

Preface to the revised edition (1959) by Paul Oskar Kristeller

The first edition of this bibliography appeared in *Traditio* 6 (1948) and 9 (1953) in two separate parts covering printed catalogues and unpublished inventories, respectively. When the available copies of the first part went out of print, I was invited by Fordham University Press to prepare a revised edition of both parts, and it was decided to publish them together as a separate book.

Since I explained the purpose of this bibliography, and the method followed in compiling it, in the prefaces to the first edition, I shall here only indicate the changes made in preparing this new edition. I did not merely try to bring the bibliography up to date by adding the new catalogues which have appeared since the publication of part I twelve years ago. I have also made an effort to fill up the gaps, and to correct the errors, concerning older published catalogues as well as handwritten inventories. In this effort, I was greatly helped by extensive information sent to me, upon request and even unsolicited, by many librarians and other scholars who had the patience to go through the bibliography with an experienced and critical eye. I also was able to undertake four extensive trips to Europe since the war, and I wish to thank again the foundations and other agencies which, through grants and fellowships, made these trips possible: The American Philosophical Society, The Columbia University Council for Research in Social Sciences, The Fulbright Committee for Italy, the Guggenheim Foundation, and the Ford Foundation. Thus I could not only examine in Europe many printed catalogues not available to me in the United States, and thus remove from my list most of the double asterisks (and often the titles themselves when the opportunity to examine the books also enabled me to eliminate them as unimportant or irrelevant). Above all, I thus could revisit, with a new purpose, the Italian libraries known to me from pre-war times, and also visit for the first time many libraries previously unfamiliar to me. I visited more than once the more important libraries in Switzerland, France, Belgium, Holland and Great Britain. I visited Spain, Portugal and Sweden in 1952, Yugoslavia, Austria, West Germany and again Spain in 1955, and in 1958 I could also visit Czechoslovakia, Poland, East Germany and Russia. Thus I obtained first-hand information on some of the more interesting collections in various countries, ascertained on the spot their resources in printed and unpublished catalogues, and was initiated into the mysteries concerning shelf marks and 'fondi' that seem to characterize every self-respecting library, — at least into the lesser mysteries that can be revealed even to a hasty visitor. A knowledge of the greater mysteries I