

BIBLIOTHECA PALATINA

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Microfiche Edition · K.G. Saur



Southern choir of the Heiliggeist Church during the BIBLIOTHECA PALATINA exhibition, 1986 (photo: Lossen)



Southern choir of the Heiliggeist Church during the BIBLIOTHECA PALATINA exhibition, 1986 (photo: Lossen)

Historical note

The BIBLIOTHECA PALATINA in Heidelberg, known as the "mother of German libraries" was the most important library north of the Alps up until the 17th century.

Prince Ludwig III (1410-1436) could not have known that he was making library history when he decreed that after his death important manuscripts should be transferred from Heidelberg castle to the Heiliggeist church for the use of the university. On the 18th December 1438 Heidelberg University recorded that it was in possession of 155 works from the deceased Ludwig's collection. The books were originally kept in the northern gallery of the church, to be partially transferred later to the southern gallery which was constructed especially for the library when the nave of the church was rebuilt. The books were placed on and chained to lecterns and were primarily intended to serve the scholarly needs of professors of the faculties of Theology, Law and Medicine.

Over the next centuries the BIBLIOTHECA PALATINA (as the collection in the Heiliggeist church was named)

was regularly enriched with further additions from Heidelberg castle. The bibliophile Prince Ottheinrich (1556-1559) went one step further: he ordained in his will that at every Frankfurt Fair in Spring and Autumn 50 florins should be spent on new publications, thereby securing for the library permanent funds for the purchase of new literature.

The BIBLIOTHECA PALATINA finally became the "greatest treasure of learned Germany" (*optimus Germaniae litteratae thesaurus*) when the private library of Ulrich Fugger was transferred to the Heiliggeist church in 1567. As a Protestant member of the wealthy Augsburg Fugger family he readily accepted the invitation of the converted Calvinist Prince Friedrich III to donate his library to the Palatina.

The next few decades in Heidelberg were predominated by an active, if not at times militant, Calvinism. The BIBLIOTHECA PALATINA had played an active role in the Confessionalist battle since Ottheinrich's rule. It procured Latin and Greek classics and supported the work of the Genevan Hieronymus Commelius and his successors who edited texts on the Confessional faith written by the founding fathers. The use of

Title page. From top left to bottom right:

Row 1: Book covers for Ottheinrich and Friedrich den Frommen (the Pious)

Row 2: Book covers for Ludwig VI, Johann Casimir and Ulrich Fugger

Row 3: Book covers for Friedrich IV and Friedrich V

the library for the Calvinistic cause was intensified by fully employed librarians such as the Neo-Latin scholar Pithopoeus or the Calvinists Schede Melissus and Janus Gruter, who propagandised their religion by sending scholars elsewhere editions of the manuscripts kept in the BIBLIOTHECA PALATINA.

Anti-Reformation Rome was highly aware of the dangerous propagandistic value of these literary "weapons". No wonder, then, that during the Thirty Years War Pope Gregor XV used the Catholic conquest of Heidelberg in 1622, led by army commander Tilly, as an opportunity to secure the library for the Vatican. On Rome's request, the Bavarian ruler Maximilian officially delivered the literary war booty into the hands of the Catholic capital.

The Pope's legate, Leone Allacci, spent several months in 1622/23 packing the manuscripts and printed works into 196 boxes (12 of which were destined for his own private library). Not only did he take the collection in the Heiliggeist church, but also the library holdings of Heidelberg castle and Heidelberg University. After an adventurous journey the books

finally arrived in Rome on the 9th August 1623. The Vatican's own library had to have a new annex built to accommodate this enormous addition to its holdings.

The Heidelberg princes tried in vain to win back the BIBLIOTHECA PALATINA after the Treaty of Westphalia, which signalled the end of the Thirty Years War. It wasn't until 1816, after the defeat of Napoleon, who had transferred many valuable works from Rome to Paris, that Pope Pius VII handed back to Heidelberg some Latin, Greek and all 847 German manuscripts, to which was added the Codex Manesse as Cod. Pal. germ. 848 in 1888. Over the last few decades the University Library of Heidelberg has been able to obtain microfilms and copies of the BIBLIOTHECA PALATINA's manuscripts which had remained in Rome. The catalogues of the manuscripts of the Quadrivrate and of the medical manuscripts by Ludwig Schuba have already been published.

Around 600 manuscripts and printed works were on view at the BIBLIOTHECA PALATINA exhibition, held from July to November 1986 to celebrate the 600 years since the founding of Heidelberg University. The splendour of the BIBLIOTHECA PALATINA was there for all to see for the very first time. The microfiche edition of the printed works now provides scholars everywhere with access to the holdings.



Maximilian of Bavaria's exlibris for the BIBLIOTHECA PALATINA



Vatican. Library. Urban VIII's inscription in the annexe specifically built in order to house the BIBLIOTHECA PALATINA (photo: Nomi Baumgartl)



Grammatica Palatina Heidelbergensis (Stamp. Pal. V 1536)



Gruter's inscriptions (Stamp. Pal. I 120)



The first book in Arabic letters printed in Germany (R G Oriente V 260)

Heidelberg University – Centre of European Learning

The university was founded at a time of great political and religious division in Europe. The library embraced the whole academic spectrum of the Middle Ages, with manuscripts used by students for basic studies (such as the Heidelberg Grammatica latina or Melanchthon's Rhetoric) as well as the works used for the faculties of Theology, Medicine and Law. The only works which actually originated in Heidelberg were the medical writings of Thomas Erastus (the main rival of Paracelsus), of Pithopoeus, highly regarded in the field of Middle-Latin poetry, and of the Huguenot Gothofredus, the most important editor on the Corpus iuris in the 17th century. The library also procured the works of the Latin writer and historian Gruter (famous for his collection of Latin inscriptions) and the Greek writings of Friedrich Sylburg; the Arabic manuscripts from Ottheinrich's own collection provided the source of the first book to be produced in Germany using Arabic lettering (Heidelberg 1583) and formed the basis of the study of Arabic in German universities, pioneered by Christmann in Heidelberg.

The Huguenot Tremellius published the first Syrian-language Bible. The jurist Caspar Freher produced historical sources which supported and reinforced the ruling position of the Heidelberg princes. The PALATI-NA acts as witness to the cultural bloom in Heidelberg of the late 16th century with its collection of the early works of Martin Opitz, which he dedicated to Janus Gruter. The latter systematically collected for the library the relevant scholarly literature on the German and European book markets up until the last years of the BIBLIOTHECA PALATINA, thus providing the basis for a depth and breadth of literature which has yet to find its equal in any other single collection.



An alchemic work from Ottheinrich's library (Stamp. Pal. IV 507)



The original handwritten manuscript of the Emperor Frederick II's falconer's book along with its printed version of 1596 were part of the BIBLIOTHECA PALATINA (Stamp. Pal. V 494)

The Heidelberg Princes – Kings of Bibliophiles

The Heidelberg princes were of monarchical status, a position they reinforced with their library as a symbol of wealth, culture and learning. Ottheinrich followed the example of kings and emperors of past and present who had founded and cultivated libraries, by stating in his will that his successors should continue to maintain his bibliophilic work. And this they did. One finds in the BIBLIOTHECA PALATINA not only literature in general but also on law, which was of considerable importance for the Palatinate dukes who acted as law administrators in Franconia.

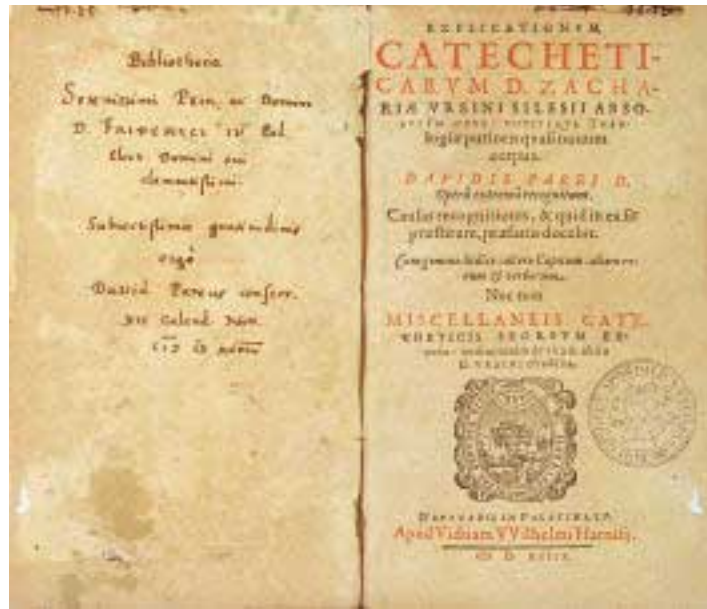
Ottheinrich's encyclopedic collection is world famous, but the libraries of other princes and their wives, or important members of the royal family such as Johann Casimir were also extremely impressive. Many theological works reflect the Confessional battle of that time, in which Heidelberg played an important role.



Noe Meurer: Hunting and Forest Law. The Palatine Forest Law was the most progressive of its time (Stamp. Pal. II 286)



Johannes von Gerssdorf: Feldtbuch der Wundartzney, a medical manual (Stamp. Pal. V 281)



Ursinus' commentary on the Heidelberg catechism; presentation copy for the Elector Friedrich IV (Stamp. Pal. V 1500)



Chinese novel (Stamp. Pal. IV 1291)

Friedrich III's own personal copy of the Calvinistic songbook with the Heidelberg catechism is the only surviving copy of that edition.

The Lutheran Ludwig IV used his prayer book to record his children's birthdays. His library contained works on mining, purchased at the time when he was Prince Regent in Amberg in the Upper Palatinate region, which in the Middle Ages was Germany's main industrial centre for mineral resources. Ludwig also nurtured a special interest in medicine as shown in his exceedingly rare collection of works on anatomy; Ludwig's interest in horse breeding is also reflected in the library. He shared this interest with Johann Casimir, who also contributed a whole series of Calvinistic texts to the BIBLIOTHECA PALATINA. Books from the youth of Friedrich IV stand next to Friedrich V's personal copy of the printed description of his honeymoon journey with Elizabeth of London to Heidelberg, during which he received books as gifts from Oxford and Cambridge. French and Austrian Protestants also dedicated books to the Heidelberg Calvinists,

who were seen as forerunners in the international Confessionalist "uprising". Prague too made gifts of its literary works, later to become part of the BIBLIOTHECA PALATINA, from the time when Friedrich V was made king of Bohemia. The BIBLIOTHECA PALATINA boasts several Chinese printed works from this Prague period originating from the library of Emperor Rudolf II, which, shortly after they arrived in Heidelberg, had to make the journey on to Rome. As one can see, an exceptional scope of academic and cultural history is reflected in this library.

Ulrich Fugger: Books are my most treasured possession

Ulrich Fugger, a member of the rich merchant Augsburg family of the same name, suffered from epilepsy, as his mother had before him. Consequently he led a consciously quiet life dedicated to study. As a student in Ingolstadt, Bologna and Bourges he purchased costly books. His collection of Greek and Hebrew manuscripts, to which he was able to gain purchasing access in particular through tradesmen of the Fugger trading-house in Venice, was especially valuable. The important printer and editor of the *Thesaurus linguae graecae*, Henricus Stephanus, worked as "Typographus illustri viri Huldrici Fuggeri" from 1558 for some years. A considerable number of works, especially in Greek, were published around that time. The manuscripts for the printed edition of the *Novellae of Justinian* (1558) also found their way into the BIBLIOTHECA PALATINA (Cod. Pl. Graec. 387) via Fugger. In this way the reputation of the library spread throughout the whole of Europe. The scope of Ulrich Fugger's book collection stretches from books on trading and astronomy, astrology, animals and plants, to Arabian literature. Even the parchment copy of the Fust-Schöffer edition of the Bible of 1462 with the famous alliance coat-of-arms comes from Ulrich Fugger's library.



Codex Justiniani (amendments) in a version printed for Ulrich Fugger (Stamp. Pal. I 227)



Adolphus Occo:
Pharmacopoeia pro
Rep. Augustana
(Membr. II 15)



Dürer's title page – woodcut for Peypus' Lutheran bible translation (Membr. I 15)

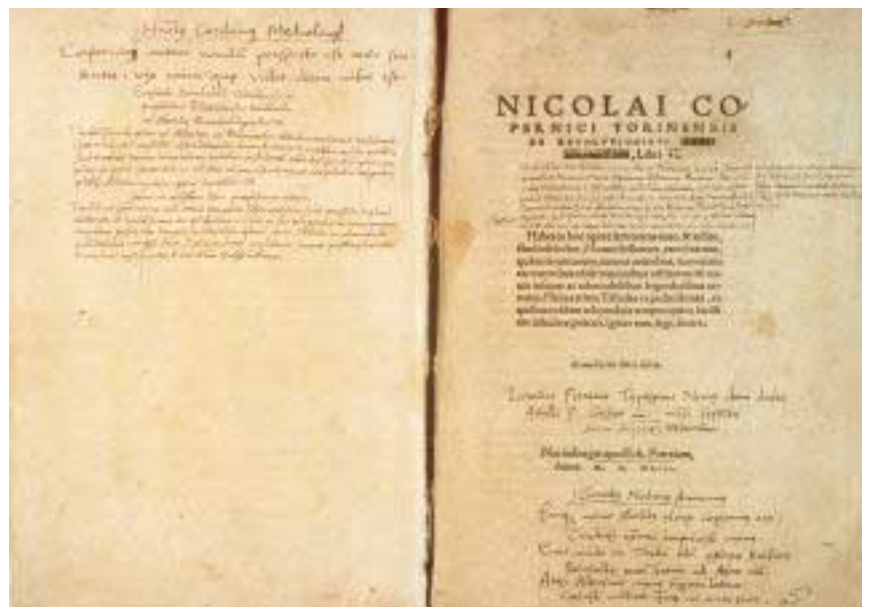


Leonhard Fuchs' Herbal in a Latin edition (Stamp. Pal. I 156)

On invitation of Prince Friedrich III, Ulrich Fugger, who was Protestant by religion, moved to Heidelberg in 1546; his library was transferred to Heidelberg in 1564. Although he no longer enjoyed such a healthy financial standing, he continued to acquire books, for instance the library of his friend and learned Augsburg doctor, Achilles Pirmin Gasser († 1577). Fugger's collection of scholarly literature is in itself a source of book history since a record was kept of price and place of purchase of the books. It contains such significant publications as Copernicus' main work "De revolutionibus" and rare imprints in Slavic languages, given to him as gifts by Mathias Flacius Illyricus. Fugger's invaluable collection was passed on to the BIBLIOTHECA PALATINA when he died in 1594.



Fugger added his lily to Fust and Schöffer's famous "alliance" coat of arms in the Bible of 1462 (Membr. S 14)



Printer's presentation copy of the first edition of "De revolutionibus" by Copernicus (Stamp. Pal. III 103)



Father Leonard Boyle, Prefect of the Vatican Library
(photo: Schwarz)



Prof. Elmar Mittler at work in the Vatican Library
(photo: Schwarz)

The BIBLIOTHECA PALATINA – Quest for a Lost Library

The BIBLIOTHECA PALATINA has been called a "priceless treasure". Up to now, however, the complete extent of the library has not been known.

Prof. Leonard Boyle, Prefect of the Vatican library provided space, support and encouragement for the microfiche project.

The main part of the printed collection is to be found in the "Stampati Palatini" in the Vatican Library. Many other books from the PALATINA, however, are now in special collections or have even found their way into the general holdings of the Vatican library. In order to track these down precise knowledge of the Vatican library catalogues, and sometimes even detective skills are required.

Prof. Elmar Mittler, organiser of the BIBLIOTHECA PALATINA exhibition, has traced many previously unknown works from the PALATINA – not all of which could be found in the Vatican library. Presents were made of valuable books from the BIBLIOTHECA PALATINA collection to the Barberini and Chigi libraries by Popes Urban VIII and Alexander VII. Since the Barberini and Chigi libraries were acquired by the Vatican in the present century, these PALATINA volumes are now once again in the Vatican Library. The books taken by Allacci for his own collection when the books were originally transported to Rome were traced to the library of the Collegio Greco when they could not be located in the Vatican library.

All these holdings are being catalogued at Heidelberg University with the financial support of the *Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft* (German Research Institute). The resulting catalogue is also being published in the *Deutschen Nationalbibliographie* (German national bibliography). They are therefore also accessible via the tape file service of *Die Deutsche Bibliothek*.



Studio in the Vatican Library (photo: Mittler)

The full-text edition of the BIBLIOTHECA PALATINA on microfiche – Germany’s most important library of the 16th century will belong to the whole of the academic world

Like everything else in the library, the valuable holdings of the BIBLIOTHECA PALATINA are not allowed to leave the Vatican. K. G. Saur Publishers therefore had to search for a method of filming the books in a specially devised filming studio at the Vatican, with three specialist photographers responsible for the filming – for over five years.

Naturally there is a potential danger of damaging the precious original editions if they are not handled correctly. This is particularly the case with narrow bindings, when the type-face runs into the binding. A solution had to be found which enabled such difficult texts to be filmed without fully opening up the book. The filming company Herrmann and Kraemer in Garmisch-Partenkirchen developed a book cradle especially for



Book-protecting cradle (photo: Mittler)

this purpose, whereby the book only needs to be opened up to 90 degrees in order to make distortion-free camera copies of the texts, right into the gutter.

Black-and-white roll film, produced in Rome, was used in the original filming procedure. A special filming process was then used to convert these to masterfiches, marked with a heading from the manuscript in Rome. These masterfiches were then used in the production of silver fiche copies, supervised by Heidelberg's University Library in order to control quality.

This complicated procedure ensures optimal microfiche quality of both the printed texts and the handwritten notes. In some cases the texts are even more recognisable on microfiche than in the original version because they can be enlarged.

The microfiche edition of the BIBLIOTHECA PALATINA will enable libraries with limited holdings of older works to purchase international core literature of the 16th and 17th centuries. Libraries with more extensive holdings of literature from this period will be able to add to them from the Unica and Rara of the PALATINA.

They can also preserve their own copies by offering the microfiche edition for general use. The microfiche edition therefore contributes to both improving accessibility and protecting valuable editions of literary heritage.

It has only been possible for K.G. Saur Publishers to realise this ambitious project with the generous support of the *Kulturstiftung Baden-Württemberg* (Baden Württemberg's cultural trust foundation). With its help the collection of the printed books of the BIBLIOTHECA PALATINA, once "optimus litteratae Germaniae thesaurus", the greatest treasure of learned Germany, conserved in the Vatican library over hundreds of years where it could only be used by a few scholars, is now finally accessible to all academics in Germany and the whole world.



The well-known historian Prof. Dr. Norbert Kamp, Göttingen, consulting the BIBLIOTHECA PALATINA (photo: Pförtner)



Coloured depiction of the Heidelberg fireworks in honour of the newly-wedded electoral couple, Friedrich V and Elizabeth Stuart 1613 (Stamp. Pal. IV 118)

Bibliotheca Palatina

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Microfiche Edition

Edited by Leonard Boyle and Elmar Mittler

1989-1995. 21,103 silver fiches. € 34,760.00. ISBN 3-598-32880-X

Catalogue and Index to the Microfiche Edition "Printed Books of the Bibliotheca Palatina"

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