

Interest in the study of ownership and readers' marks in books has grown in recent years. Serious efforts to catalogue a historical collection cannot be undertaken without information about the people who once possessed the books. Data from provenance research teach us more about the history of (public and private) reading, the cultural tastes of a particular period, library history and the book trade.

The inclusion as secondary entries of all previous owners in the bibliographic records on the UB Online catalogue, has allowed the creation of this parallel database that enables the visualization of images from a selection of ownership marks.

Until October 2018 only the images of some individual and institutional ownership marks have been incorporated, on the basis of the following criteria: active involvement in the cultural and social history of Catalonia or another country; a consistent number of documents bearing their ownership marks in our collection; belonging to a singular group, such as women, and the uniqueness of the mark itself. In the mid-long future the images of all previous owners' marks will be included.

The [Printers' Devices](#) database, which has the same structure as *Former Owners*, is highly recommended. It contains the printers', booksellers' and editors' marks visible in the editions held by the Rare Book and Manuscript CRAI Library.

RARE BOOK AND MANUSCRIPT CRAI LIBRARY

[FORMER OWNERS DATABASE](#)

[PRINTERS DEVICES' DATABASE](#)

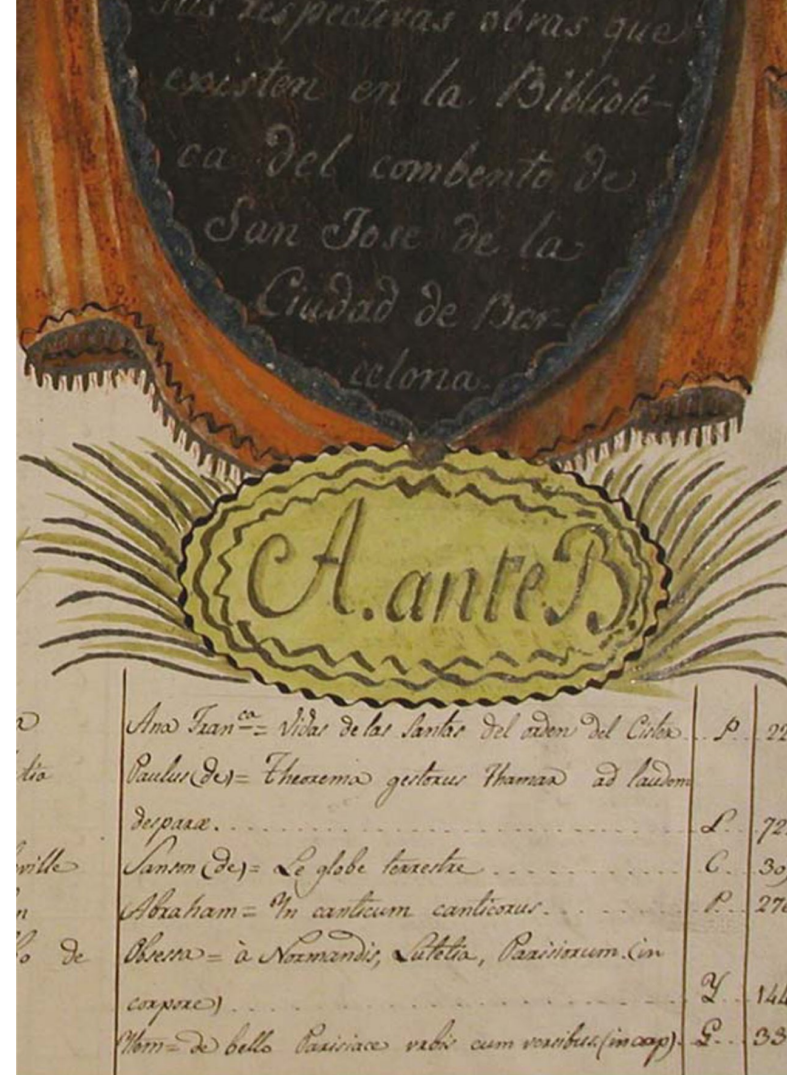


CRAI Biblioteca de Reserva
(inside the Philology CRAI Library)
Gran Via de les Corts Catalanes 585
08007 Barcelona

Tel. 934 035 313 / 934 035 793



© CRAI UB, academic year 2019-20



FORMER OWNERS

CRAI

Centre de Recursos per a l'Aprenentatge i la Investigació



UNIVERSITAT DE BARCELONA

The *Former Owners* database lists the previous owners of the copies in the Rare Book and Manuscript CRAI Library. It was launched on February 2009 and is based on the previous owners authority records created by the Rare Book and Manuscript CRAI Library in the online catalogue (cataleg.ub.edu/). Records are updated weekly.

On March 2020 the database lists more than 1490 previous owners and contains 1096 images.

The oldest recorded date of a former owner mark is 1473, whereas the modern ones are from the 20th century. There are records of different marks such as manuscript ex-libris or illuminated coats. One of the aims of the database is to provide the most relevant marks of individual or institutional owners, and to display the most clearly legible examples.

The database links the previous owners records to the corresponding bibliographic records in the CRAI catalogue, where they appear as secondary entries. It also links to the bibliographic record from which the image of the mark was obtained.

The home and search pages, as well as some of the indexes, are also available in Spanish and English.

Bibliographical links recorded in the field Source/Bibliography show the references used for the creation of the record.

All the records are included in the [CERL Thesaurus](#).

Searches can be performed by:

- Owner
- City (institutions)
- Country
- Date of evidence
- Type of evidence
- Religious order
- Type of entity
- Title
- Occupation
- Keyword

Searches can be performed for all words (AND), for any word (OR), for the exact phrase or from the selected index.

For owner's name, city and country searches we recommend the index option.

For keyword searches we recommend the "All words" or "Exact phrase" options.

Spanish and English versions of the indexes "Type of mark", "Religious order", "Type of entity", "Title" and "Occupation" are provided.

Each record in the database contains the following fields:

- **Search in catalogue:** link to the bibliographical records with the former owner
- **Persistent link**
- **Owner:** standardized name
- **Alternative name:** not accepted
- **Institution**
- **Source** from where information about the former owner has been taken
- **Historical and biographical note**
- **Type of entity**
- **Titles**
- **Occupation**
- **Country**
- **City (entities):** only for institutions, specially convents
- **Religious order**
- **Type of evidence**
- **Description/transcription of owner's mark**
- **Date of evidence**
- **Image**
- **Context image (title page or other)**
- **Link to the bibliographic record** from which the image is taken