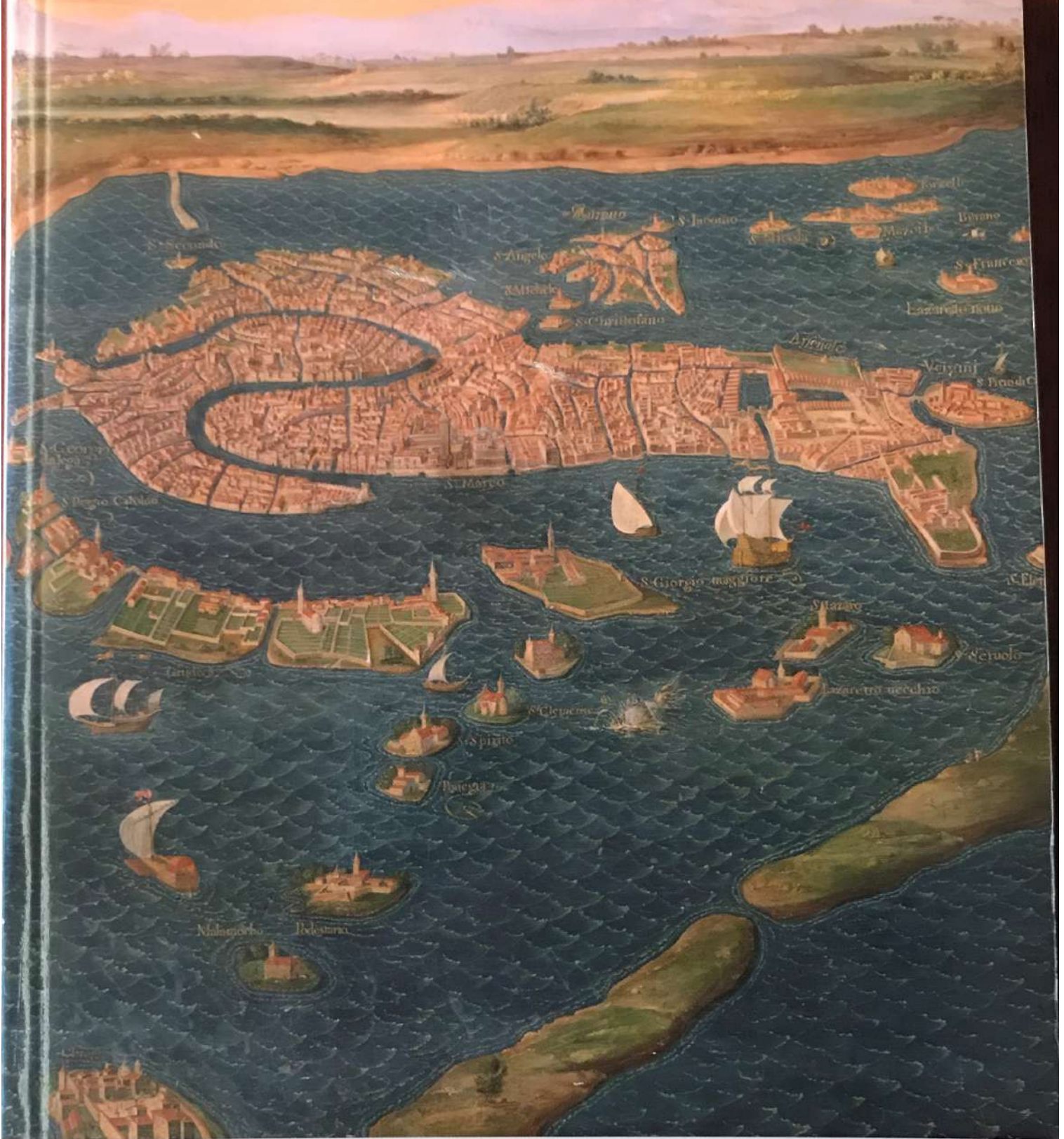


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The Renaissance Society  
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## SIXTEENTH-CENTURY METHODS OF RETRIEVING AND ORGANIZING INFORMATION IN BOOK COLLECTIONS

*Organizer & Chair:* CAROLINE DUROSELLE-MELISH, HARVARD UNIVERSITY

CHRISTIAN COPPENS, *KATHOLIEKE UNIVERSITEIT LEUVEN*

A Student's Reading at the Collegium Trilingue in Leuven, ca. 1547

The Collegium Trilingue in Leuven was founded in 1517 under the direct inspiration of Erasmus, and was in turn the inspiration for Francis I's foundation of the Collège de France in Paris in 1530. Until the middle of the sixteenth century the Collegium Trilingue was a stronghold of Catholic humanism in northern Europe. Through Inquisition records the bookshop next to the Collegium is well documented (1543), but apart from a few copies with provenance notes that turned up in libraries nearby or on the market, nothing is known about the Collegium's library, and certainly not about what the students had to read. A unique document, a notebook of a student living in rooms, dated 1547, can shed some light on this unknown aspect of the otherwise thoroughly studied history of the college (Henry de Vocht, 1951-55). The notebook contains a long list of classical and humanist authors, which is likely a reading list reflecting the arrangement of the college's library. Besides this list of authors with titles, obviously referring to existing editions, there are the student's notes of the books he bought, and a record of other expenses. Altogether, these give a lively view of daily intellectual life in one of the flagship institutions of early northern European humanism.

MARIA ALESSANDRA PANZANELLI FRATONI, *UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI PERUGIA*  
An Unpublished Treatise of Librarianship in the Italian Renaissance

"De Bibliotheca disponenda et informanda" is a work written around 1570 by the bibliophile Prospero Podiani (Perugia 1535[?]-1615). Interested in turning his private collection into a public library (with himself its librarian) he wrote this treatise to explain how books should be arranged in a well-ordered Library. Men, he wrote, are often interested in richness and power; yet, the real treasures are the libraries. Everything, indeed, can be learned from books and without them no scientific knowledge can be achieved ("Cognoscenda autem sunt a libris omnia"). Nevertheless, not all books are good and people need rules to choose among the numerous ones published every day. A guide is also necessary to put them in order. In this paper I will analyze the text of that essay, illustrating the classification system conceived by Podiani, and will give a commentary on the choice of the authors quoted for each class.

ANGELA MARIA NUOVO, *UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI UDINE*

Perfecting Library Management in the Sixteenth Century: Catalogues, Indexes, and Shelves in Gian Vincenzo Pinelli's Book Collection

The library of Gian Vincenzo Pinelli (Naples, 1535-Padua, 1601) is one of the most remarkable Italian collections of books brought together according to the ideals of the *Respublica Litteraria*. It included around 9,000 printed texts and a further 700 manuscripts. To manage and make accessible such a large quantity of material, Pinelli had to inquire into complex bibliographical organization, which he perfected thanks also to the study of many contemporary libraries. Thus Pinelli fine-tuned a threefold bibliographical division: for printed books, for manuscripts, and for "writings" (meaning short texts, such as letters, reports, notices, instructions, etc.). Two catalogues for printed books, eight catalogues for manuscripts, and an accurate system of filing per dossier for "writings" make up the structural architecture of this large library. Some of these catalogues have survived to the present day and constitute a fundamental key to the interpretation of the Pinelli collection. In particular, the classification by disciplines makes it possible to understand the encyclopaedic nature of the library and the distribution of the various disciplines found in it.