

2024 CERL ANNUAL SEMINAR *European Printing in Non-Latin Scripts*

National Central Library of Rome
23 October 2024

Printing technologies have historically been used worldwide to reproduce texts written in different languages and scripts. When European typography developed in the mid-fifteenth century, this technology was first utilized to manufacture books written in Latin and European vernaculars. However, printers soon begun to publish texts in Hebrew (from 1469), Greek (from 1471), Glagolitic (from 1483), Cyrillic (from 1491). The earliest edition in Armenian dates to 1512, in Ge'ez to 1513, in Arabic to 1514, in Syriac to 1539, in Gaelic to 1571.

During the sixteenth century, starting in Rome and spreading in Europe, substantial investments in technology and knowledge are behind the development of a range of non-Latin types for the production of material for global circulation.



Francesco Berlinghieri, *Geographia*,
Firenze, Niccolò di Lorenzo della Magna, [1482] (BNCR, 70.1.G.5)

Nowadays, European and American Libraries are home to extensive holdings of early books printed in non-Latin scripts in Europe. These publications are housed alongside significant collections of books printed in numerous regions of the world and in a range of languages and different writing systems, which entered the current institutions following a variety of historical (political, religious, economical, as well as cultural) events.

The forthcoming 2024 CERL Annual Seminar will focus on printed books in non-Latin scripts, exploring three main themes:

1) Technology

The European production of books printed in non-Latin scripts; the models, the people, and the motivations which enabled the casting of special sets of type to represent multiple writing systems.

2) Collections

Notable collections of books printed in various non-Latin scripts currently housed in European and American institutions.

3) Cataloguing

Current/traditional cataloguing practices; discoverability of data and information; Cataloguing standards, codes (Marc code, Ethnologue ISO code), and their use.

Org.:

Cristina Dondi (Consortium of European Research Libraries - CERL)

Andrea Cappa (Biblioteca nazionale centrale di Roma - BNCR)

Alessandro Bianchi (Cambridge University Library - CUL)

Posters Display

To enable CERL libraries to present their collections of editions in non-Latin scripts and highlight their histories and individual cases we invite libraries to prepare a printable poster which will be displayed the day of the Conference, and later on the CERL website.

The preparation and collection of Posters will be supervised by Vera Andriopoulou (Athens, Aikaterini Laskaridis Foundation) and Katharina Kaska (Vienna ONB).

Deadlines and technical information on the preparation of the poster will be provided by CERL.

Publication of Proceedings

Proceedings will be published, and they will include the information of the posters, so as to offer a wide overview of the presence of this material in European and American collections.