

PRESS RELEASE

Valorizzare il '900 Promoting the 20th century

**Frankfurter Buchmesse
16-20 October 2024**

The National Central Library of Rome is pleased to announce its participation in the 76th edition of the Buchmesse, which coincides with Italy's tenure as Guest of Honour.

The Library will be present at the Italian Collective Stand, organised by ICE – the Italian Trade & Investment Agency (ITA) that supports the business development of our companies abroad and promotes the attraction of foreign investment in Italy. The opening ceremony will take place on 16 October at 10:30 am, with the Italian and German Ministers of Culture in attendance.

The National Library's stand, entitled *Valorizzare il '900 (Promoting the 20th Century)*, comprises two sections. The first is an exhibition space featuring selected items from the Library's 20th-century collections, while the second showcases the Library's published works. In this way, the Library aims to emphasise the significant work it is doing to enhance the value of its collections by promoting research and study activities, as well as by directly engaging in publishing. This valorization effort aligns with the overarching vision guiding Italy's national participation, exemplified by the "Radici nel Futuro" (*Roots in the Future*) project. This initiative will demonstrate Italy's awareness of its role and position in global culture at the upcoming Frankfurt event.

The Library has chosen to exhibit a number of extremely rare materials, including the manuscripts of four unforgettable 20th-century authors who left an indelible mark on the nation's cultural and literary heritage. The collection includes **Elsa Morante's notebook** and the **first edition of *La Storia***, marking the 50th anniversary of its publication. It also features the **unedited typescript of Italo Calvino's *Il Sorpasso***, written in 1976 at the request of the New York Times Review of Books and recently acquired by the Library. Additionally, the collection includes the **typescript of *Ragazzi di vita* (1955) by Pier Paolo Pasolini** with handwritten corrections and additions. It also features the **notebooks of Giuseppe Prezzolini**, which the Library is editing for an upcoming publication. The manuscripts of Morante, Calvino and Pasolini have also been selected in view of the forthcoming commemorations. Indeed, 2025

marks the anniversary of the authors' deaths: 40 years for Elsa Morante and Italo Calvino and 50 years for Pasolini.

The National Central Library of Rome has also set up an exhibition in the Italian Pavilion with the objective of exemplifying the richness of the bibliographic heritage preserved by Italian libraries.

The exhibition will feature **first editions of seminal works** by Italian literary greats **Alessandro Manzoni**, **Giacomo Leopardi**, **Niccolò Machiavelli** and **Galileo Galilei**. It will also showcase the *Prose della volgar lingua* by **Pietro Bembo**, the founding text of the Italian language, which celebrates its 500th anniversary this year.

Furthermore, the exhibition will showcase **two rare editions** by **Aldo Manuzio**, a leading Italian publisher, humanist, and scholar, including the *Hypnerotomachia Poliphili* and Dante's *Commedia*. It will also showcase one of the most widely printed and well-known books in history: Carlo Collodi's ***Pinocchio***.

To demonstrate the value-adding work carried out by the Library with its collections, the presentation *Calvino inedito: la politica italiana nel 1976* of Calvino's *Il sorpasso* (Mondadori, October 2024), edited by Stefano Campagnolo, director of the National Central Library of Rome, with an introduction by Sabino Cassese, will be held on the 20th at 10:20 a.m. in Room 2 of the Collective Stand.

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