

can claim only for the Italian libraries with which I have been acquainted for a longer period, and even there, I suspect there is room for further initiation if I may judge from the additional *arcana* to which I was introduced last year. All these secrets, or at least most of them, I shall disclose to the attentive reader of this rather bony compilation, provided he peruses it with the right spirit that should contain the appropriate doses both of knowledge and of curiosity.

The most important change made in this revised edition is due to the decision to merge the two parts that had been kept separate in the first edition. Or to be more precise, to merge the second part with Section C of the first part. In other words, I have attempted to list together, for each city, and wherever possible, for each library and collection, both the printed catalogues and the unpublished inventories in which their content is described. This involved, on the other hand, an equally important change, at least for what formerly was the first part of the bibliography, namely an attempt to divide the material concerning each city, as far as possible, according to the various libraries located in the city, and even to the distinct collections found in each library. This division had been carried out in the second, but not in the first part of the former edition. It is hoped that this new arrangement will make the distinction between the various libraries and collections apparent even to those readers who have no personal familiarity with the cities and libraries concerned. For each library and collection, the printed catalogues, usually in chronological order, will be listed before the unpublished inventories, indicating as far as possible how the latter supplement the former. Both groups will be preceded by works of a more general nature, but limited in scope to the city or library concerned (works concerning more than one city will appear, as in the first edition of part I, in Sections A and B): that is, works supplying bibliographical or statistical information concerning the respective city or library, and catalogues describing more than one collection in a library, or even more than one library in the city. The name of the city will again be followed by cross references to the general works listed in Section B (or more rarely, in Section A). It has not been possible to apply the division of libraries and collections consistently to these cross references. An attempt to do so threatened to lead to unnecessary complications. However, the libraries covered by each cross reference entry will usually appear in Section B where the corresponding general work is analyzed. If no library is specifically indicated for some towns, it means that there is only one library which has manuscripts, most commonly, the city library.

I hope the practice of combining printed and unpublished catalogues for each library will not cause confusion. The unpublished catalogues are usually recognizable by the absence of some standard bibliographical data such as place and date of publication and number of pages. I shall again