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Quaerendo

Volume 46, Issue 4, 2016

ISSN: 0014-9527

E-ISSN: 1570-0690

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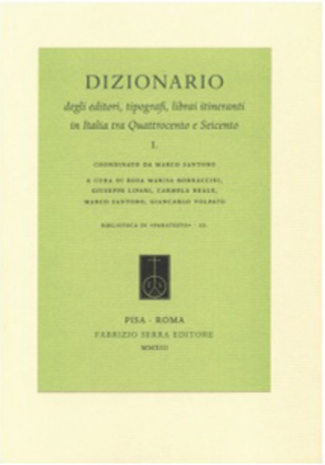

M. Santoro, R.M. Borraccini, G. Lipari, C. Reale, G. Volpato
Dizionario degli editori, tipografi, librai itineranti in Italia tra Quattrocento e Seicento. (Pisa-Roma, Serra, 2013, 25 cm, 3 vols., xxxi, 1238 pp., Biblioteca di Paratesto No. 10, ISBN 9788862276481, €285.00).

The political and administrative fragmentation of Italy and the multiplicity of cultural centres in the peninsula have meant that historians of Italian printing have always been aware of the problems in charting the geographical spread of printing, long before the 'spatial turn' in the Humanities put space at the centre of attention. Giuseppe Fumagalli's *Lexicon typographicum Italiae* (Florence, Olschki), a general topographical dictionary showing the first appearance of printing in various places throughout Italy, which was first published in 1905 and is still useful today, shows how far back in time the study of the geographical spread of printing goes in Italy, a study which emerged in the thriving context of local history and local studies. The early concentration of printing and publishing activity in Venice, the city which would maintain a leading role in the Italian book trade until the end of the eighteenth century, did not lead to the disappearance of printing in the rest of the country. On the contrary, the men who worked in the Italian book world constantly moved their activities from town to town (though southern Italy and the islands remained predictably peripheral), leaving returning not only to Venice, but also to the city which became second in importance in the Italian market: Rome.

The work reviewed here is not the first dictionary offering a series of extended biographical entries on Italian printers, publishers and booksellers, though it is the first to override the traditional cut-off point at the end of the

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