



# Università degli Studi di Napoli "Federico II"

## Master in Bibliography and Archival Science at University of Naples Federico II

Diplomatics course  
(*Prof. Antonella Ambrosio*)  
2011

### **SUMMARY**

Description, critical edition and interpretation of medieval charters with the help of new technologies in a digital environment.

### **OBJECTIVES**

This course had the following objectives: to let students in the Master of archivists experience the potential value of Diplomatics in their current training and future profession. To this end a blended course was offered that converged in a task of describing and editing medieval charters in Monasterium.Net as part of a European project (ENArC: EU-funded Culture Programme 2007-2013). The named course is on rete@ccessibile, a moodle platform ([www.firbreteaccessibile.it](http://www.firbreteaccessibile.it)).

Related purposes are: direct access to the charters always within the original or current archival stock, training to the reading of charters and the interpretation of their diplomatic forms, approach to methods, both traditional and digital, description and editing of medieval documents.

### **METHODOLOGY**

In a first phase were presented in a series of lectures basic issues in the history of documents in the Middle Ages, with particular reference to documentation produced and stored in archives of Southern Italy, in the context of the most trusted online resources available for the use of medieval documents and existing digital technologies, such as the XML markup language.

At a later stage first a group- and then an individual activity was carried out in the computer lab, through which, according to the principle of 'learning by doing', students carried out practical experiences on medieval charters created with EditMOM software.

These experiments were primarily aimed at assessing the textual tradition (original, copy, forgery etc.), the diplomatic analysis of the forms, the redaction of abstracts and transcription and the acquisition of the methodology of edition.

## **TEACHING CONTENT**

Definition and concept of written document and its evolution

Official documents, private deeds, etc.

Legal actions and deeds; legal action and documentary action

Synthesis of the History of the Diplomatics from Mabillon to the digital approach

Forms of documents (external features)

Methods for individualization of external features

Forms of document (internal features)

Methodology of diplomatic analysis of medieval charters

The XML markup language and the diplomatic analysis

Two online resources to compare:

-The *Codice Diplomatico della Lombardia medievale* on the web  
(<http://cdlm.unipv.it/>)

-*Monasterium.net* portal (<http://www.monasterium.net>)

Software EditMOM

Mark up the structure of a charter in EditMOM

Official documents genesis:

Methodology for reconstruction of the genesis of an official document

Diplomatic analysis of official documents in *Thélème* (<http://theleme.enc.sorbonne.fr/>)

Genesis of private deeds

Methodology for reconstruction of the genesis of private deeds

Diplomatic analysis of private deeds in *Monasterium.net*

Textual Tradition (original, copy, false)

Conservation (registers, cartulary, libri iurium)

Methodology of transcription, redaction of abstracts, traditional and digital critical edition of charters

## **EVALUATION**

Ongoing evaluation of the external features descriptions of documents on the basis of the examination of original documents, descriptions and critical editions of documents with the use of software EditMOM in computer classes, oral examination and evaluation of a test of editing in EditMOM held by oneself.

## **COURSEBOOKS**

- MATERIALS on rete@ccessibile (([www.firbreteaccessibile.it](http://www.firbreteaccessibile.it)))

-A. PRATESI, *Genesi e forme del documento medievale*, Jouvence 1999, pp. 182

-A. PRATESI, *Una questione di metodo: l'edizione delle fonti documentarie*, in «Rassegna degli Archivi di Stato», XVII (1957), pp. 312-333; in *Antologia di scritti archivistici*, a cura di R. Giuffrida, Roma 1985, pp. 693-716

-A. AMBROSIO, *Il progetto Monasterium in Italia. Le prime esperienze a Napoli*, A. AMBROSIO, *Il progetto Monasterium in Italia. Le prime esperienze a Napoli* in «Archivi» V/2 (lug. -dic. 2010), pp. 129-145.

## REFERENCES

### Manuals

H. BRESSLAU, *Handbuch der Urkundenlehre für Deutschland und Italien*, Lipsia 1912-1932 (rist. Berlino 1958); trad. it.: *Manuale di diplomatica per la Germania e l'Italia*, a cura di A. M. Voci-Roth, Roma 1999 (Pubblicazioni degli Archivi di Stato. Sussidi, 10)  
C. PAOLI, *Diplomatica*, nuova edizione aggiornata da G. C. Bascapè, Firenze 1987  
P. CARUCCI, *Il documento contemporaneo. Diplomatica e criteri di edizione*, Roma 1987  
O. GUYOTJEANNIN-J.PYCKE-B.M. TOCK, *Diplomatique médiévale*, Turnhout 1995 (2 ed.) (L'atelier du médiéviste, 2).  
GIOVANNA NICOLAJ, *Lezioni di diplomatica generale (I)*, Roma 2007.

### Teaching Aids

A. CAPPELLI, *Dizionario di abbreviature Latine e italiane*, Milano 1912 e edizioni successive.  
A. CAPPELLI, *Cronologia, cronografia e calendario perpetuo*, 1998 con floppy disk.  
COMMISSION INTERNATIONALE DE DIPLOMATIQUE, *Vocabulaire international de la diplomatique*, a cura di M.M. Carcel Orti, Valencia, 1997 (2 ed.)

### Directories and bibliographies on the Web (starting points for finding more titles)

*Le discipline editoriali: paleografia, diplomatica, codicologia*, a cura di A. GHIGNOLI, in «Reti medievali» 2003, url:<http://www.rm.unina.it/repertorio/paleogra.html> (active in 2010)  
*Historical Auxiliary Sciences in Virtual Library*, a cura di G. VOGELER, P. SAHLE, HORST ENZENSBERGER, THOMAS FRENZ, url: <http://www.vl-ghw.uni-muenchen.de/hwEnglish.html> (active in 2010).

About the critical edition methodology: *La palestra dell'editore: materiali vecchi e nuovi per l'edizione dei testi documentari* in Scrineum (<http://scrineum.unipv.it/biblioteca/dossier-1.html>)