
Wednesday also 15.30-17.30

Medieval parchments, privileges, acts of the Senate, civic council meetings, primary sources of information about the city of Palermo, issued by the town council from the end of the 13th century to the mid 20th century, as well as printed volumes from the 16th and 17th century and signed letters by Garibaldi and Crispi (**fig. 67-71**); the cultural heritage of the Palermo Historical Public Archives would be housed, by the second half of the 19th century, in the 16th century monastery of San Nicola da Tolentino, in Via Maqueda 157, where the city's Grand Synagogue once stood. Between 1863 and the first years of the 20th

century, the Planning Officer of the Town Council undertook the long process of the transformation and conservation of the Augustinian complex, which had fallen into disrepair. The initial stages of the rebuilding created the Sala degli Abbaini or Lucernari, (The Skylight Room), rectangular in shape with three conical ceiling skylights, wooden shelving against the walls and spiral wooden staircases on both sides of the entrance, leading to the galleries. The old refectory of the Augustinian Monks was also altered at the same time, and became the Sala Rettangolare or delle Finanze [the Monastery's Financial Room], nowadays called the Pollaci Nuccio Room, in honour of the Archive's first Director, who, in 1872, informed the Mayor of Palermo that the Archives required a third archival deposit "ex novo", where it would be possible to concentrate all the "town archives", which were haphazardly piled in the various monks' cells, as well as in the corridors of the first and second floors of the Augustinian complex. The project of completing the new Room

67

Charles IV of Habsburg, King of Sicily, grants the Senate in Palermo the title of Grandee of Spain. 14th May, 1722. Red lacquer seal

68

Charles of Bourbon, King of Sicily, creates the Tribunal of Public Health. 4th April, 1746



69
E. Basile.
Chiosco Ribaudò. A
Heliographic copy of
the elevation and plan

70
Nino Bixio. Photograph
from the Album of
'The 1,000' who landed
at Marsala, 1860

would be entrusted by the Local Authorities to the architect Giuseppe Damiani Almeyda, who, with a mixture of technical and scientific ability, would marry economic exigencies with the aesthetics of style, thereby realising the magnificent 'Aula Grande', a rare example of an edifice built solely to serve as an archive (fig. 72-73). The central space of the Damiani Almeyda Room (it would be called this at a later stage) is remarkable for the four large octagonal pilasters, that together with the wooden coffered ceiling, the galleries and the spiral staircase bestow on the



location a strong symbolic quality. It is not chance that the Room is compared to a secular building, custodian of the precious historical memory of the city, destined to conserve it for eternity. The views of the Almeyda Room, characterised by polychrome plastering and rectangular and medallion shaped windows, bring to mind the 5th and 6th century architecture of central Italy and can be admired from the two internal courtyards and from Piazza Meschita. The Historical Archive, not only conserves, protects, increases the value and hands down to prosperity its historical and documentary holdings but also acts as scientific support to the archival research of its users, through its personnel in the Sala Studio [Reading Room], offering help in finding the required documents amongst the numerous collections available, by means of documentary exhibitions, guided tours, collaboration with schools and research entities.

The Institute has, for many years, edited the publication of the book series *Acta Curie felicis urbis Panormi*, palaeographic and diplomatic editions of the sources and catalogues of the historical and documentary exhibitions, amongst which feature: *Il Seicento e il primo festino di Santa Rosalia*, *Per la sicurezza della città*, *Il Teatro Massimo cento e più anni fa*, which are part of the series *Itinerari della Memoria*.

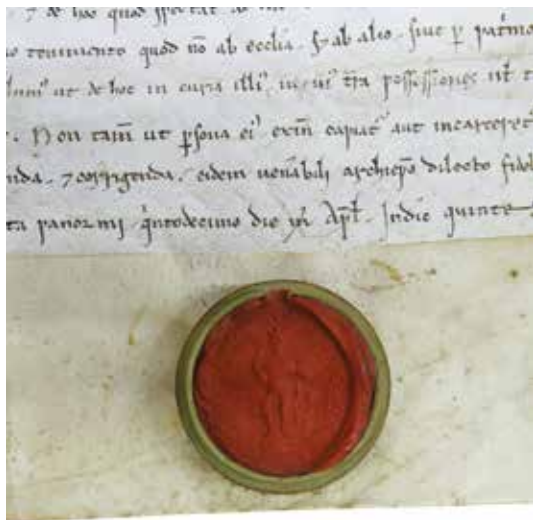
71

The Book of the Vow of the Virgin Mary (Giuramento all'Immacolata). Coat of Arms of the Starrabba Rudinì. 1863

72 - 73

Archivio Storico Comunale of Palermo. The Damiani Almeyda room





74
Red lacquer seal
belonging to William II
with casing. 1172

THE ARCHIVIO STORICO DIOCESANO OF PALERMO

Marcello Messina

Corso Vittorio Emanuele, 463 Palermo
tel. +39 091321988 fax +39 0916113642
archivistorico@diocesipa.it

Opening Hours

Monday to Thursday 9.00-13.00
Monday and Thursday also 15.30-18.00

The Archivio Storico Diocesano (Diocesan Historical Archives) is housed in the old Archbishop's Seminary, nowadays the Pontifical Sicilian Theological Faculty. Its origins date from the 11th century when—the diocese of Palermo having been rebuilt by the Great Count Roger—it was felt necessary to preserve and transmit the rights and privileges granted to the Archbishop and the Church in Palermo, as recognised by kings and pontiffs. In the course of time, the Archives acquired the documentation covering the ecclesiastical governance and the financial and judicial administration of the Archbishop's diocese. Under the governance of Cardinal Ernesto Ruffini (Archbishop from 1945 – 1967), it gradually assumed its present day closed-stack setting.

The oldest documents are conserved in the *Tabulario*, and consist of privileges and Pontifical and Regal mandates as well as notarial documents, divided into 6 sections. Of particular interest is the red wax seal of William II (**fig. 74**), with casing.

The *Fondo Storico* is of particular importance, and consists of 200 documents

75

Red lacquer seal belonging to Alphonse V the Magnanimous. 1445



(1083 – 1748), which in some cases still have their original seals. Amongst these are those of The Grand Count Roger, William II, Constance of Hauteville, Henry VI, Frederick II, Alfonse the Magnanimous (fig. 75), Philip III and 16 Pontifical seals. There are also important bi-lingual documents written in Latin and Greek or in Greek and Arabic, classical forms of expression of the pluralistic linguistic culture of Medieval Sicily. *The Historical Archives*, as distinct from the *Tabulario*, comprise some 9,000 pieces, divided between the *Diocesano* and the *Capitolare* collections.

The archives of the Curia are contained in the Diocesano collection. The oldest part comprises the section known as the *Gran Corte Archivescovile* (16th – 19th century). The more recent documents are contained in the section known as the Archbishopric's Curia (18th – 20th century), appointed to administer the assets destined for the upkeep of the Archbishop, the *Santuario di Santa Rosalia* and the *Conferenza Episcopale Siciliana* [CESI, Episcopal Conference of Sicily].



76

Parchment epistolary manuscript. 12th century

77

Parchment sacramental manuscript. 13th century. Drawing picturing Christ's Passion c. 94 r.

78

*Breviarium secundum
consuetudinem
Panormitanae Ecclesiae.*

1452 – 1453. Cc.-
188v-189r



Some of the older urban parochial archives are also important: Santa Croce; Gesù, Giuseppe e Maria ai Colli; Gesù, Maria e Santo Stefano alla Zisa; San Giacomo dei Militari e Santa Margherita. The archives of the Chapter of the Canons of the Cathedral are contained in the *Capitolare* collection. With regards to this chapter it is said that Robert Guiscard founded eighteen canonical buildings in the 11th century. Henry VI added two, plus an additional two were created by Frederick II. In the 15th century Queen

Bianca of Navarre created a further two, thus bringing their number to 24, but Eugene IV issued an edict in February 1443 suppressing six. However, Charles V in 1524, instituted another six. There were three different dignatories: the Ciantor or Cantor, the Archdeacon and the Deacon. The collection of 18 codices, manuscripts written between 12th and 17th century: the *Missale antiquum Sanctae Panormitanae Ecclesiae* with musical annotations (12th century – 1130?), l'*Epistolario* (the Epistolary) mentioned above as well as



the *Lezionario* (the Lectionary), end of the 12th century) with illuminations (**fig. 76**), the *Sacramentario* (the Sacramentary) previously known as the *Messale Gallicano* (The Gallican Missal), end of the 12th – beginning of 13th century), produced by the monks and used by the Royal family and the court at least until the reign of Frederick II, with inside a picture of *Christ Suffering* (Cristus Patiens), 13th century (**fig. 77**) and the *Breviarium secundum consuetudinem Panormitanae Ecclesiae*, a codex commissioned by the

Archbishop Simone Beccadelli of Bologna, made between 1452 and 1453 and richly illuminated by several miniaturists, one of which has been identified as Guglielmo of Pesaro (**fig. 78**).

The Archive also has a Library of around 1,600 volumes, whose *Fondo Antico* contains ecclesiastical texts, such as tomes on theology or by ecclesiastical writers, devotional works, texts on canonical law, manuals on how to preach and liturgical editions from the 16th century up to 1830.

**THE HISTORICAL ARCHIVES OF THE
FONDAZIONE SICILIA**

Cettina Coffa

.....
Villa Zito, Via G. Di Marzo, 2 Palermo

rel. +39 0917792712

fax: +39 0917792714

info@fondazioneitalia.it

www.fondazioneitalia.it

Opening Hours

March - October: Tuesday to Sunday

9.30-19.30

November - February: Tuesday to Friday

9.30-14.30
.....

The *Fondazione Sicilia* possesses an important Antique Book Collection, which is housed in rooms adjacent to those in *Villa Zito*, and consists of over 18,000 volumes covering most of Sicily's economic and banking history and in particular that of the city of Palermo, in the period from 1552 to 1991, the year in which the *Fondazione Sicilia* was created and assigned the collection of the *Archivio Storico*.

The archives held by the Antique Book Collection can, in synthesis, be classified in four main sections: the collections relating to Palermo's *Tavola Pecuniaria* (1552-1857), instituted by the Senate of Palermo on 1st February, 1552 by notarial act stipulated by the magistrate Cesare Lanza with the public notary Giacomo Capobianco; those relating to Messina's *Tavola Pecuniaria* (1587-1753); the section covering the *Casse di Corte* of Palermo and Messina (1844-1850), founded by Ferdinand II in April, 1843 as a subsidiary of the Royal Bank of the Two

Sicilies, renamed during the Revolution The National Bank of Sicily (January 1848-April 1849), and then in August 1850, granted autonomy and renamed The Royal Bank of the Dominions beyond the Lighthouse (1850-1867); and lastly the section relating to the Archives of the *Banco di Sicilia*, from 1867 onwards, year in which it was founded by virtue of the law issued 11th August, 1867 up until 1991, when the ex Public Credit Institution became a Public Company (**fig. 79-81**).

All the archival material belongs to the Sicilian Foundation, except for that of the "Tavola di Palermo", which was deeded in deposit in favour of the Bank of Sicily, by stipulated agreement with the Borough of Palermo in 1948.

The archives from Palazzo Branciforte, (868 volumes) can also be found in this section. They come from the historical archives of the *Monte di Pietà* of Palermo, starting from 1541 and transferred in 1801, when the new branch of the Bank was opened. These archives are composed of three main series covering the documentation of the Institution and the statutory regulations of the Bank, as well as its day-to-day activities, management and accounts covering four centuries (1541-1941). The Historical Book Collection also preserves the *Fondo Spatrisano* (**fig. 82**), which includes the personal library of the architect Giuseppe Spatrisano, consisting of 2,000 volumes, his drawings and surveys.



79

Voucher for 1,000 francs, part of the loan of 5 million created by the Minister of the Royal Finances by decree on 10th October, 1860



80

100 lire banknote, issued by the Bank of Sicily 11th April, 1879

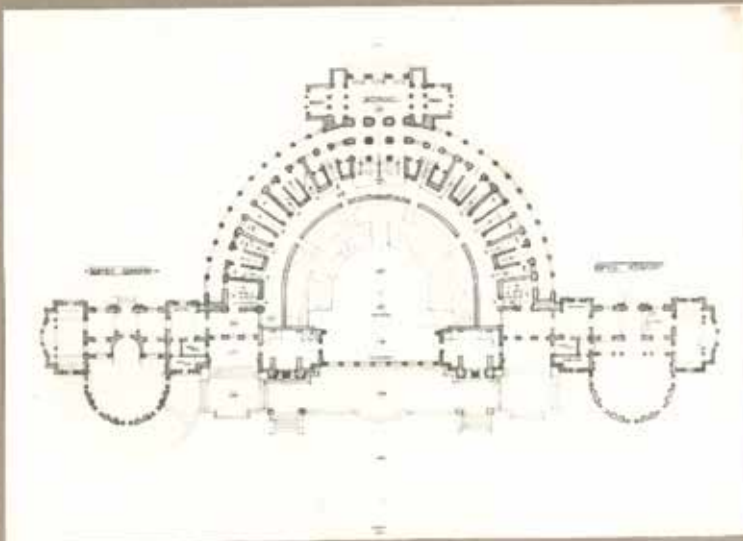


81

5 lira banknote, issued by the Bank of Sicily, 15th September, 1868



82
Giuseppe Spatrisano,
Teatro sul mare, 1925.
Project not realised



THE ARCHIVIO STORICO DIOCESANO OF MONREALE

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.....
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Opening Hours

Monday to Friday 9.30-13.00
Tuesday also 15.00-18.00

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The Archivio Storico Diocesano of Monreale (Diocesan Historical Archives) contain evidence of all aspects of the life and activities, from the religious to the economical, cultural and social aspects, of the population of the very large archdiocese of Monreale, which nowadays covers an extensive area of the Province of Palermo. Situated on the ground floor of the Archbishop's Palazzo, it was ceremoniously opened to the public on 23rd March, 1993, after having obtained from the Superintendent Archivist for Sicily on 21st December, 1985 an initial declaration of its historical importance, followed by a second such declaration the 26th May, 2014. It is important to remember that the Archbishop of Monreale, from the end of 12th century, that is when the Archbishopric was created, up until 1812, exercised not only spiritual but also temporal powers, the famous "*mero et mixto imperio*", over a vast area of western Sicily as well as some parts of eastern Sicily, thus making Monreale one of the most

important and widespread ecclesiastical Seigneuries of Italy. This explains the variety of documents conserved as well as the nature of the Archive, not only ecclesiastical but also secular. The documents, made up of ledgers, quires, volumes, files, some 100 parchments (**fig. 83-85**), authentications of reliquaries and maps occupy more than 1,500 linear metres of metal shelving and are divided into four main subject catalogues:

1. *Registri della Corte* (Court Registers—1,200 parchment bound ledgers), which record the acts, decisions and measures emanated by the Archbishop, in the exercise of his functions (**fig. 86**);
2. *Carte Processuali Sciolte* (Unbound Court

83

Lead seals from the Papal Bulls (*Bulla*) for the Church of Monreale. 16th and 17th century



84

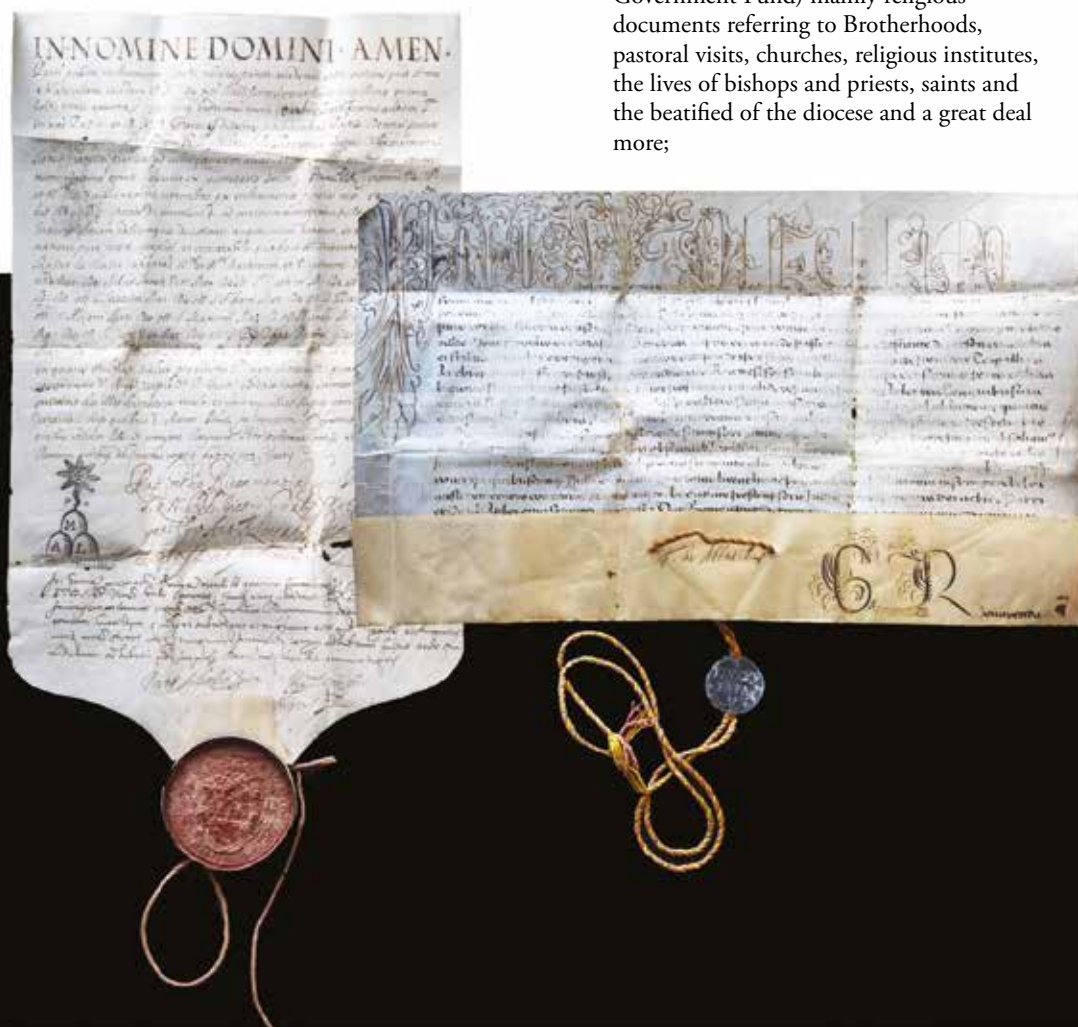
Authentication of the reliquaries of the Saints.
17th century

85

The election of Archangelo Gualtiero to the office of the Archbishop of Monreale. 17th century

Proceedings) composed of thousands of files of proceedings heard in the courts of the archbishopric, not only on ecclesiastical matters but also civil and criminal, given that the Archbishop had jurisdiction over these cases;

3. *Fondo Governo Ordinario* (Ordinary Government Fund) mainly religious documents referring to Brotherhoods, pastoral visits, churches, religious institutes, the lives of bishops and priests, saints and the beatified of the diocese and a great deal more;



4. *Fondo Mensa* (Arcidiocesan Stipendiary Fund) of particular value, which comprises the documentation of the administration of 72 fiefdoms making up the Territory of the Archbishopric. These possessions extended to Apulia, Basilicata and Calabria. During its reorganisation, cataloguing and indexing, other collections of equal importance were added to this section. Apart from the thousands of files which can be considered as appendices to the *Fondo Carte Processuali Sciolte* and the *Fondo Mensa*, the Archives now include: il *Fondo Deputazione dei Restauri del*

Duomo, 65 folders and ledgers with all the documentation of this commission which supervised the funding and reconstruction of the Cathedral presbytery, destroyed by a fire 11th November, 1811; the *Fondo Veneziano*, 8 folders of unpublished documents on the life and works of the celebrated poet of Monreale, Antonio Veneziano (1543–1593); the *Fondo Cattedrale*, 38 folders with all the ancient controversies between the Benedictines and the secular clergy; the *Fondo Tagliavia*, 26 folders on the management of one of the most extensive fiefdoms of the

86
Registers of Spiritual
Acts. 17th century





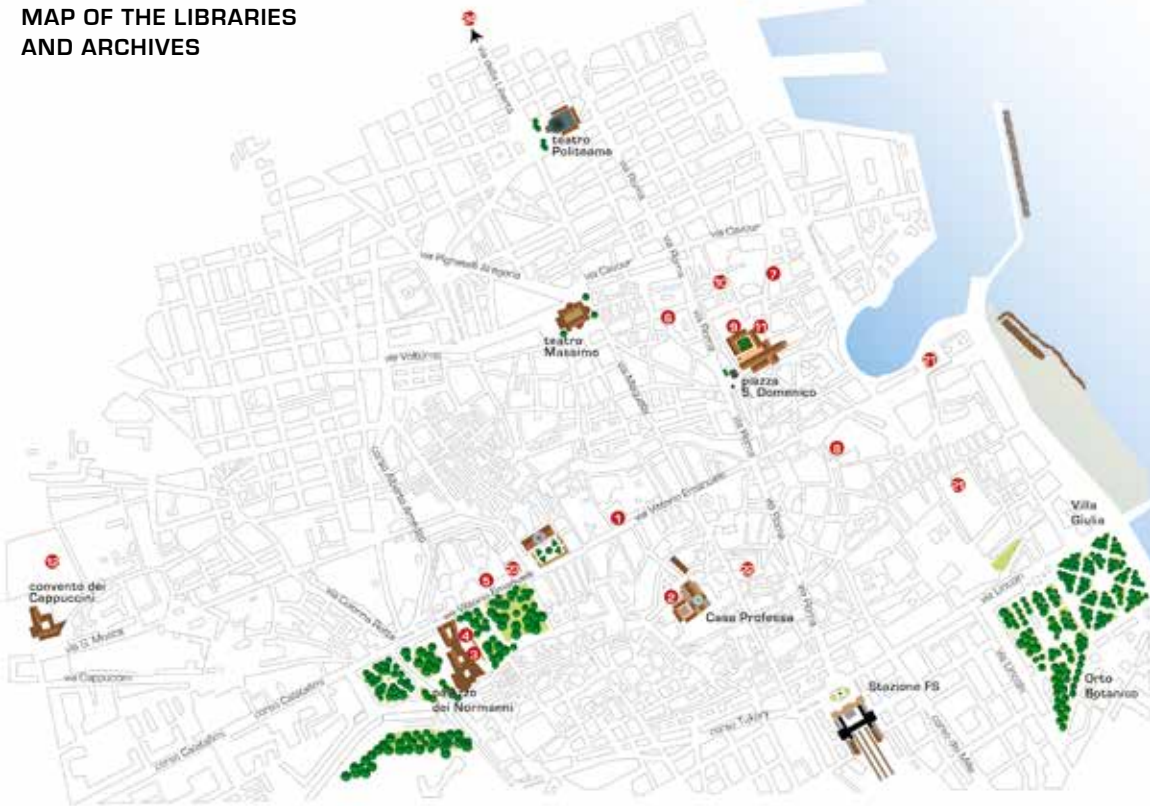
87
Hymn book.
18th century

Archbishopric; the *Fondo Musicale* (fig. 87), containing three splendid 18th century antiphons. The Diocesan Historic Archives also hold the antique Archives of the Seminary of the Archbishopric, the Archives of the Church of the Agonizzanti, the Archives of the Sacro Cuore and the Archives of the Albergo dei Poveri, all of them local Institutions, which have played an important part in the history of Monreale.

The oldest conserved papers date from the second half of the 14th century. In fact over 300 manuscripts describing the foundation, the donations and the privileges granted—by the Sovereigns, beginning from King William II with his *Roll*, and by the Popes from the 12th – 14th century, collected

together in the *Tabularium Sanctae Mariae Novae*—were moved to the Biblioteca Centrale della Regione Siciliana “Alberto Bombace” after 1941. Inside the two Reading Rooms in the Archives, which also offer Internet access, there is a Library containing hundreds of volumes of general and local historical interest, books on art and architecture and a section dedicated to university theses as well as every publication written with the help of information garnered from the Archives. The importance of these Archives, with its eight centuries of history, has been recognised by UNESCO, nominating it part of the World’s Heritage in 2001.

MAP OF THE LIBRARIES AND ARCHIVES



CENTRE OF PALERMO

- ① Biblioteca Centrale della Regione Siciliana “Alberto Bombace”
- ② Biblioteca Comunale di Palermo
- ③ Library of the Assemblea Regionale Siciliana
- ④ Library of the Osservatorio Astronomico di Palermo “Giuseppe Vaiana”
- ⑤ Biblioteca Centrale per le Chiese di Sicilia
Theological Library “Mons. Cataldo Naro”
- ⑥ Library of the Museo Archeologico Regionale “A. Salinas”
- ⑦ Library of the Conservatorio di Musica “Vincenzo Bellini”
- ⑧ Biblioteca Francescana
- ⑨ Library of the Società Siciliana per la Storia Patria
- ⑩ Library of the Fondazione Sicilia
- ⑪ Library of the Dominicans
- ⑫ Library of the Capuchins
- ⑬ Archivio di Stato di Palermo
- ⑭ Archivio Storico Comunale di Palermo
- ⑮ Archivio Storico Diocesano di Palermo
- ⑯ Historical Archives of the Fondazione Sicilia

PROVINCE OF PALERMO

- ⑰ Biblioteca Comunale of Monreale
- ⑱ Library of the Monastery of San Martino delle Scale
- ⑲ “Francesco Scavo” Public Library in Carini
- ⑳ “Francesco Scaduto” Public Library in Bagheria
- ㉑ “Liciniana” Public Library in Termini Imerese
- ㉒ Library of the Fondazione Mandralisca in Cefalù
- ㉓ “Federico Lancia di Brolo” Public Library in Polizzi Genosa
- ㉔ “Francesco Bentivegna” Public Library in Corleone
- ㉕ Archivio Storico Diocesano of Monreale



