

*Abstract*

In 1452, with the support of the élite citizens of Trento who belonged to the confraternity of the 'Battuti Laici', the Observant Franciscans acquired the resources with which to build their own monastery in the city. Thanks to the survival today in the Fondazione Biblioteca San Bernardino of a manuscript and a small group of incunables containing the monastery's ownership inscription, it can be seen how, before 1494, as part of this new establishment a book collection was set up for the use of the friars. Further information on this Franciscan library helps us to understand it as part of the cultural climate in Trento in the second half of the fifteenth century, profoundly influenced by the city's bishop Hinderbach (1465-1486) and his activities.