This article offers a first critical transcription of the only available translation in Romance language of the Rule of Elisabeth of France, approved in 1259 for the monastery of the Poor Sisters at Longchamp. The codicological analysis of MS LL 1601 of the National Archives of France, sheds new light on the cultural context of the reception and translation of the Rule during the years 1315-25, and particularly on the patronage of abbess Jehanne of Guens. This article also presents the current state of research dedicated to the Rule of Elisabeth of France and adds supplementary information about its growth in France and Europe from the 14th century onwards.

This study intends to shed light on the spiritual treatise, called Istruzioni al discepolo, which has been traditionally attributed to the Poor Clare and mystical writer Sister Battista da Varano of Camerino (1458-1524), updating the list of witnesses, both in manuscript and in print, which are presently available, and the modern editions which have disseminated knowledge of this text. In the second and third parts of this contribution several open questions regarding the contents of the work, the date of its composition, the person to whom it was directed and the hypothesis as regards authorship, are addressed. In respect of the last of these matters, after taking into account the most authoritative opinions, the author – who is currently working on the editio critica of the text – presents and comments upon several synoptic tables in order to clarify the hierarchical links between the most credible witnesses and to ascertain the reliability of the traditional attribution of authorship.

Il progetto di fondazione di un collegio di francescani irlandesi nel cuore di Roma, da parte del famoso annalista Luca Wadding, comportava fin dagli inizi anche la costituzione di una biblioteca di alto livello. Gli oltre 4000 volumi stampati tra il 1622 e il 1700, ancora oggi conservati nella detta biblioteca e analizzati dagli autori del presente contributo,
rispecchiano largamente gli interessi dei frati del collegio e le strategie di acquisto di opere corrispondenti a questi interessi e bisogni. Non sorprende, per esempio, il gran numero di opere di Duns Scoto o dedicate alla sua teologia, visto che il Collegio di Sant’Isidoro si distingueva come scuola d’eccellenza per la diffusione del pensiero scotistico. La biblioteca, concludono gli autori, rappresentava una parte importante nella formazione di una identità irlandese e cattolica dei frati nell’età della Contro-Riforma.

CAYETANO SÁNCHEZ FUERTES, OFM. – Los Frayles Menores en la isla de Samar (Filipinas) en el siglo XVIII. Documentos para su historia (119-193)

When the Society of Jesus was forced to leave the Philippines in 1768, the local St Gregory Province of Friars Minor took over the former Jesuit missions on the island of Samar. The article quotes from sources which highlight the short preparatory phase of this new Franciscan mission and especially publishes, in extenso, three early mission reports dating from 1775 and 1778. These documents give an overview of some of the major problems the Franciscan missionaries had to face: the lack of financial support by governmental sources; the availability of suitable spiritual literature in the local languages; the organization of the defense against attacking pirates; the grouping of the non-sedentary population in villages in order to provide social and pastoral services; heterodoxy and the lack of solid Christian instruction; the difficult collaboration with local authorities.

FELICE ACCROCCA. – Angelo Clareno e i Padri di Quaracchi. Un’inedita trascrizione dell’Epistolario (195-202)

The Epistolary of Angelo Clareno is to be found in recent times in three editions from Latin or Italian sources, none of which can claim to be definitive. The author of this short notice draws attention to a complete transcription of the Epistolary, as contained in the Florentine MS Magliabechiano XXXIX, 75 (already used by Lydia von Auw and R.G. Musto in their editions), at the hand of some scholars of the Padri Editori di Quaracchi. The transcription, which remained unpublished, was made between pre-World War I times and 1947. The author closely follows the historical circumstances of this endeavor and presents the transcription, preserved today in the archives of the Collegio di S. Bonaventura (today at S. Isidoro), noting that it could be instrumental for a revision of the existing editions of the Epistolary.