



14th EAHIL 2014 Conference



Memories from the 14th EAHIL Conference, Rome 11-13 June 2014



First Timers' Reception

Professionals attending an international conference for the first time may see as a challenge to speak and network with everybody right from the start. This is why EAHIL organises every year a First-Timers' Event, the day before the Conference's official beginning. This year it took place at the Library of the Istituto Superiore di Sanità (National Institute of Health), where librarians from all Europe (and beyond) gathered around a nice buffet with sandwiches, coffee and drinks. The EAHIL President Marshall Dozier welcomed us to the Association and to the Conference with a brief speech introducing the whole Executive Board. After that, a little game was proposed in which every member had to collect signatures of colleagues corresponding to a given set of characteristics. Such an activity gave new members an informal occasion to break the ice and – why not? – start making new friends. Finally, the Conference and Library Staff showed us their display of rare antiques – including some original drawings from the early Antonio Canova. The overall experience ended as a very pleasant afternoon and it was a nice way to embrace the atmosphere of the Conference.

Alberto Perlini

Biblioteca, Fondazione IRCCS Policlinico San Matteo

Pavia, Italy

Contact: aperlini@gmail.com

Welcome Reception

In the evening of the opening day of the conference we got together at the Welcome Reception. The reception was held in the beautiful garden of the Istituto Superiore di Sanità (ISS). To Finn's eye the garden with orange trees was something quite exotic! It was great to enjoy the sun and share the first impressions of Rome and the conference.

The Italian hospitality was shown in the serving: the food was delicious. My personal favourites were the tasty mini breadrolls



*Tiina Heino, Elise Johansson,
Jouni Leinonen and Minna Liikala*

with salmon and shrimp filling and spurred on by the good food and drinks we had a chance to catch up with friends and meet new ones. The conversation topics ranged from brainstorming the future EAHIL Conferences (in Wales maybe!) to an intensive debate about the best Italian ice cream flavors. Thanks to the organizers and all the colleagues for the enjoyable event!

Katri Larmo

Terikko - Meilahti Campus Library

University of Helsinki, Finland

Contact: katri.larmo@helsinki.fi



*Sue Thomas, Mari Elisa Kuusniemi
and Minna Liikala*



14th EAHIL 2014 Conference



A visit to the library of the Italian Institute of Health in Rome

During the EAHIL Conference in Rome I had the pleasure together with four other participants to pay a visit to the library at the Italian Institute of Health, Istituto Superiore di Sanità (ISS). It is located close to the Sapienza University of Rome which was already functioning in 1303 (originally it was located in the center of Rome), and not far from the Cemetery of Verano by the Basilica di San Lorenzo. The building was financed by the Rockefeller Foundation in 1934.

The library at ISS which has a staff of 29 plus the director Franco Toni, began in 2000. We were looked after really well by him, Lia Ferrara (Rosalia), Vittorio Ponzani and Maria Letizia Putti from the staff. The collections of the library consist of:

- print journals 9000+, 350 current with the latest two years in the reading room;
- electronic journals 16 000+, 1000+ current through Ebsco;
- monographs 200 000;
- WHO publications 4000+, as a depository library;
- a rare book collection, 1155 volumes published between 1504 and 1830 including three manuscripts, bought in the 1950's;
- Italian Mineral Waters collection - 460 books



Lia Ferrara talking about the ISS Library

The rare book collection [<http://www.iss.it/rari/index.php?lang=2>] can be found on the online catalogue [http://www.iss.it/site/SebinaOpac_iss/Opac] which includes title pages and a selection of illustrations.

A print catalogue has been published in two volumes:

Gruppo di Lavoro per la Valorizzazione e la Conservazione del Fondo Rari della Biblioteca dell'Istituto Superiore di Sanità: *Catalogo del Fondo Rari della Biblioteca*. - Roma: Istituto Superiore di Sanità; 2010. *I Beni storico-scientifici dell'Istituto Superiore di Sanità*. Quaderno 6 - Vol. 1: edizioni dei secoli XVI-XVII; Quaderno 7 - Vol. 2: edizioni dei secoli XVIII-XIX.



Franco Toni and some EAHIL members in the reading room during the visit

The reading room now houses an exhibition of some of the 450 scientific instruments from the old laboratories. Space was permitted after more and more electronic journals were bought. The last two years of the journals remaining in print still have enough shelving for a number of years. The precious seventeen anatomical drawings by the sculptor Antonio Canova (1757-1822), probably done circa 1776-1779 were on display exceptionally for the occasion. They were bought in



14th EAHIL 2014 Conference



1943 and have now been restored and framed for a temporary exhibition in the reading room together with the handwritten description. Reproductions of them are published in *Research for Public Health 1934-2004* which was printed in 2004 in English and Italian to celebrate the first 70 years of ISS. They are also available online at the homepage of the ISS:

- Research for the benefit of all 1934-2004 [<http://www.iss.it/binary/publ2/cont/70.1138354316.pdf>]
- La nostra ricerca per la salute di tutti 1934-2004 [<http://www.iss.it/binary/publ2/cont/70.1138270032.pdf>]

The visitors to Galleria Borghese will remember Canova's beautiful sculpture of Paulina Bonaparte in white marble. Stumbling upon the Ristorante Museo Canova Tadolini close to the Spanish steps after a boat trip on the Tiber later in the afternoon, I did enjoy sitting among some of his works with a nice glass of white wine. Visit the museum virtually [<http://www.canovatadolini.com/>]!

Johnny Carlsson

KarolinskaInstitutet University Library,
Stockholm, Sweden

Contact: johnny.carlsson@ki.se

Visit to the National Central Library Rome

On Thursday June 12, the EAHIL Conference participants had a little time to visit the Central National Library and some of its treasures. In the Special Collections Reading Room they had an appointment with me, as I am responsible for the Roman Collection, and with my colleague Margherita Breccia, who is in charge of the Manuscripts Department. The Library was founded just a few years after 1870, when Rome became the Capital of the new Italian State, so it seemed extremely appropriate providing it with documents related to the history and the image of the city.

To represent this aspect, we showed our guests a pair of ancient *Mirabilia Urbis*, the first pilgrim's printed "pocket" guides: an anonymous one from the early XVIth century, and a XVIIth century reprint of the very successful one by Fioravante Martinelli. Afterwards we had a quick journey through time, looking at the 1593 Antonio Tempesta's *Plan of Rome*, the proto-type of all the "bird's-eye-view" Roman maps; the 1625 Giovanni Maggi's *Iconografia*, the wood-engraved, biggest map of the city (an *unicum* in its 1774 reprint); the successful 1630 MattheusGreuter's and 1667 Giovanni Battista Falda's maps, and the 1748 *Nuova Pianta di Roma* by Giambattista Nolli, an orthogonal view designed with a new accuracy, that for its features became the new, still good model of representing Rome. But I think our EAHIL guests most of all appreciated the little exhibition of medical documents from the Jesuit Collection. The Jesuits played an important role in Rome, in both studying and disseminating information about new medical drugs. So we were able to show an old subject catalogue from their *Bibliotheca Major* at the Collegio Romano; some early studies in the botanical-medical field, such as the ante-1503 *Regimen sanitatis Salernitanum*; a manuscript attributed to Liberato Sabbati, custodian of the "Giardinodei Semplici" (medical plant garden) at the Collegio Romano, showing the "essential" (semplici) botanical remedies grown there; and the big, impressive *Ricettariodellatriaca* (1646). Finally we looked at one unusual illustration of the Tiber Island with the ancient, now disappeared Temple of Aesculapius (from a collection of Roman XVIIth century engravings) which ended this (hopefully!) nice historical-artistic session of the Conference.

Paola Puglisi

Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale,
Rome, Italy

Contact: paola.puglisi@beniculturali.it



14th EAHIL 2014 Conference



A visit to the Biblioteca Angelica

On the Saturday following the EAHIL conference a group of us were lucky enough to sign up for a visit to the beautiful Biblioteca Angelica Library.



EAHIL Participants at the Biblioteca Angelica Library [Photo by Alessandra Falcone]

We met on the steps of the Basilica di Sant'Agostino. The incredibly knowledgeable Federica Napolitani was the organiser for the visit and we went into the church before visiting the Library where Federica pointed out to us the Madonna di Loreto by Caravaggio and Raffaello's Prophet Isaiah. We were also fascinated by Sansovino's Madonna del Parto (Our Lady of Childbirth) which is visited by pregnant women as it is reputed to work miracles. We then went into the Biblioteca Angelica itself. We were met by the Librarian, Daniela Scialanga, who gave us an engaging tour of the Library ending in a display of some of its more interesting and precious items.

The Library was established in the late sixteenth century by the friars of the convent of St Augustine to house a gift of over 20,000 volumes donated by Bishop Angelo Rocca. It is one of the earliest public libraries in Europe and welcomes scholars from any background to consult from it. Today it holds over 100,000 volumes from the 15th to 19th centuries and over 1,100 incunabula.

We were treated to a small selection of 'treasures' in the Librarian's office (which was an enviable and amazing room in itself!). These included a volume of a herbarium entitled 'ErbarioCibo' dating from the sixteen century; a first edition of Dante's *La Commedia*; Cicero's *De Oratore*, the first book printed by movable type in Italy; and many other stunning volumes. After that we went to the San Luigi dei Francesi Church, with Federica giving us a wonderful tour. After coffee at the famous Caffè Sant'Eustachio, we finished off our tour at the Santa Maria Sopra Minerva. We had a marvellous time and are particularly grateful to both Federica and Daniela for such a fascinating morning.



Treasures of the Biblioteca Angelica Library [Photo by Alessandra Falcone]



Biblioteca Angelica Library

Vicki Cormie
University Library
St Andrews, Fife
Scotland
Contact: vhc1@st-andrews.ac.uk

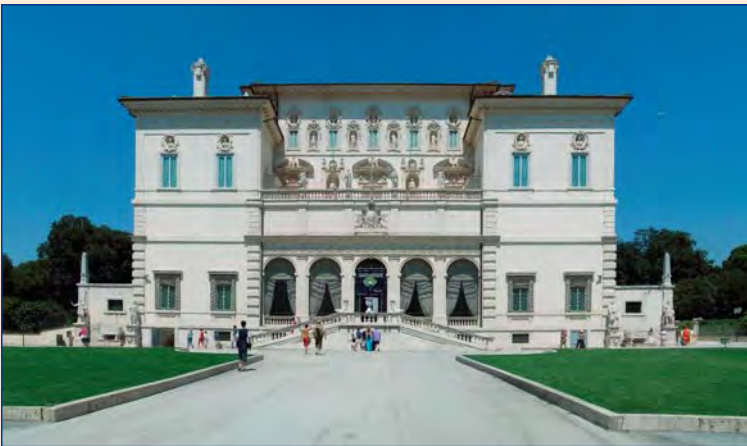


14th EAHIL 2014 Conference



Visit to the *Galleria Borghese*

Undoubtedly, the highlight in the social program of the EAHIL Conference was the visit to the Galleria Borghese, one of the finest art galleries in the world. It was scheduled in the afternoon for a period of 2 hours, between 17.00 – 19.00, before the Gala Dinner that took place nearby on the same evening. The entrance to the Galleria Borghese was included in the registration and the participants received their tickets with their badge and conference materials. However, this visit had to be chosen during the registration process, otherwise no ticket was reserved, therefore a few participants arriving in the beautiful park surrounding the Villa could not enter, all visits being scheduled for days and weeks in advance.



The facade of the Galleria Borghese

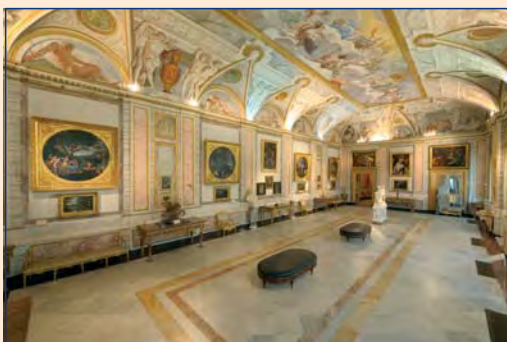
The Galleria Borghese houses a substantial part of the Borghese collection of paintings, sculpture and antiquities, begun by Cardinal Scipione Borghese, the nephew of Pope Paul V (reign 1605–1621). The Villa was built by the architect Flaminio Ponzio, developing sketches by Scipione Borghese himself, who used it as a *villa suburbana*, a party villa at the edge of Rome. It includes 20 rooms across two floors. In the reception area we were split into small groups, 10-15 participants, each group having their

own guide. Translation kits were given to everyone, tuned to their own group guide, and during the itinerary the groups intersected one another, sometimes changing whispered impressions, wonderment on all the faces.



Entrance hall

The Galleria is an art gem in itself, with ceilings, walls and arches painted and decorated by famous artists. The collection itself includes so many famous works of art that it is impossible, several times during the visit, to avoid that feeling of familiarity and the inward exclamation “Oh, this is here!”. It includes classical antiquities to Renaissance, Baroque and neoclassical sculptures and paintings. The core of the collection are the sculptures of Gian Lorenzo Bernini (1598-1680), whose patron was Cardinal Borghese. Caravaggio, Titian, Raphael, Rubens are also well represented in the collection. The two hours passed like a dream and we were lead out into the gardens giddy by so many marvels. A big thank you to our Italian colleagues for organizing this visit for the EAHIL participants!



The Loggia di Lanfranco

Ioana Robu
Cluj Medical Library
Cluj, Romania
Contact: irobu@umfcluj.ro



14th EAHIL 2014 Conference



Gala Dinner Parco dei Principi Hotel, Rome, June 12th, 2014

The Rome Gala Dinner confirmed the usual friendly atmosphere between EAHIL participants, always involved in exchanging ideas and news from libraries all over the world. This year the venue was in the Parco dei Principi Hotel, just round the corner from the Galleria Borghese offering a superb art collection of paintings, sculptures and antiquities initiated by Cardinal Scipione Borghese, a nephew of Pope Paul V. *The Rape of Proserpina* (Bernini 1621) sculpture came up to my expectations with all its beauty and realism and started the guided tour into the Bernini, Canova, Caravaggio operas that re-evoked the magnificence of a golden age of Italian art.



Participants at the Gala Dinner

We reached the Parco dei Principi Hotel through an Italian Garden (Villa Borghese) under a light and surrealistic drizzle (rain), unusual in Rome at that period of the year which made the atmosphere poetic. The Gala Dinner was anticipated by a Baroque concert performed by the *Diletto Barocco Orchestra*, dedicated to the diffusion of baroque music on original instruments and in accordance with historical performance practice.

Personally, I enjoyed the Baroque concert and the fine classic Italian cuisine – *Pasta alla Norma* always good, followed by *Orata* fish and a delicious *Millefoglie* cake, the wine lightening up everyone in a friendly conversation. At the end of the dinner the traditional disco was arranged nearby for all the rock-lover EAHIL participants who closed the night with modern dancing music. Really well done to the colleagues of ISS of Rome! They were superb hosts! Arrivederci Roma – We love Rome!



Diletto Barocco Orchestra

Francesca Gualtieri
Rottapharm Biotech
20900 Monza, MB - ITALY
Contact: francesca.gualtieri@
rottapharmbiotech.com

Memories of Rome



