Libri six centuries of Italian books from the Baillieu Library’s Special Collections
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curated by Susan Millard with assistance from Tom Hyde.

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Right: Marc Kopylov, Papiers dominotés italiens, 2012

Far right: Owen Jones, The grammar of ornament, 1856
FOREWORD

What could be better than an exhibition of Italian books to be included in Rare Book Week with the theme ‘A passion for books’? Our recent purchase of the Hypnerotomachia Poliphili, an early printed book with exceptional woodcuts, printed by Aldus Manutius in 1499, was the perfect inspiration to search our collections for books from or about Italy. Our themes emerged as books were found; these are Politics, Arts, Humanism, Literature, Italians in Australia, Travel and Futurism. Although we try to give an overview of an area, our text focuses on the books in this exhibition. There are obvious omissions, for example works of science, but the focus of this exhibition is the humanities. From a medieval manuscript to a modern day artists book by an Italian Australian, this exhibition shows the range of beautiful and interesting Italian books in the Baillieu Library’s Special Collections.

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I would like to acknowledge the early input of Kylie King, who threw some very interesting ideas into the mix, but had to withdraw from the project. A big thank you to Tom Hyde, who has put time and effort into the selection, installation and writing of text for the exhibition; it has been great working with him. Claire Patullo has put in an amazing effort to make cradles for the books. Thanks also to University of Melbourne staff Jason Benjamin, Susie Shears, Kylie Nickels, Lee McRae, Elizabeth Cashen and Kerrianne Stone. Also thanks to designer Janet Boschen, who is responsible for the beautiful artwork. I would like to acknowledge the library executive for funding this exhibition.

Susan Millard
Curator, Special Collections
The University of Melbourne
During the late fifteenth to the mid-sixteenth centuries Italy was plunged into the near constant warfare of the Italian Wars, playing host to the political ambitions and squabbles of the great powers of Europe—France, Spain, the Holy Roman Empire, and the Papal States. Rather than the unified nation that we know today, Italy was divided into separate city-states and kingdoms. The fragmentary nature of Italy, its rulers and its armies led to the swift occupation by foreign forces that would rob Italy of its self-determination for the next 300 years. Amidst this turmoil, the people of Italy started to grapple with the ideas of self-determination and the virtues of republicanism. A crisis of identity ensued, with Italians struggling to assert their ‘Italianness’. Individuals, powerful families—of the likes of the Medicis, the Sforzas and the Borgias—and even popes, exploited opportunities created by the tumult and sought to legitimise their tenuous hold over their subjects through flamboyant, but ultimately hollow, gestures of power. Inextricably tied to these displays of power, like many aspects of Italian society, was the visual culture of the emerging Italian Cinquecento.
Arguably the most famous personality of Italian political discourse during the Renaissance was Niccolo Machiavelli, a prominent Florentine statesman and political figure who fiercely opposed the ‘barbarous dominion’ of his country. Influenced by classical ideals, he perceived the need for strong and innovative leadership if Italy was ever to assert control of its destiny. He was a prolific author and is commonly heralded as the founder of modern western political thought. His ideas were controversial amongst his contemporaries and were the subject of both praise and criticism. Scholars have argued that his seminal work, The prince, has served as a significant influence on many prominent political thinkers and leaders like Francis Bacon, Descartes and Thomas Hobbes. His theories have also been noted as influencing political thought of the modern era, including the founding of America and Benito Mussolini’s Italian fascism. The University of Melbourne possesses an extensive collection centred on Machiavelli ranging from the fifteenth to the seventeenth centuries. These works form the Raab Political Thought Collection, bequeathed by Mr Leo Raab to commemorate his son Felix, a first-class honours graduate in history of the University of Melbourne, who died in 1962 after an accident while walking in the mountains of Calabria.
Niccolò Machiavelli, *Il principe*, 1928
The arts in Italy go back to ancient times and include exquisite medieval manuscripts, but the Renaissance was an obvious high point, with the resurgence of enthusiasm and an outpouring of creativity. The social and political atmosphere is crucial to any art movement and Florence was the perfect setting for a cultural revival, particularly when Lorenzo de’ Medici came to power. He commissioned works from Leonardo da Vinci, Sandro Botticelli and Michelangelo Buonarroti, all great artists of the time. Bartolomeo Scappi, a Renaissance chef who worked in the Vatican, wrote a cookbook in 1570, Opera dell’arte del cucinare, containing around 1000 recipes and notes on cooking, which propelled him to fame. It is thought to contain the first representation of a fork. Many attractive buildings in the old Venetian Republic of the 1500s were designed by architect Andrea Palladio. One of the most important figures in western architecture, he was inspired by Ancient Roman and Greek building design. His text The four books of architecture gained him substantial recognition. Lives of the most excellent painters, sculptors, and architects by Giorgio Vasari is a very early example of an encyclopedia of biographies. Vasari, an artist and architect mixing with Andrea del Sarto, Michelangelo and the Medicis, produced this text, filled with information about artists, some hearsay and gossip. It is believed that he was the first to use the term Renaissance.
Left: Giorgio Vasari, *Le vite de pivi eccellenti architetti, pittori, et scultori...*, 1550


Opposite: Giovanni Pietro Bellori, *Descrizione delle immagini dipinte da Raffaele d’Urbino*, 1695

This collection represents the literary tradition of the *studia humanitatis*, or the humanities, in early modern Italian culture. The rebirth of classical ideas, philosophy and art accompanied the humanist tradition that emerged in Europe during the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries. But it was Italy, with its claim to a rich Roman ancestry, which became the intellectual hub of humanist thought and education among its European neighbours. Studies in Greek and Roman writers saw a revival with the study of such luminaries as Cicero, Sallust and Virgil. Many older, medieval aspects of Italian culture were also embellished with influences harking back to the Golden Age of the Mediterranean. During this exciting period of intellectualism, subjects that had been held in high esteem in classical times, such as grammar, rhetoric, history, poetry and moral philosophy were popularised and given new importance in Italian culture. Figures such as Leonardo da Vinci, Leon Battista Alberti, Dante Alighieri, Francesco Petrarch, Giovanni Boccaccio and Niccolo Machiavelli are but a few of the many humanists that Italy produced, authors that are still revered to this day. Classical works were translated from Latin and Greek and printed in new, ‘pocket’ editions, often by Aldus Manutius, which could be easily transported and read. This tradition has survived and remains relevant to this day, with classics being translated into a range of different languages and editions. Even e-book versions of these works are available for the casual reader.
Hypnerotomachia Poliphili, an early printed book, was produced in Venice by the venerated printer, Aldus Manutius. It was begun in 1467 and revised until its publication in 1499. The book comes out of the Italian humanist movement of the early Renaissance, probably written by Dominican monk Francesco Colonna. The woodcuts, over 160, are beautiful and, surprisingly, unattributed. The masterful printing and typography also make this work a standout incunable. The influence of the Hypnerotomachia Poliphili is extraordinary. Although a slow seller originally, it became a benchmark in the areas of architecture and landscape gardening over the following 300 years.

There are also passages about mosaics, fabrics, painting, food, music and other subjects. Essentially written in Tuscan dialect, there is also Latin, Greek, Aramaic and Colonna’s own created language. The story itself, a love story in which Poliphilo is looking for his beloved, is allegorical. Dreams were taken much more seriously at that time and were also used as a vehicle for expounding ideas. Part of the fascination with this book is the mystery surrounding it. There is still a great deal of interest in the Hypnerotomachia Poliphili and much work is being undertaken on the many facets contained within its pages.

Francesco Colonna, Hypnerotomachia Poliphili, 1499
LITERATURE

The earliest literary tradition in Italy was lyric poetry in Occitan, a language spoken in parts of north-west Italy. The troubadour tradition was strong, with many poets fleeing religious persecution in Languedoc. Eventually a native Italian vernacular emerged. Dante Alighieri produced the Divine Comedy in the 1300s, considered one of the greatest works of Italian literature. Its journey into an allegorical paradise, hell and purgatory has fascinated readers through the centuries to the present day. Petrarch, a humanist, delved into the classics of Greece and Rome as his inspiration, but his poetry was a precursor of modern aspirations.

Giuseppe Parini, an example of an Enlightenment poet, penned satirical verse, being an influence in the use of blank verse. In the nineteenth century Alessandro Manzoni was an instigator of romantic, but realist literature, writing The betrothed, an immensely popular historical novel set in the time of plague. The early twentieth century saw Italo Svevo, a friend and inspiration to James Joyce, produce Confessions of Zeno, a novel of psychoanalysis that became popular after Joyce promoted it. Eugenio Montale, the Nobel prize-winning poet, and Giuseppe Tomasi di Lampedusa, who wrote his one and only novel, The Leopard, that was published posthumously, add to the canon of the time. Alberto Moravia was writing at a similar time, however his work was far more hard-hitting and full of existentialist angst, often also anti-fascist. Primo Levi recalls the horror of a Nazi concentration camp in If this is a man, and film director and writer Pier Paolo Pasolini challenges us with gritty realism and his flouting of sexual mores. Unfortunately, after a life of controversy he was murdered by being run over with his own car. More recent authors, Umberto Eco, famed for the medieval thriller The name of the rose, Italo Calvino and Dino Buzzati have produced intellectual but engaging work.

Alessandro Manzoni, The betrothed, 1951
Italo Svevo, Confessions of Zeno, 1962
Alberto Moravia, Roman tales, 1966

Opposite: Catholic Church. [Leaf from a gradual (St Peter and St Paul)]. [14th century?]
Italian Australians make up around 25% of the population (46% in Victoria) according to the 2006 census. Although Italians have been in Australia since the 1840s and 1850s (particularly during the gold rush), large numbers did not arrive until after World War II. The internment of Italians during the war revealed a hardworking people, as they worked on farms across Australia. Attitudes softened towards Italian immigrants after this and the value of Italians in the economic development of Australia was recognised. Huge numbers came in the 1950s and 1960s, often with an eye to a permanent new home, often people sponsored by families already in Australia. Italian culture soon infused Australia with new food and great coffee. Pellegrini’s café in Melbourne reputedly imported the first coffee machine in 1954. Lygon Street in Carlton is lined with Italian restaurants and is a Melbourne institution. Many first and second generation Italians have contributed to Australia in all walks of life. Artists, inspired by their heritage, have produced artists books. Angela Cavalieri uses Italian language and buildings as a basis for her linocuts, Tommaso Durante has used Dante as inspiration for photos of bubbling lava, Bruno Leti has been inspired by the Italian countryside and old buildings, and Bianca Lentini has been moved by her nonna’s cooking. Australia is a much richer place due to the Italian presence and Italian culture is now part of the Australian psyche.
TRAVEL

Italy is an amazing country to visit. It is recognised, along with Greece, as the birthplace of western culture, and is filled with art, monuments and a large number of UNESCO World Heritage listed sites. One can experience Etruscan and Ancient Roman civilisation with its incredible ruins and buildings, such as the Pantheon and the extraordinary city of Pompeii, buried under ash in 79AD, through to the beautiful Renaissance cities of Florence and Venice. The idyllic countryside of Tuscany, the stunning coastal towns on the Italian Riviera and the excitement of the large city of Rome are all memorable destinations. Travel to Italy has been an important part of the ‘grand tour’, particularly for the English in the nineteenth century, and is still a must see destination for Australians heading off for their big overseas trip.
Emerging in the early twentieth century, Italian futurism was an artistic and social movement aiming to break with the past. Taking its cue from the modern machine age, where speed, energy, technology and industry created excitement and a feeling of power, artists across the spectrum began creating work that reflected these changes in society. Filippo Tommaso Marinetti is considered the founder of Italian futurism, publishing his *Futurist manifesto* in 1909. Another aspect of this movement was fervent nationalism and militarism. The striking feature of much of this work is the bold typographical style, influencing many subsequent art movements. Bruno Munari was part of the second futurist movement in the 1920s, but distanced himself as it took on fascist sympathies, as did many other artists.
LIST OF WORKS

**POLITICS**

Calvino, Italo
Il Cavaliere inesistente / di Italo Calvino; & la Collezione di armature di Ferdinando d’Asburgo a cura di Christian Beaufort-Spontin; fotografie di Robert lle o Bigano
Milano: Franco Maria Ricci, 1994

Machiavelli, Niccolò
Il principe / Machiavelli; con Il preludio al Machiavelli di Benito Mussolini, et il saggio di Francesco Sanctis
Milano: Società Anonima Notari, 1928

Machiavelli, Niccolò
Opere di Niccolò Machiavelli, vol. 1 (Florence): A spese di Gaetano Cambiagi libraio in Firenze, 1782–1783

The life and times of Garibaldi, the Italian hero and patriot
Melbourne [Vic.]: Thomson and Niven, [1880]

Frederick II, King of Prussia, 1712–1786
Examen du Prince de Machiavel: avec des notes historiques & politiques
A la Haye: Chez Jean van Duren, 1741

Catholic Church
[Leaf from a gradual (St Peter and St Paul)]

**ARTS**

Scappi, Bartolomeo
Opera / di Bartolomeo Scappi M. dell’arte del cucinare, con la quale si può ammaestrare qual si voglia cuoco, scalco, trinciante, o mastro di casa; divisa in sei libri; ... con le figure che fanno di bisogno nella cucina; aggiuntovi nuovamente il trinciante, & il mastro di casa ... Veroneta: Presso Alessandro Vecchi, 1610

Leonardo, da Vinci
Trattato della pittura di Lionardo da Vinci / nouamente dato in luce, con la vita dell’istesso autore, scritta da Rafaellle du Fresne; si sono giunti i tre libri della pittura, & il trattato della statua di Leon Battista Alberti, con la vita del medesimo
Parigi: Appresso Giacomo Langlois, 1651

Palladio, Andrea
The architecture of A. Palladio: in four books; containing a short treatise of the five orders, and the most necessary observations concerning all sorts of building, as also the different construction of private and publick houses, high-ways, bridges, market-places, yxstes, and temples, with their plans, sections, and uprights / revis’d, design’d, and publish’d by Giacomo Leoni; ... translated from the Italian original London: Printed by John Darby for the author, and all the plates by John Vantack, 1721–1722

Salmi, Mario
L’abbazia di Pomposa
Roma: Libreria dello stato, 1936

Ferrario, Pietro
Palazzi di Roma de piu celebri architetti / disegnati da Pietro Ferrario, pittore et architetto [Roma]: Si vendeno per Gio Iacomo Rossi, ... [n.d.]

**LIST OF WORKS**

Owen Jones, The grammar of ornament, 1856
HUMANISM

Colonna, Francesco
Poliphili hypnerotomachia: ubi humana omnia non nisi somnium esse docet
Venetiis: in aedibus Aldi Manutii, 1499

Valerius Maximus
Valerii Maximi Dictorvm et factorvm memorabilvm libri novem
[Venice, 1503]

Boccaccio, Giovanni
La geneologia de gli dei de gentili / di M. Giovanni Boccaccio; con la spositione de sensi allegorici delle favole, & con la dichiarazione dell’istorie appartenenti a detta materia; tradotta per M. Giuseppe Betussi da Bassano
Venetia: Appresso Giacomo Sansovino, 1569

Boccaccio, Giovanni
Decameron
Broadhurst, Sydney: Angus and Robertson, 1941

Seneca, Lucius Annaeus, c. 4 BC–65 AD
Trag[i]o[ed]a Senec[a]e cum commento
Venetiis: per Lazarrum Isoarda de Savilliano, 1492

Dante Alighieri, 1265–1321
Dante col sito, et forma dell’inferno
Vinegia [Italy]: Nelle casa d’Aldo et d’Andrea di Asola [Aldus Manutius], 1515

Sallust, 86–34 BC
Salisburg. Eiusdem orationes qualor co[r]tra Lucum Catilina[ae]. Porci Latronis Declamato contra Lucum Catilina[ae]
Venetiis: Aldus Manutius, 1560

Petrarca, Francesco, 1304–1374
Il codice Orsini-da Costa delle Rime e dei Trionfi
Roma: Daresi Editore, 1904

Sallust, 86–34 BC
Salisburg. Eiusdem orationes qualor co[r]tra Lucum Catilina[ae]. Porci Latronis Declamato contra Lucum Catilina[ae]
Venetiis: Aldus Manutius, 1509

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Svevo, Italo, 1861–1928
Confessions of Zeno / from the Italian by Beryl de Zoete
London: Secker & Warburg, 1962, [1923]

Montale, Eugenio, 1896–1981
Per conoscere Montale / a cura di Marco Forti
Milano: Mondadori, 1982

Eco, Umberto, 1932–
Foucault’s pendulum / translated from the Italian by William Weaver
London: Secker & Warburg, [1989]

Tomasi di Lampedusa, Giuseppe, 1896–1957
The leopard / translated from the Italian by Archibald Colquhoun
London: Collins and Harvill Press, 1960

Moravia, Alberto, 1907–1990
Roman tales / selected and translated by Angus Davidson
London: Secker & Warburg, 1956

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Opere di Giuseppe Parini / pubblicate ed illustrate da Francesco Reina
Milano: Stamperia e fonderia del Genio tipografico, anno X. 1801–anno III. 1804

Levi, Primo, 1919–1987
Il this is a man / translated from the Italian by Stuart Woolf
London: Orion Press, [1959]

Pasolini, Pier Paolo, 1922–1975
Mamma Roma
[Milano]: Rizzoli, [1962]

Manzoni, Alessandro, 1785–1873
The betrothed (I promessi sposi) / A tale of XVIII century Milan / translated by Archibald Colquhoun

Kay, George R. (ed.)
The Penguin book of Italian verse
ITALIANS IN AUSTRALIA

Tedeschi, Alberto
Mondadori’s pocket Italian-English, English-Italian dictionary
New York: Washington Square, 1961

Speight, Kathleen
Teach yourself Italian
London: English Universities Press, 1955

Lentini, Bianca
Maestrolingua (Mother tongue)
Upwey: Bianca Lentini, 2013

Leti, Bruno and Loney, Alan
Imago Mundi
Melbourne: [B. Leti and A. Loney], 2002

Menu
Dinner to celebrate the arrival in Australia of Mrs A. Bellomarino, representing the 250,000th post war migrant from Italy. Melbourne, January 25th, 1963

Commonwealth Office of Education for the Department of Immigration
English for newcomers to Australia [Canberra: The Department], 1956

Durante, Tommaso, and Chris Wallace-Crabbe
Limes
[North Warrandyte, Vic.]: Tommaso Durante, 2011

Cavalieri, Angela
Inri
[Melbourne: Angela Cavalieri], 2005

Carboni, Raffaello, 1817–1875
The Eureka Stockade: The consequence of some pirates wanting on quarter-deck a rebellion
Melbourne: Printed for the author by J.P. Atkinson, 1855

TRAVEL
Morton, H.V. (Henry Vollam), 1892–1979
A traveller in Rome
London: Methuen & Co., [1957]

Varè, Daniele, 1880–1956
Laughing diplomat
London: John Murray, [1940], 1953 reprint

Hayward, A.L. (Arthur Lawrence), 1885–1967
The traveller in Italy: Useful phrases and words in Italian
London: Cassell, [1957]

Fanfani, Guido
Highlights of Rome: A practical guide-book. With 250 illustrations and a map of the town
[Firenze]: Flametalia [1958]

How to visit Venice and its neighbourhood: An artistic illustrated guide
Milan: Capello, [1957?]

How to visit Florence and its neighbourhood: An artistic illustrated guide
Milan: Capello, 1955

A.S.
Italy photographic album, [189–?]

Stendhal, 1783–1842
A Roman journal / edited and translated by Haakon Chevalier
London: Orion Press, [1959]

FUTURISM
Barratin, Dino, et al
Parole in libertà: libri e rivisti del futurismo nelle Tre Venezie / [a cura di] Dino Barratin, Marino De Grassi, Maurizio Scudiero
Monfalcone, GO: Edizioni della laguna, [1992]

Marinetti, F.T. (Filippo Tommaso), 1876–1944
Les mots en liberté futuristes
Milano: Edizioni Futuriste de ‘Poesia’, 1919

Munari, Bruno, 1907–1998
The circus in the mist

Marinetti, Filippo Tommaso, 1876–1944
Teoria e invenzione futurista
[Milano]: A. Mondadori, 1968

Soffici, Ardengo, 1879–1964
BIP & ZF + 16: simultaneità e chimismi lirici
[Firenze?: s.n., 1980], [1915]

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Special Collections holds over 220,000 volumes of books, journals and pamphlets, as well as archival material, that have been placed on ‘closed access’ by reason of their age, value or uniqueness in order to ensure their long-term care and preservation for future generations of scholars and researchers. Collections range from the 1300s to the present day. The large international collection holds treasures such as a leaf of the Gutenberg Bible, early printed books such as the Nuremberg Chronicle, private press, modern limited editions, high quality facsimiles of medieval manuscripts, fine bindings, medical rare books and many other smaller collections of important items. The Australiana collection, including the McLaren, Grimwade, Joyce Thorpe Nicholson and Chris Wallace-Crabbe collections, has strong holdings in the areas of voyages, exploration, natural history, literature and Australian history. There are also a set of masters and PhD theses and a growing collection of material relating to Book Arts.