

Recent Books

Libri antichi tra Savona e Albenga. Inventari cinquecenteschi e catalogazione dei fondi di due diocesi liguri. By ROMILDA SAGGINI and PAOLO RAMAGLI; introduction by EDOARDO BARBIERI. (Libri e biblioteche, 45.) Udine: Forum. 2020. 590 pp. €35. ISBN 978 88 3283 217

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One of the most important discoveries relating to sixteenth-century book history has been the huge inquiry into the contents of convent and monastery libraries conducted by the Congregazione dell'Indice dei Libri Proibiti, founded in 1564 as a spin-off of the larger Inquisition. In the final years of the century, therefore, lengthy book-lists, approximately 9,500, some accurate and detailed, some mere scribble, arrived from all over Italy and, as in all perfect bureaucracies, were duly filed away and forgotten about, only to be found again in the Vatican Library in the early 1970s. For some years now a large-scale project, the *Ricerca sull'inchiesta della Congregazione dell'Indice* (RICI; see *The Library*, VII, 13 (2012), 489), has been elaborating a database of all the records (see the website presently at <https://rici.vatlib.it/>); at a more individual level, however, scholars have been recovering the information relating to their chunk of Italy and have been seeking for other lists in the local archives. The first third of this book is dedicated to just such an inquiry in the dioceses of Savona-Noli and Albenga-Imperia (i.e. the part of Liguria to the East of Genoa); the remaining two-thirds is taken up with a catalogue of the thirty-three incunabula and 1,107 sixteenth-century books in the Seminario vescovile and the Archivio storico diocesano at Savona, and the Biblioteca capitolare and the Seminario vescovile at Albenga, with the holdings for each collection listed separately. In all truth, a division of the work into two shorter books might have been more functional and simpler for the reader.

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