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## **Guide to the Bancroft Library Incunabula Collection**

Processed by Patrick J. Russell

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Processed by:

Patrick J. Russell

Date Completed:

August 9, 1996

Encoded by:

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### Collection Summary

**Collection Title:** Bancroft Library Incunabula Collection

**Creator:** Bancroft Library. Special Collections

**Extent:** ca. 460 volumes

**Repository:** The Bancroft Library.  
Berkeley, California 94720-6000

**Physical Location:** For current information on the location of these materials, please consult the Library's online catalog.

### Online inventory:

A detailed inventory of The Bancroft Library Incunabula Collection is available online.

[The Bancroft Library Incunabula Collection](#)

### Access

Collection is open for research. Permission of the Rare Books Curator is required for use of all items, except facsimiles.

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### Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Bancroft Library Incunabula Collection, The Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley.

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**Acquisition Information**

The greater portion of these works come from the library of James Kennedy Moffitt, a graduate of the University of California, class of 1886, for 36 years a University Regent, as well as Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Crocker National Bank of San Francisco. Several volumes are from the collection of John Henry Nash, one of the leading typographers of California. Another part comes from the library of Charles Kay Ogden, noted linguist and originator of Basic English. Other volumes came through purchase and gift, most notably from the collections of the Italian humanist manuscripts, Charles William Dyson Perrins, the Dante enthusiast George John Warren, 5th Baron Vernon, the San Francisco attorney Alfred Sutro, and the medievalist James Westfall Thompson of Berkeley's History Dept.

**Scope and Content**

The Incunabula Collection of The Bancroft Library comprises more than 400 titles (several of which are only leaves) printed before 1501. It includes philosophical, theological, scientific, historical, and literary works. The collection has specimens from each of the major western European countries. The largest representation is from Italy, with 132 titles from Venice alone. In addition, there are leaf books, collections original leaves from German, Italian, and West-European incunabula, described by Konrad Haebler, noted historian of incunabula, a miscellany collection of unidentified original leaves, and a selection of facsimiles and photographic reproductions of other incunabula and early type faces.

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Vault	<b>Individual Incunabula</b> <b>Scope and Content Note</b> <b>Arrangement</b> Arranged by country and city of printing, then by date and author.
Vault	<b>Leaf Books</b> <b>Scope and Content Note</b> <b>Arrangement</b> Arranged by author of work describing an incunable and containing one or more leaves from it.
Vault	<b>Collections of Original Leaves</b> <b>Scope and Content Note</b> <b>Arrangement</b> Arranged by compiler or title of the collection.
Rare Book Stacks	<b>Facsimiles of Incunabula</b> <b>Scope and Content Note</b> <b>Arrangement</b> Arranged by original country and city of printing, then by original date and author. Collections of facsimiles and other photographic reproductions are at the end.