

Book reviews

1179

Marina Bonomelli, ed., *Quaderni di sicurtà: documenti on the history of insurance* (rev. edn., Milan: Mondadori Electa, Fondazione Mansutti, 2011. Pp. 381. 505 plates. CD-ROM. ISBN 978883708587 Pbk €70.00)

This is a richly illustrated and annotated catalogue of the 470 early modern (defined here as those published before 1830) printed books, pamphlets, and treatises held in the library of the Fondazione Mansutti, Milan. The CD-ROM accompanying the volume reproduces this catalogue and its appendices, minus the illustrations, as well as the library's full catalogue of over 3,000 modern books and periodicals. Most of the early modern books listed here are in Latin, but a significant number are in Italian, French, and Spanish, with others in English, Dutch, and German.

The Mansutti Library and Museum was established from the private collection of a Milanese lawyer, Francesco Mansutti, who contributes a foreword to this volume. Its focus is the history of insurance, although the collection also contains many works, sometimes in multiple editions, on European commercial and maritime law from the fifteenth century onwards. In addition, the museum holds over 400 fire marks, 300 insurance posters, and some 2,400 insurance policies, the earliest dating back to 1564. Altogether, the Fondazione Mansutti represents one of the world's most important repositories for the study of insurance history, particularly for the earliest phases of the industry's development in Europe.

First published in 1996, this revised edition of the library's early modern catalogue, produced in separate Italian and English versions by the Italian art publishers Mondadori Electa, offers much more than just a dry list of publications. It is also in part an encyclopaedia, a scholarly commentary, and an art book, which, according to the editor's introduction, should help the user 'navigate' the evolution of insurance from its origins in late medieval Mediterranean trade (p. 36). The catalogue entries are listed alphabetically by author, followed by title and publishing details of the edition. Other bibliographic details include descriptions of dedications, printers' marks, fonts, stamps, ownership signatures, illustrations, and ornamentation. Extensive cross-references are provided for each entry to other catalogues such as Kress and Goldsmiths, or to those of various state and national libraries. Each work, or group of works by one author, is accompanied by a set of 'critical notes' provided by Mansutti himself. These notes provide the reader with key biographical information about the authors, and place the works in their historical and historiographical contexts.

The 470 works listed in this catalogue are highly diverse. However, the main categories are treatises and essays on actuarial science, probability, mortality tables, and annuity valuations; general manuals, reference books, and commentaries on commercial, maritime, and canon law—including several volumes containing the decisions of the Rota and courts of various Italian towns, some covering the insurance contract, as well as some of the most famous legal codes, such as the Catalan *Consolat da Mar* (represented here in Italian and Dutch editions of 1549, 1564, and 1704) and Colbert's *Ordonnance de la Marine* (1681); encyclopaedias, dictionaries, and works of political economy; and works specifically on insurance and insurance law, either general essays, such as those by Magens (1755), Wesskett (1781), and Park (1787), or more obscure publications relating to individual insurance projects and enterprises of the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, particularly in Italy, Germany, and France.

BOOK REVIEWS

1180

One unusual cluster of works, which appears to have been largely ignored by historians, is the numerous Italian and French treatises that debated different methods to safeguard against the effects of hail and lightning. This debate, according to Mansutti, influenced the establishment of the first generation of hail and crop insurance companies in late eighteenth- and early nineteenth-century Europe. Another theme that emerges from the catalogue is the persistent defence between the fifteenth and eighteenth centuries of insurance against charges of usury. The majority of writers represented here argued that insurance was licit for two main reasons: that the premium was a justifiable compensation for taking on a true risk of another; and that insurance was a social good and public benefit. By contrast those canonists—for example, Summenhart, *De contractibus licitis* (1580 edition)—who opposed insurance on the principle that the insurer making the profit contributed nothing to the safeguarding of what was insured, appear in this catalogue as minority voices.

Curiously for such a specialist library, there are many omissions from the companion catalogue of modern books reproduced on the CD-ROM. These mostly relate to the more recent publications in English, including, for example, the second volume of Trebilcock's history of the Phoenix Assurance (1998), the studies of nineteenth-century UK and US life insurance by Alborn (2009) and Murphy (2010) respectively, the books by Pearson on UK fire insurance (2004) and international insurance (2010), and Go's excellent history (2009) of early Dutch marine insurance. But this is to quibble. Students of early modern commerce, especially in the Mediterranean world, will surely find many gems among this splendid *catalogue raisonné* of a remarkable collection.

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