

La Biblioteca del Collegium Goritiense Societatis Iesu nella Biblioteca Statale Isoncina di Gorizia. Vol. 1, A-Bzowski. Giuliana De Simone. Foreword by Marco Menato.

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REVIEWED BY: Kathleen M. Comerford

Georgia Southern University

Giuliana de Simone's recent volume is the first of an undetermined number focusing on the contents of the Collegium Goritiense Societatis Iesu, the Jesuit college of Gorizia (founded 1621), now housed in the Biblioteca statale isontina di Gorizia. There is little text here; 91 percent of the book consists of the partial catalogue of these books, covering only the entries from Acquaviva to Bzowski. As a result, this is most useful as an inventory rather than a study of the college itself.

The introductory material begins with observations on the cataloguing process, made considerably easier and more precise as a result of the creation of Edit16, a census of Italian sixteenth-century books found within Italy. A full explanation of that database is found at http://edit16.iccu.sbn.it/web_iccu/info/it/informazioni.htm. The volume at hand

concentrates on those Italian *cinquecentine* at the Isoncina Public Library (named for the Valle d'Isonzo), a portion of the collection formerly belonging to the Jesuit college of Gorizia. During the suppression of the Society, the remainder of the college's books, in particular those with theological or religious content, went to the seminary in that archdiocese. Those at the public library came to that institution via the Studienbibliothek, and the first catalog of that collection listed 2,654 titles in 3,655 volumes; however, further investigation yielded only 1,271 titles. To complete the work of modern identification and cataloging and (as much as possible) to reconstruct the original library, the author has consulted other nearby libraries for volumes with indications that they once belonged to the Jesuit college. Some of the books show ownership of other colleges as well, including Austrian, Croatian, German, Hungarian, and Italian locations.

The catalog entries themselves contain notes including (for the vast majority) a physical description along with (for every book) full bibliographical information along with the early catalog titles, reference to Backer-Sommervogel, and references to some written notations. It consists of 186 distinct entries, out of the total 1,271. The information available in this volume and, presumably, in its successors (whenever they come out) will be invaluable to scholars of books, printing, reading, libraries, and teaching, not just by Jesuits in Gorizia. Recent interest in early printed books has led to the publication of many catalogues associated with the colleges of the Society of Jesus, in (for example) England and the English colleges on the European continent, the Holy Roman Empire, the Italian states, Eastern Europe, Spain and its empire, Portugal and its empire, and Bohemia. Such resources make it possible for scholars to do comparative studies and aid in understanding the context in which intellectual life in the early modern Catholic world operated.