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In March 1843 the director of Biblioteca Parmense, now Biblioteca Palatina, and long-lived librarian Angelo Pezzana (1804-1862), after extensive negotiations carried out the purchase of Giambattista Bodoni's (1740-1813) inheritance. At first this inheritance belonged to his widow Margherita and then, after her death in 1841, to his heirs. It consisted of the immense heritage of the Bodoni's foundry: above all punches, matrixes and other rare tools for the production of typefaces (ladles, mould, spoons, typographic forms, files, nut runners, planes, callipers, etc...), that represent one of the world's richest collection of typographic and foundry tools of the period of manual typographic art.

The Bodoni's archive was added later followed by a great collection of his editions (about a thousand) scrupulously retrieved on the antique market by Pezzana and by other library directors. All this heritage was immediately organized and preserved in a special room called "room of the punches" and survived the Second World War bombardments in 1944. Later on all this heritage was again in a state of complete disorder and when, in 1963, the Bodoni Museum was founded in occasion of the 150 years of Giambattista Bodoni's death, it consisted only of the foundry tools (punches and matrixes above all), the collection of Bodoni's editions and his correspondence, collected for the new location, with no real cataloging of this heritage. In spite of director Ciavarella's attempts during the seventies and eighties, such heritage had never seen a complete and scientific cataloging.

A definitive quantification and cataloging of this heritage, is mostly needed in the occasion of the 200 years anniversary of Bodoni's death in 2013. The cataloging is also necessary for the transformation of the Museum into a Foundation.

In July 2008 a series of important works began, thanks to funds from the Italian state, the Museum itself, the bank institutions Cariparma and Banca Monte and to private contributions.

The scientific cataloging of the foundry heritage is already finished, this is the first example in Italy of typographic tools cataloging and

this work has allowed us to rediscover documents whose traces were lost or whose existence we didn't know about.

We have acknowledge the regulations of the Central Institution for the Cataloging and the Documentation and used the PST card concerning the historical-scientific heritage, adapted for the first time to such requirements. Moreover, we have decided to use the software S.I.Ge.C, the general information system of cataloging that allows us to implement the database of the Italian Cultural Heritage. Such software offers many functional features: it's possible to link the cards each other (useful to combine the cards of punches with those of the respective matrixes), to attach picture files, as all pieces have been digitalized, to attach the pages of the respective alphabets from the Manuali Bodoniani published in 1777 and 1818, and also the reprint of the inventory of the 40's of the XIX century, essential sources for the quantification of such heritage.

Thanks to publications from XVIII century we have been able to understand the function of each item and the organization of an ancient printing shop. We have also started a restoration campaign because, during the cataloging work, we realized that many pieces were damaged due to wrong preservation and to oxidation. We have planned custom containers in order to preserve the foundry tools and, above all, the punches. These were put into polycarbonate containers that allows to see them without touching them. We have also started the fund-raising campaign "Adotta un carattere" for the restoration of punches and matrixes and for the restoration of Bodoni typographic tools.

The Bodoni Museum has been involved in the project Musei-ID that aims to strengthen the knowledge of the Italian museums and their use through the Internet and that will allow us to realize in the near future a "Bodonian Portal". For this reason we have digitalized all of Bodoni's editions displayed in the showcases too, the most important and representative (parchment and silk editions).

Thanks to this new cataloging work, still in progress, we are also determined to update the famous bibliography of H. Brooks "*Compendiosa bibliografia di edizioni bodoniane*", 1927. Moreover, we have made an inventory of the Bodoni's archives

(called "Carte Bodoni), plenty of heterogeneous documents: personal documents (certificates from literary academies, licences, passports, accounting documents), his correspondence (12.000 letters, some received by Bodoni himself, his drafts and the widow's correspondence) and some documents regarding his work. This way, we have been able to reconstruct the work in a typographic shop between XVIII and XIX century, as we found about 200 preliminary manuscripts, some front and end matters as dedicatory epistle, introductions, sonnets.

This is an extraordinary and rare heritage that shows us the methods and the work of Bodoni. It was acquired by the Library in different times: in August 1826, in July 1831 when his widow presented to the Library "dugento lettere autografe....." and then in 1846 when the most important part of this inheritance was purchased after 4 years of negotiations. Also other documents were purchased with proofs and inventories, bought by the bookseller Pezzani, by Antonio Zambiani and by the bookseller Battei between 1908 and 1915. Moreover, we have found the personal books collection of Bodoni and his wife, bought in 1842. They are books from XVIII century, many Greek, Latin, Italian and French classics.

The finished works and those still in progress have been the subject of a conference held in October 2009 and have been presented also in other public meetings.

We also aim to solve the issues posed by the Museum location inside the Palatina Library and to overcome the limitations due to the Library's opening time.

The project aims to realize in Parma the first National Book Museum, in order to promote the knowledge of the book evolution as a communication and trade instrument. The collection of Palatina Library is an extraordinary source, as it collects very rare books, with a great historical value, thanks to the untiring collection work of the main Palatina's librarians: Paolo Maria Paciaudi and Angelo Pezzana

and to Gian Bernardo De Rossi's collection of Hebrew and exotic books. Furthermore, we could create in Parma a Study Centre about the ancient printed book, promoting conferences, training courses, etc...

Therefore, we hope in a new future for the Bodoni Museum in the XXI century and we hope to be able to let the people know the work and merits of this great typographer.