

essential both for the project of *Medieval and Renaissance Latin Translations and Commentaries*, which has been undertaken by a group of scholars under the auspices of several learned societies, and for a summary list of philosophical and literary manuscripts of the Renaissance which I am preparing for the Warburg Institute in London. The present list is an outgrowth of these two undertakings, and it was first compiled in a less elaborate fashion for the former project and issued in mimeographed form under its auspices in 1951.

The manuscript collections which have no printed catalogues and are hence briefly called 'uncatalogued' are no less important for the scholar than the catalogued ones. Under normal circumstances, their content cannot be ascertained without an actual visit, but on the other hand, and for that very reason, they are likely to contain greater surprises in the way of unpublished texts. Now, contrary to a widespread belief, the case where such collections have no lists whatsoever and must be explored by actually handling every single manuscript is comparatively rare. In most instances, the 'uncatalogued' collection has a handwritten list which may be used on the spot and fulfills there the function of a 'catalogue.' These unpublished catalogues vary greatly in their quality and usefulness, but they are the only and indispensable keys to the respective collections. It is now possible to have them reproduced in photostat or microfilm, if the originating library permits it, and thus to study the general content of a collection before or without actually visiting the library. The usefulness of this procedure for scholars is obvious.

The handwritten catalogues are arranged in different ways. They may be on index cards or continuously written volumes. The card system is useful for checking individual entries, but when it is necessary to glance through a whole collection, a volume is preferable. The handwritten catalogues in volumes appear in two main types of arrangement: either they are shelf lists describing the manuscripts one after another in the order of their shelf marks, or they are alphabetical indices of names or subjects. The former type is commonly known as a 'topographical inventory,' and this term will be used in some of our descriptions. Some collections have only a shelf list (although this is rare), others only an index (which is more frequent). In the many cases where there is both a shelf list and an index, I have usually found the shelf list more useful than the index because it gives a more direct picture of the collection as a whole. Consequently, in my list I have placed greater emphasis on topographical inventories than on indices except in the cases where the index was definitely better, or where there was nothing but an index.

There are many sources of references for printed catalogues, but published information on handwritten inventories is surprisingly scanty. Such well known and reliable reference works as *Minerva*, or the *Minerva-Handbücher* dedicated to libraries, or Beer's 'Handschriftenschatze