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Edited by the Working Group for the Preservation of the
Rare Book Collection of the ISS Library:

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Istituto Superiore di Sanità - Library

March 2011



Giuseppe Maria Crespi (1665-1747) *Sportelli di libreria musicale*
Museo internazionale e biblioteca della musica di Bologna



Istituto Superiore di Sanità

The Rare Book Collection

A historical-cultural heritage
of the Istituto Superiore di Sanità Library



The collection consists of over 1000 printed volumes which were published between 1504 and 1830. In addition to these there are also 3 manuscripts which date back to after the introduction of printing.

About half of the books deal with medical and health related subjects e.g.:
anatomy, general pathology, surgery, hygiene.

The remaining part consists of publications regarding mineral waters, pharmacy, pharmacology, medical and veterinary botany, physical, natural and applied sciences.



The collection includes some of the most important scientific and medical representations to date from renowned and illustrious authors e.g.:
Hippocrates, Galen, Avicenna, Mattioli, Mercuriale, Vesalio, Morgagni, Redi, Vallisneri, Lancisi.

Some editions are notable for their rarity, historical value, beautiful engravings and for the importance of their printers e.g.:
Manuzio heirs, Gryphius, Froben, Valgrisi, Blado, Giunta, Giolito, Albrizzi, Pasquali.

A special mention deserve the 17 amazing anatomical drawings by Antonio Canova (1757-1822) in red and black pencil and the Italian Mineral Waters collection composed of 92 books published between the XVIth and the XIXth century.



The Library - to make this valuable heritage available to a national and international scholarly audience - carried out between 2008-2010 the project *The medical-health collection of Rare Books of the Library of the Istituto Superiore di Sanità (XVIth-XIXth centuries) from print to online*.

The project - funded by the ISS and partly by the Italian Ministry of Education, University and Research (MIUR) - was aimed:

- to present an online catalogue of the entire collection showing not only the title page but also a selection of the beautiful illustrations which the books behold
- to publish a monographic volume about a specific aspect of the collection: *Immagini botaniche dalla raccolta del Fondo Rari della Biblioteca dell'Istituto Superiore di Sanità*. Roma: Istituto Superiore di Sanità, 2010.

The collection, kept in the Rare Book Room, can be freely consulted by students authorized by the Library's Director.

The Fund is available through the Library online catalogue: www.iss.it/site/SebinaOpac_iss/Opac

A print catalogue has been published in two volumes:
Catalogo del Fondo Rari della Biblioteca. Roma: Istituto Superiore di Sanità, 2010 (I beni storico-scientifici dell'Istituto Superiore di Sanità, Quaderni 6-7)

- Vol. 1: edizioni dei secoli XVI-XVII

- Vol. 2: edizioni dei secoli XVIII-XIX

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