

INTRODUCTION

This volume is the first of a series that will publish papers from the Fiesole Collection Development Retreats which are designed to gather an influential core of librarians, publishers, and vendors once a year to discuss the likely shape of the library of the future.

The Fiesole Collection Development Retreats are the brainchild of Mario Casalini, founder of Casalini Libri in the 1950s. Mr. Casalini was a gentle, kind, generous, urbane and cultured man who had a deep appreciation for the library and book world. He was a true gentleman and was born so early in the twentieth century that his manners were those of the nineteenth. He conducted himself with a graciousness that is disappearing with his generation. Mr. Casalini had attended the Charleston Conferences countless times and found the informality, banter, and candor among librarians, publishers, and vendors stimulating and enviable. He wanted to reproduce that atmosphere in Fiesole, so the Fiesole Collection Development Retreats were born.

Fiesole, the location of Casalini Libri, sits high on a hilltop above Florence. Overlooking a lush green valley, it is untouched by modern cares. Bats glide through the sky. Blue wood smoke rises from faraway farm houses. A dog barks in the quiet distance. *A Room With A View* comes alive and the normal world in which we live vanishes into the perfect atmosphere and clean air of Fiesole. This is a place where one can sit and reflect and be at peace with the world. It seems fitting that the library of the future, so rooted in the culture and values of the past, should be discussed in this atmosphere.

It is the aim of all future Fiesole Collection Development Retreats to be held in locations such as Fiesole which recall the past while discussing the future.

Mr. Casalini died in June, 1998, and did not live to see the birth of his brainchild. We are sure, however, that he is with us in spirit and we dedicate this and all subsequent Fiesole Collection Development Retreats to him.



The First Fiesole Collection Development Retreat began on Thursday night, March 11, 1999, in the Pensione Bencistà, right across the road from Casalini Libri's main offices. Michael Keller, University Librarian, Stanford University, and Director of Academic Information Resources and Publisher, HighWire Press delivered the keynote address, a stimulating and eloquent opening to a day and a half of excellent papers.

In this volume, Eleanor Cook (Appalachian State University) begins with an overview of the First Fiesole Collection Development Retreat. Though not all of the

papers which she discusses in her introduction are reproduced in this volume, many of the papers are available here. Next, Fred Lynden (Brown University) delineates some of the important principles which grew out of the First Fiesole Collection Development Retreat.

Katina P. Strauch
Head, Collection Development,
College of Charleston
Editor, *Against the Grain*