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Giovanni Bernardo De Rossi
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Published in 1803, this is the first part of a three-volume descriptive catalogue of the Hebrew codices in the personal library of Giovanni Bernardo De Rossi (1742–1831), professor of oriental languages at the University of Parma. Each codex is numbered and its contents briefly described in Latin. Volume 1 includes an introduction (in Latin) and descriptions of codices 1–346 from a total of 1,377. De Rossi was an important collector of manuscripts and incunabula, and an authority on Hebrew typography and textual variants. The manuscripts described in this catalogue were obtained as a result of his exhaustive researches into variant readings of the Old Testament, the results of which he published in *Variae lectiones veteris testamenti* (1784–8). He also produced groundbreaking studies of printed Hebrew texts, and a catalogue of Jewish anti-Christian polemics, *Bibliotheca judaica antichristiana* (also reissued in this series).

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BIBLIOTH. I. B. DE-ROSSI

LING. ORIENT. PROF.

ACCURATE AB EODEM DESCRIPTI
ET ILLUSTRATI.

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QUA CONTINENTUR

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AL. LINGUARUM.

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1803.

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ERUDITIS BIBLIOPHILIS

IOH. BERN. DE-ROSSI.

Ex lucubratiunculis quas hucusque edidi, diu doctis innotuit privata haec mea mss. codicum supellex ejusque praestantia, potissimum vero ex Variis Lectionibus V. T., longe lateque dispersis ac pervulgatis, in quibus magno ii agmine prolati sunt, insignisque ac perpetuus factus eorum usus. Diu etiam ea enituit ex summis laudibus, quibus docti ipsi celebriores Europae eam cumularunt, testantes non modo » praestantissimam esse, pretiosissimam, mirificam, sed mss. hebraicorum copia aliam nullam neque publicam, neque privatam cum ea contendere, apparatum sistere biblicum ac criticum, qualem nulla antea aetas usquam vidit,

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infinitis congestum laboribus ac sumptibus, qui privati vires longissime superabant, eam unicam esse in suo genere et omnium instar quam sacrae criticae cultores petant undique ac consulant, dignam quae cura ac liberalitate alicujus principis integra demandetur posteris ». Haec sunt perhonorifica testimonia quae de illa tulerunt publice extra Italiam et in Italia viri in hoc litteraturae genere doctissimi ac celeberrimi, inter quos eminent Michaelis Goettingensis linguarum orientalium professor in Bibliotheca orientali, Adlerus episcopus Slesvicensis in Romano Itinere biblico-critico, Brunsius professor Helmstadiensis in notis ad generalem Kennicotti Dissertationem et in Annalibus ejus urbis, Oberlinus Argentoratensis in Ephemeridibus litterariis anni 1783, Fabricius gallus Casanatensis bibliothecae theologus in Diatriba Specimini meo pontificii codicis Pii VI subjuncta, Andres hispanus tum in Epistolis familiaribus hispanice vulgatis, tum in Origine ac progressu omnis litteraturae, Buronzus del Signore archiepiscopus Taurinensis in Oratione funebri Caroli III, Thomas Valperga de Calusio in Rudimento coptico, quibus alii plurimi accesse-

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runt cujusvis nationis. Quo factum est ut non modo exteri multi doctrina ac dignitate spectatissimi ad eam videndam confluerent eamque suspicerent, sed et extiterint reapse principes non pauci qui eam summopere exoptarent. Atque illi quidem in primis de sacris solis codicibus, quos tamquam uberrimos divinae revelationis ac sacrae criticae fontes respiciebant, loquebantur, atque eo insuper tempore quo mea haec collectio ad eam amplitudinem ac perfectionem non pervenerat, qua modo pervenit. Etenim insigniter aucti sunt deinceps codices mss. sive sacri, sive aliarum scientiarum, ut patet ex Scholiis meis criticis in V. T. libros seu Supplementis ad varias sacri textus lectiones anno 1798 editis et ex Dictionario historico judaicorum auctorum eorumque operum quod prodiit anno proxime elapso Codices hebraici, quo nomine comprehenduntur etiam chaldaici ac rabbinici, sunt nunc mille tercenti et amplius, biblici solius textus fere septingenti, doctiorum ac celebriorum scriptorum, ut Aben Ezrae, Gersonidis, Jarchii, Kimchii, Maimonidis aliorumque, copia immanis et incredibilis, ut fidem facit alphabeticus singulorum index

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ad calcem subjectus, in quo codices omnes et unaquaequae opera iis comprehensa ad suos auctores revocantur. Quod et de rarioribus ipsis codicibus dicendum est, quorum vel nullus, vel unicus tantum extat in ditioribus ipsis publicis bibliothecis, ut sunt codices celebris Immanuelis. In eorum numero mille circiter membranacei, multi inediti, multa, immo vero infinita inedita opera iis contenta, multi ignoti, antiqui, rarissimi, singulares, unici, autographi. Hebraicis accedunt codices reliqui aliarum linguarum, syriaci, arabici, persici, graeci, latini, italici, hispanici etc., qui etsi non sint magno numero, sunt tamen inter eos classici quamplures ac non pauci eximii ac pretiosi. Ac singula haec sive ab exteris dicta non suspectis, quos malui de rebus meis testes adsciscere, sive a me historice relata, perbrevis haec, quam edendam aggredior, eorumdem codicum recensio amplissime, ut opinor, confirmabit. Ea singulorum auctores, titulos, materiam, characterem, formam, aetatem exhibet, ac praeterea scholia modo breviora, modo longiora, in quibus argumenta, epigraphes, singularia, identidem etiam excerpta proferuntur, non pauca et insignia de-

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teguntur bibliographorum errata, ac Wolfii praesertim Bibliotheca, quae est reliquis omnibus plenior ac perfectior, perpetuo suppletur et emendatur. Porro quum mss. codicum praestantia ex praestantia variarum lectionum potissimum dimetiatur et ex critico eorum usu, ad plerosque codices sacri textus loca apposui, in quibus in servandis egregiis et optimis lectionibus vel unici ii sunt in edita collatione, vel fere unici, vel rariores. Lectores loca ipsa, si lubet, consulere poterunt et evolvere. Hinc numeros, quos codices singuli in ea collatione ac primo catalogo obtinent, religiose retinui. Quod et de aliis nonnullis adhuc intactis factum est, quos nuper accepi, de reliquis rarius ac parcius, ne longius opus protraheretur, quos tamen non dubito hoc idem beneficium allaturos, si diligenter excutiantur.

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HABEANT QUI VOLUNT VETERES LIBROS VEL IN MEMBRANIS PURPUREIS AURO ARGENTOQUE DESCRIPTOS, VEL UNCIALIBUS, UT VULGO AJUNT, LITTERIS ONERA MAGIS EXARATA QUAM CODICES, DUMMODO MIHI PERMITTANT PAUPERES HABERE SCHEDULAS ET NON TAM PULCHROS CODICES QUAM EMENDATOS.

Hieron, Prologo in Job.

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