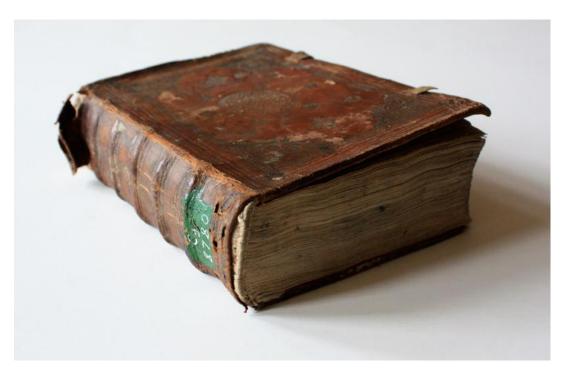
The old book - protected cultural heritage: from restoration to digitization

Kaunas County Public library, Old and Rare books department

Edita Rudminaitė, 2013



Main topic

- Old book concept
- Rarity, uniqueness and value criteria
- Book's signs
- Preservation and storage conditions
- Conservation and restoration
- Digitization



Old book concept

- In Lithuania an old book is considered to be all the prints, published up to press ban in Latin characters abolition in 1864
- Unique book's traditions determined different conception of old book in different countries
- The National Book Heritage includes all the 16th Lithuanian prints, 17th - 20th early prints, remained several copies
- Among the world's greatest rarities mostly fall incunabula, palaeotypes, first prints in national languages, prominent publisher's and printer's books

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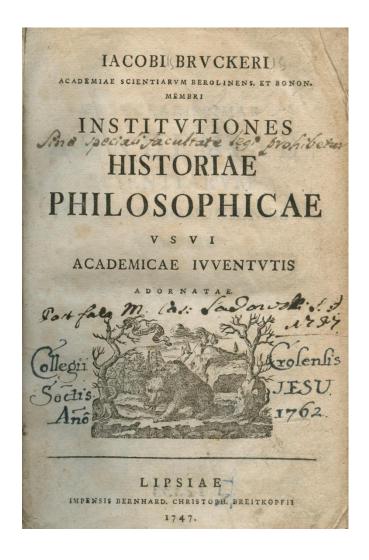
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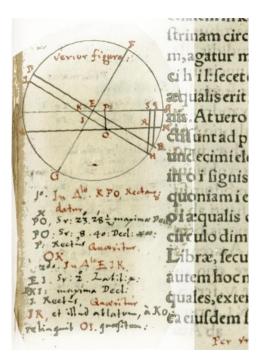
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Rarity, uniqueness and value criteria

- Original binding
- Print method
- Author's or reader's autographs
- Other marginality
- Book ownership signs

Book's signs: Marginality



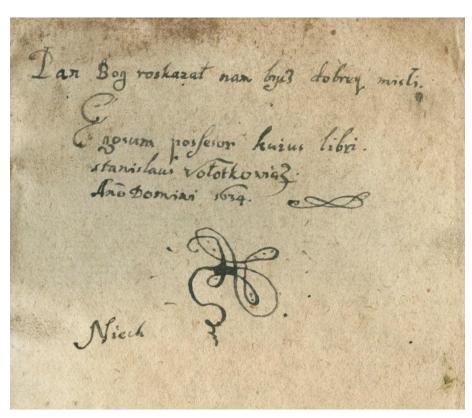




Book's signs



Stamps



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S.F.R. G.P.L.

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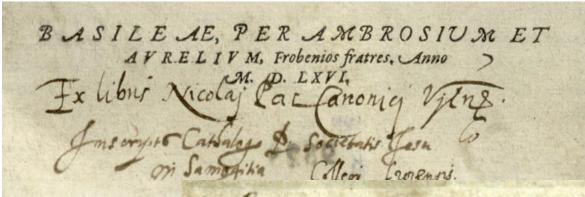
Book's signs: ownership signs



Provenance records and signs: super ex-libris



Provenance records and signs: ex-libris



Ex libris gim nasie Krownies.

Preservation and storage conditions

Libraries carrying the proper storage of the fund are guided by the:

- ✓ Republic of Lithuania law library
- ✓ Law on protection of movable cultural property
- ✓ Republic of Lithuania law on documents and archives
- ✓ Library foundation security and storage standards

Preservation and storage conditions

- There must be proper atmospheric conditions in the storages: the temperature and humidity must be consistent and not changing: the temperature $+18^{\circ}$ C ($\pm 2^{\circ}$ C), humidity (50 60%).
- Storage facilities must be continuously ventilated, entering air must be as clean as possible.
- Light regulation: storage must be completely dark light impinging document destruction is an ongoing process, changes are irreversible.
- Special documents collections should be stored in folders, boxes, which are made from alkaline paper material, that does not contain lignin.
- Regular storages and books cleaning: in order to avoid harmful books and space contamination by dust, which absorbs moisture, thus enables the development of biological pests.

Conservation and restoration













Conservation usually involves document stabilization processes – it is research-based practices to stop destroying or damaging effect on the document and strengthen the authentication features, protect it from natural deterioration.



Restoration is more complex process, because of lost parts reconstruction: paper or leather renewal procedures, which requires restorer kills, special restoration materials, tools and equipment. Before restoration, first takes place preparatory work: document's binding structure and elements evaluation, printing method and cover decoration techniques identification, restoration tool selection, disinfection, stamps, record fixation and documentation.

















Digitization

The main phases of digitizing are:

- The selection of objects
- Evaluation and conservation
- Copyright laws coordination
- Original and digitized objects bibliographic records arrangement
- Scanning or photographing
- Archiving in storages
- Making the relation between imges and bibliographic records using special software and making available access to public

Digitization

Kaunas county public library joined to the national digitization project "Virtual Electronic Heritage System Development", that combines various memory institutions for general purpose – to make our cultural heritage more open to Lithuania and worldwide users.

Virtual Electronic Heritage System: epaveldas.lt

