

Spaniens' say nothing or nearly nothing on the handwritten inventories of uncatalogued collections. While information is available for a few famous libraries such as the British Museum, the Bodleian, and the Vatican, I have come across only few publications which give this information on more than one library. One is the series of reports on Italian libraries published in the periodical *Accademie e Biblioteche*. This publication is quite valuable for Italian libraries, but it varies in quality and completeness. Its major inconvenience is the fact that the data which interest us are scattered in six bulky volumes of a periodical and that the handwritten inventories are mentioned along with printed catalogues, lists of printed books, and many other pieces of information. A few additional data are found in the work of Apolloni and Arcamone, which covers the libraries of Northern Italy. The other publication is a booklet by L. K. Born, recently issued by the Library of Congress, which covers many Western European countries, but omits Italy, Spain, Portugal, and the Scandinavian countries. From our point of view, it has two main shortcomings: first, it puts a heavy emphasis on archives and lists comparatively few library collections of manuscript books, and secondly, it fails to give the original titles of the inventories listed, thus making their identification sometimes difficult. I have utilized these publications (see below for bibliographical details) and shall refer the sign *Cf.* to the reference whenever I give information not supplied by them.

If analyzed by countries, the list reflects some peculiar facts and difficulties. Obviously, the number of handwritten inventories will be in inverse proportion to the number of available printed catalogues since in most cases the former are superseded by the latter. Among the countries which have important collections in our field, cataloguing has been nearly completed in France and the United States, and is fairly well advanced in Great Britain, Belgium, Holland, and Switzerland. The gaps are greater in Spain, Sweden, Austria, and Italy, and, unfortunately, in Germany, where so many collections were destroyed or dislocated during the last war. The list which I am able to present is necessarily incomplete, since it depends on the opportunities I had to visit the various libraries, and on the additional information I was able to gather by correspondence from librarians or other scholars. This may account for the fact that the list is more complete for Italy than for any of the other countries, and very scanty indeed for all libraries behind the Iron Curtain. Collections in Eastern Germany, Czechoslovakia, Poland, and Hungary as well as the public library in Leningrad are or were rich in Latin manuscript books, but under the present political circumstances it has been impossible to visit them or to obtain much information about them.

The inventories included in the hand list have been selected according to the following criteria: I included only inventories of extant collections, and excluded those of collections which no longer exist, except when they