As announced in the first issue of the Sammelband Flyleaf, the difficulty of identifying scholarly articles and books that analyse Sammelbände—both as a phenomenon and individual cases—has led us to create a specialised bibliography that can be used not just by project members, but also by other scholars.

The bibliography is conceived to record publications in all languages and in various formats. When ever possible, links will be provided to open-access versions whether via publishers’ websites or research archives such as HAL or the specific repositories of different institutions. After having tested various formats of publication, it has been decided to use a dedicated Zotero library as it also allows scholars to download and use the references in their own publications.

The presentation of each item contains a short abstract of three or four sentences in English that explains the interest of the publication for the study of Sammelbände.

New additions to the bibliography will feature in future numbers of the Sammelband Flyleaf to highlight new studies (or share little known past publications). Readers are encouraged to send in, or add directly, new references and short abstracts in the Zotero bibliography which is accessible via the project website.

Existing references are presented on pages 2 to 7.

**First volume of studies of the Sammelband Project**

The first volume of Sammelband articles is entering the final stages of publication with a launch date later this year. Primarily based on a selection of papers presented during previous project events held in Lyon, Udine and Utrecht since 2019, it is edited by Amandine Bonesso and will comprise no fewer than eighteen articles—two theoretical essays and a series of in-depth case studies.

« The article examines the issues and questions arising during the cataloguing of Sammelbände. It includes references to how past scholars (for example Gabriel Naudé) advised dealing with this kind of volumes and briefly considers how today’s libraries should act in preserving and cataloguing composite volumes. »


« The article discusses a sixteenth-century Sammelband, kept at Princeton University Library that contains fourteen classical works and textbooks published in Paris between 1551 and 1570 (predominantly by Denys du Pré and Thomas Brumen). It is interleaved throughout and annotated; notes date from between 1570 and 1571. The volume was owned by one Pierre Guyon (name on the binding, and throughout the volume), while the notes were taken at the Collège of Lisieux in Paris; the professor dictating them was probably Louis Godebert of Picardy. The author analyses the annotations on Ovid’s Metamorphoses, and draws conclusions on the teaching of Latin eloquence. »


« This short note looks at a Sammelband preserved in the Pierpont Morgan Library in New York. Ten early sixteenth-century Paris imprints are preserved within the volume in a binding most likely made at the Groenendaal monastery. The author notes that the contents are not what would have traditionally been used in such a location as the items are connected to what he calls "the new learning". »


« The article discusses the surge in digitising historical manuscripts and early printed books over the past decade. While this has greatly benefited researchers, particularly during the pandemic, it has raised new issues in particular with regard to Sammelbände. It highlights a common practice in digitisation: presenting volumes containing multiple editions as separate records, disconnecting texts meant to be read together. Digitised books should be presented in their entirety, replicating the experience of leafing through a physical book, rather than isolating specific sections. This approach would better preserve the contextual evidence and prevent misleading representations. »

« Due to a recent restoration of the Sammelband Sec. XVI 22697 in the "Giuseppe Taroni" Municipal library of Bagnacavallo, it was possible to consider more closely its contents, consisting of three unknown editions of Duns Scotus, all published in Paris between 1526 and 1546. The author reflects on the bibliographical nature of the collection and the circumstances of its entry into a heritage library. »


« This article discusses several volumes with Italian broadsheets (most of them Ordinances), from various Italian states, found in French libraries, above all, the BnF. On the basis of the bindings, these Sammelbaende were assembled mostly in the seventeenth-eighteenth centuries, as part of a general French interest in Italian things. Many of them are still not fully catalogued. »


« The article examines the survival of chivalric romances, often extensively read and thus frequently damaged and destroyed by their users. Several of them have survived as unique copies within Sammelbände, forming more robust volumes that had a better chance of preservation. As an example, two miscellanies from the Vatican Apostolic Library are considered, containing mostly editions otherwise unknown. Assembled between the late fifteenth and the early sixteenth century, they were later dismembered in the nineteenth century, with each edition being bound separately. Thanks to the original cartulation, the author is able to provide a virtual reconstruction of their original makeup. »


« The article discusses a Sammelband from Bibliothèque interuniversitaire de Santé in Paris, assembled by the Dominican bibliophile Jacques Quétif and containing twenty-eight book sale catalogues from the seventeenth century. The article focuses on a large broadsheet catalogue that advertises the books offered for sale by Marie du Flo, widow of Charles Savreux. This broadsheet catalogue and probate inventory enables one to piece together the business practices of a shop at the heart of the Jansenist book trade in Paris, where they ran one of a number of businesses attached to the Abbaye de Port Royal-des-Champs. »

« By analysing the vast collection of books amassed by Hubert van Buchell in the sixteenth century and now preserved at the University Library of Utrecht, it is possible to better understand the logics of the collection and the reading practices of a Renaissance scholar. The article studies the Sammelbände devoted to travel accounts and geographical and ethnographic descriptions, particularly of the New World. It shows that the choices made by van Buchell in putting together these volumes give a central position to the religious and political discourse of the authors, rather than to the mere thematic subjects of the books. »


« This article focuses on a Sammelband from the Collège de Sorbonne, a library of chained books particularly well documented for the Medieval and Early Modern periods. It reconstructs the material history of a specific Sammelband, by analysing material clues, various inscriptions and current academic work. This enables us better to comprehend our predecessors’ choices regarding the conservation of books. This approach aims better to understand the past in order to adapt our future conservation-restoration treatments for complex objects. »


« The article addresses the complexity of understanding a volume’s restoration history, emphasising the challenge of interpreting alterations made for preservation, enhancement, or aesthetic reasons. Volumes evolve over time and their analysis requires expertise in book history and in particular in the fields of bookbinding and restoration. Using Sammelbände preserved in Breton libraries, the article shows how historians and restorers can work together to understand the materiality of volumes and highlight how this can lead to a better comprehension of the history of both printed Sammelbände and archival registers. »


« A detailed analysis of an otherwise unrecorded Caxton indulgence preserved as binder’s waste in the “Resenwald Sammelband”, which gathered other four editions printed by Caxton. The article includes a thorough study of the volume’s features, which is methodologically relevant, as well as poignant thoughts and

« In a pioneering volume dedicated to the ISTC, this article argues that it would be vital to create detailed provenance records of incunabula as this would enable scholars to keep track of Sammelbände that are often broken up. After citing some institutional examples of this practice over the previous century, the author emphasises the fact that it is still common in various parts of the antiquarian book trade. »


« Prospero Podiani, a well-known humanist and jurist active in Perugia (1535-1615), had a strong interest in collecting booksellers’ catalogues. The article focus mainly on a Sammelband owned by Podiani (ALD 558), in which he gathered several broadsheet catalogues by XVI century printers and publishers, most of which are extremely rare or unique copies. The article is thus a valuable contribution to investigating the role played by Sammelbände in the dynamics of survival and loss of printed materials. »


« The contribution examines the first publisher’s catalogue issued by Aldo Manuzio on 1 October 1498 and in particular the copy today at the Österreichische Nationalbibliothek in Vienna (Ink. 7.A.13). A careful examination of the manuscript annotations, known to be by Hartmann Schedel, has enabled the author to identify the volume in which the humanist had the catalogue bound during his lifetime: a copy of Marcantonio Sabellico’s Decades rerum Venetarum (Venice, Andrea Torresani, 1487) also at the Österreichische Nationalbibliothek (Ink 7.A.7). A detailed description of the item and of Schedel’s textual and graphic additions reveals for the first time what was one of the most significant books in the humanist’s library and allows us to reconstruct the context of its use in the years immediately following its publication. »


« The article reexamines the production of Lorenzo Rossi, printer and bookseller active in Ferrara between XV and XVI century thanks to a contemporary Sammelband preserved at the Biblioteca Trivulziana (Milan). The volume contains several unsigned editions, mainly anti-Venetian compositions related to the battle of Polesella between Ferrara and Venice and other episodes of the Italian wars: these imprints, not previously recorded in bibliographical repertories, can all be assigned to Rossi’s press. »

« The article’s focus is stated in the title. The article highlights the STCV’s practice of recording whether copies of books are part of a Sammelband and uses this information to calculate survival rates for items printed in one small number of sheets. The article makes the point that for the Southern Netherlands, small publications, i.e., those for which a couple of sheets of paper suffice to produce a copy, owe their survival largely to the Sammelband. »


« This article analyses a Sammelband composed of incunabula held at the Diocesan Library of Córdoba, which we believe belonged to William Hewster († 1492), a clergyman and professor at Oxford. It contains six incunabula from Antwerp, Leuven, Paris and Oxford, printed in the workshops of Gerard Leeu (3), John of Westphalia, Antoine Caillaut, and Theodoric Rood & Thomas Hunte. Among the works is the only known copy of Elegantiae terminorum ex Laurentio Valla et aliis collectae, Antwerp: Gerard Leeu, 7.XI.1487 (GW M35200) and the only complete copy of Ars memorativa by Jacobus Publicius [Paris: Antoine Caillaut, 1483–90] (GW M36439). »


« Understanding the different stages of restauration and their impact is vital to book historians. This article examines the question of the relationship between restauration and Sammelbände. The analysis of Sammelbände enables us to understand how contemporaries approached texts, the relationships they saw between different titles and how they wished to organise knowledge. Excessive restauration threatens our ability to analyse these volumes by removing vital information. The article underlines the necessity of documenting the process of restauration as well as appreciating its impact. It also seeks to refute the paradigm that has often guided the restauration of books. »


« This text assesses what can be learnt from a Sammelband of dissertations preserved in the BnF in Paris. Schools and universities were primary markets for affordable publications in early modern Europe. Students purchased basic educational books, but also published concise thesis summaries, often fitting onto a single sheet. Virtually all of this production has been lost over time but the discovery of over 260 single-sheet items sheds important new light on cheap academic publishing in the Catholic Low Countries. The volume’s organisation and annotations reveal a deliberate collection strategy, offering insights into preservation methods. »

« This article examines the process that led to the adoption of a title page in France and its relationship to the earlier insertion of preliminary blank pages. It identifies the importance of material aspects and content in determining whether a separate title page was included. It emphasises the context of use and preservation, highlighting the impact of the move towards smaller formats, but also the role played by the insertion of multiple items into single bindings. In addition to the creation of these Sammelbände, this study underlines the prevalence of early title pages in accessible, often vernacular, editions. »


« The creation of Sammelbände was a common practice in the first centuries of print. The decision to put copies of different editions within the same binding had a justification that could be economic, but also intellectual. This article seeks to understand how we can approach this object by using the library collection of the Centre Culturel Irlandais in Paris as a starting point. By examining a series of volumes, it demonstrates that their analysis, particularly through the prism of the archaeology of the book, allows us to see how owners appropriated and gave particular meaning to books and their contents. »
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The digitisation programme of the Sammelbände of the collection of Hubert van Buchell preserved in Utrecht University Library continues apace. One of the founding collections of the University library, most of the volumes have kept their original bindings and, as over 90% of the editions are in Sammelbände, it is an extraordinary source of information for understanding the creation and use of such books.

Though Van Buchell was particularly interested in the religious controversies of his time and the rise of Protestantism, he also acquired texts on a large variety of subjects, with a particular interest in History. This diversity is showcased by one of the most recent digitisations of the library, the volume O oct 90, bound with typically Germanic decorations in Cologne after Van Buchell fled into exile in 1570.

This Sammelband is composed of six different editions published in the Holy Roman Empire between 1567 and 1579—five of which address one of the major areas of concern during those decades: the spread of plague and pestilence. All of the texts were written in German in an accessible style, and were clearly aimed at a wide readership and not medical specialists—certainly, Galen and Hippocrates do not feature heavily—the only author to feature twice on the title pages is the ever present Paracelsus. The volume is conceived as a useful guide and it is perhaps worth noting that the most practical of the editions, and the only one that offers woodcuts of plants that could be helpful, is bound as the first item.

The way in which a Sammelband can affect how we understand ownership of an edition—and how texts could have been read in a different context to the one we might associate with a title—is illustrated by the one item in the volume that is not obviously medical. The edition purports to be a chronicle and description of all the comets since the creation of the world—but its subtitle makes clear why it is here: it also seeks to use such occurrences to explain the connection between comets and disasters—in particular with regard to wars, plagues and pestilence.

For Van Buchell, this text should not be seen as proof of a burgeoning interest in astronomy or in the passing celestial objects themselves, but rather as an indication of his readiness to believe that comets could cause sudden periods of plague…

The list of recent digitisations can be found at the following address:

https://objects.library.uu.nl/reader/recent.php
My name is Ester Camilla Peric. I hold a PhD in Book History from the Scuola Superiore Meridionale (Naples) and I am currently a research fellow at the University of Udine. I work mainly on the history of book trade during the fifteenth and sixteenth century.

A central aspect of my research revolves around lost editions and the dynamics of their destruction. Printed materials faced various threats to their survival, including consumptive reading habits, the short-term validity of their contents, and the fragility of their physical structure. However, the practice of binding multiple items together soon emerged as a crucial factor in preserving printed books: consolidating disparate materials into a single, sturdier volume significantly increased their chances of survival, particularly for smaller booklets and pamphlets.

Some Sammelbände even represent time capsules of ephemeral materials that might otherwise have been lost to history. Among these are publishers’ catalogues, which I worked on during my PhD programme. They were printed as broadsheets or tiny booklets by publishers to promote the sale of their production. Extremely ephemeral, both in their contents and physical structure, catalogues show a very low survival rate, only slightly increased by their inclusion in Sammelbände. Some catalogues were inserted in the same editions they promoted, whereas others were bound together in volumes that served booksellers or scholars as powerful instruments of bibliographical information.

To give just a few examples: the French historian and bibliophile Jacques-Auguste de Thou (1553-1617), owned a volume (today Charleville Mezières BM, Rés A 1081) containing several publishers’ catalogues, most of them unique or extremely rare, which he annotated to track books he already possessed and those he wished to acquire. Similarly, Hartmann Schedel owned one of the two known copies of the first Aldine index (1498), which he bound alongside a copy of the Decades Rerum Venetarum by Marcantonio Sabellico (see my article in La Bibliofilia, 126 (2022), pp. 411-427).

In this context of scattered survivals and unique case-studies, the discussion with other members of the Sammelband 15-16 network has proved invaluable, as through ongoing discussions and collaborations I have found continuous inspiration and guidance to further broaden and refine my research endeavours.

Ester has notably published a monograph (Forum, 2001) on the sale of books in late fifteenth-century Padua.

She can be contacted via email at the address: estercamilla.peric@gmail.com
The next project event will take place on 27-28 May in Amsterdam. The first day will be devoted to roundtables and presentations of ongoing research, whilst the second day will see the project inaugurate a new format: members on-site will offer in-depth analysis of specific aspects of Sammelbände selected from the holdings of the Allard Pierson, the heritage collections library of the University of Amsterdam.

These rich collections date back to the foundation of the university library in the early seventeenth century and have been enriched over the centuries by donations from learned societies and private individuals. They contain many objects of interest for analysis within the project. These include incunabula on philosophy from the Bibliotheca Philosophica Hermetica, medical titles, textbooks, and the library of Jacob Buyck, a Catholic theologian from Amsterdam who amassed over a thousand titles in the second half of the sixteenth century, which have been preserved in their original bindings.

Katell Lavéant, curator of printed collections at the AP, and co-organiser of the event with Rozanne Versendaal (Utrecht University), will prepare a diverse selection of relevant cases.

Both days will be broadcast live via zoom, for the members of the network and for other interested students, researchers and librarians. Specific attention will initially be given to books and collections from the Low Countries as well as to new technical possibilities to study Sammelbände, and to the wider analysis of the materiality of these volumes on the second day.

The Sammelband network will meet at Uppsala University Library on 12–14 September 2024. Founded in 1477, the university is the oldest in the Nordic countries. Its library was established in the early 1620s and now houses tens of thousands of fifteenth- and sixteenth-century editions. Several projects, some of which are still ongoing, have focused on collections and volumes formed elsewhere but now preserved in Uppsala and have led to close collaboration with librarians from the countries of origin such as Poland, Latvia and the Netherlands.

The aim of this Sammelband group meeting will be to address the phenomenon of foreign books in new contexts and what may be understood from the analysis of their shared histories. The Polish books in particular, with their long history in Swedish libraries, give plenty of opportunities to discuss book culture and materiality from the eastern part of Europe.

An excursion to the eighteenth-century country house library of Leufstädtruk, which is owned and curated by Uppsala, will also be organised on 14 September.
Sammelband 15-16 is a project that studies the creation and use of Sammelbände in fifteenth- and sixteenth-century Europe.

The extraordinary initial development of the printing industry has been carefully charted and analysed. But many aspects of the volumes created as a result of this proliferation of printed texts are yet to be investigated.

The Sammelbände are a case in point. The works produced in the printer’s workshop were not automatically encased in a publisher’s binding. The choice of a binding, its quality and characteristics, were generally determined by the owner. The result was a great variety in bindings that, even in the simplest of cases, represented a substantial proportion of the cost of book acquisition. This encouraged the fashioning of volumes that contained not just one work, but different texts gathered and bound together, volumes which are generally known by the German term, Sammelband.

These volumes are one of the most striking features of the fifteenth- and sixteenth-century book world yet their characteristics have not been the subject of detailed analysis. As a result, despite their ubiquity even today, scholars have little understanding of these volumes. This project seeks to understand the steps that led to their creation and their use in fifteenth- and sixteenth-century Europe.