

# WATERMARKS USED AS IDEAS FOR A STUDY HISTORICAL - TERRITORIAL

**Dott.ssa Fabiana Baudo**

**7th International Conference  
on Watermarks in Digital Collections**

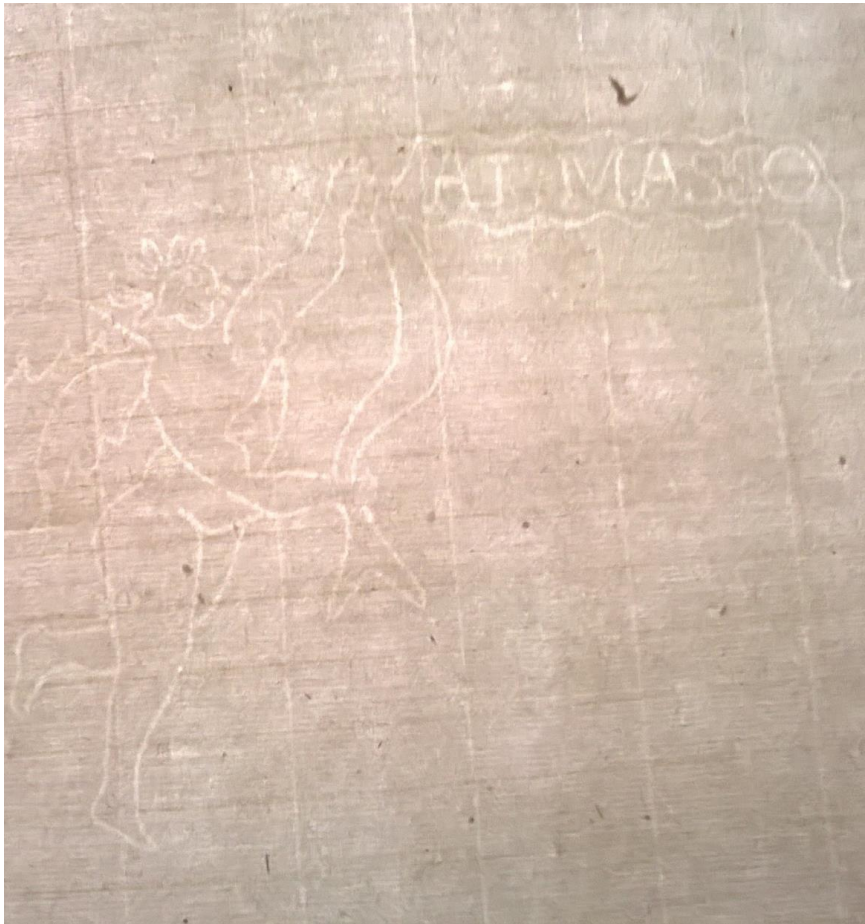
**Verona and Toscolano Maderno, Italy, September 6-8, 2023**

**BERNSTEIN**



**THE MEMORY OF PAPER**





**AL  
MASSO,  
PESCIA  
(PT)**



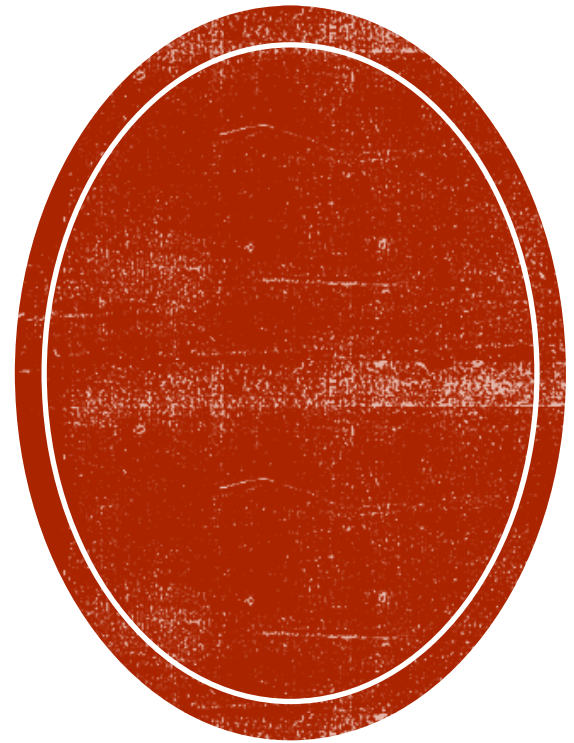
# AL MASSO AND THE SVIZZERA PESCIATINA



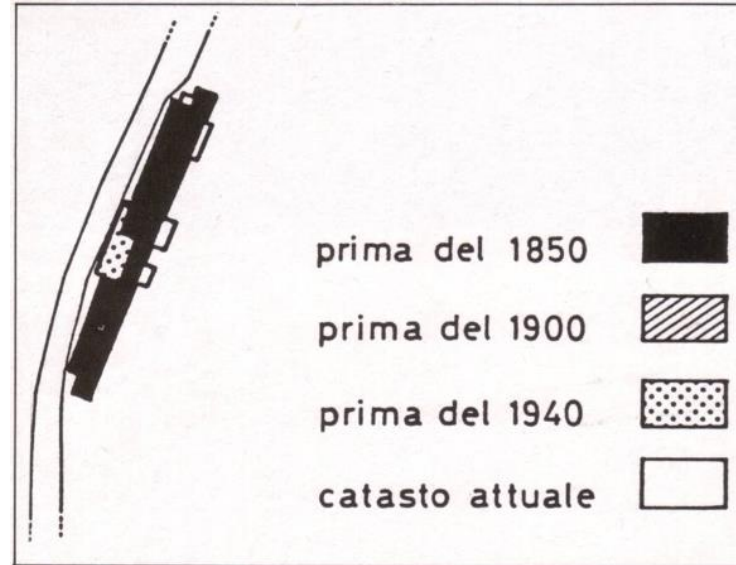
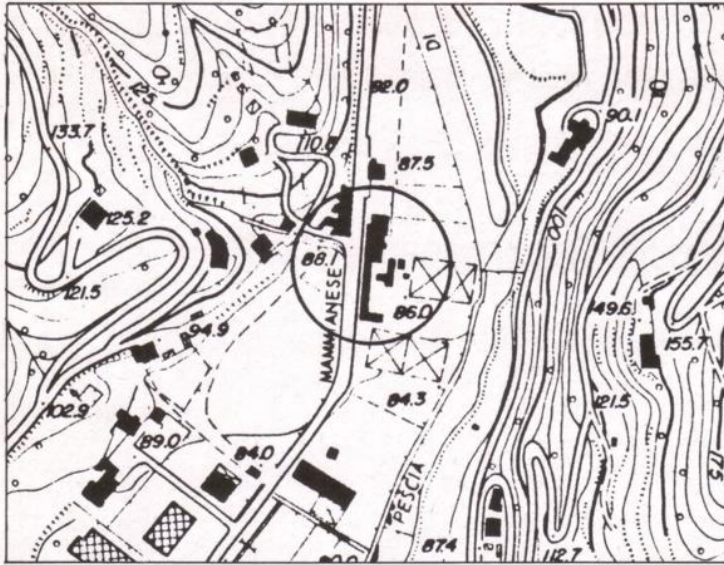
The area north of Pescia (PT) was called Svizzera Pesciatina by the Swiss historian and economist Jean Charles Léonard Simonde de Sismondi, in the essay "Tableau de l'agriculture toscane" published in 1801: **the course of the Pescia Maggiore stream became the site of numerous paper mills, constituting part of one of the most important poles of Tuscan industrialization between the 18th and 19th centuries, up to the end of the 19th century and beyond into the 20th century.**



■ The 'Al Masso' paper mill was built by Antonio Arrigoni, in partnership with Giorgio Magnani, in 1782, by merging a mill with a pre-existing small paper mill. Construction was finished in 1783, and the factory began making paper from rags. In 1882 the building had 29 rooms for production and 45 as a home for the workers. The mill was completely demolished in 1984.

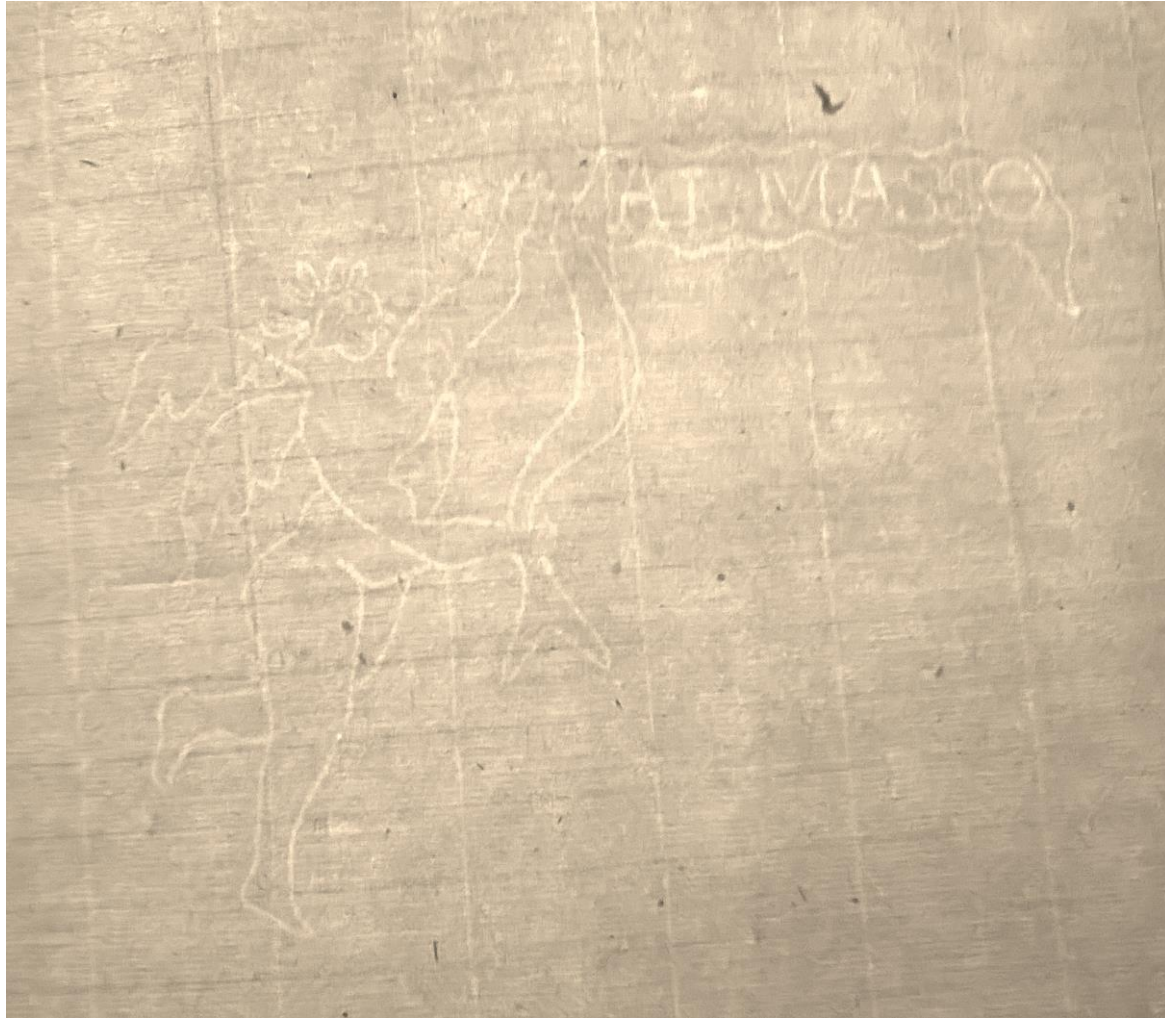






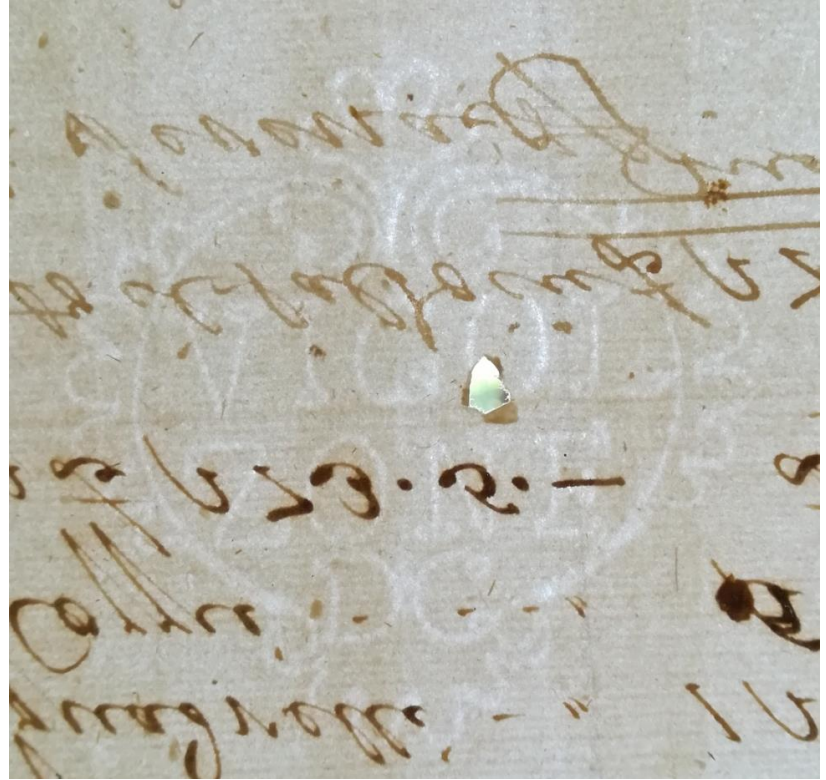
Location and  
development of the 'Al  
Masso' paper mill  
(Courtesy of the Municipality  
and the Paper Museum of  
Pescia)





*Terminus post quem* in 1783, the date of entry into operation of the paper mill.

**VICOLZONE  
(PC)**



(1761)







The paper mill that produced watermarked paper, which according to the sources appeared to be one of the most prestigious of the Duchy between the sec. XVII and XVIII, was located in Albarola, municipality of Vigolzone, and its mill was powered by the Rivo Bertone. Founded by the Barattieri counts, then managed by the Ratti, Muratori and Calandroni families.

After the Unification of Italy (1861), reports from the Chamber of Commerce testify to a marked decline in the production of white paper in favor of wrapping paper, due to the lack of capital on the part of the owners. In 1894, 5 paper mills were active in the Piacenza area: 3 in Vigolzone and 2 in Ponte dell'Olio; in 1909, 2 will remain, of which that of Albarola (Vigolzone), by Pietro Calandroni, will remain active until the first half of the 20th century.

**CARTIERE 1894**

	cartiere	Motori idraulici		Tini per la fabbricazione a mano	lavoratori		totale	n. medio annuo dei giorni di lavoro
Ponte dell'Olio	2	2	30 cav. din.	2 attivi, 1 inattivo	4 maschi, 1 bambino	5 donne, 1 bambina	11	250
Vigolzone	3	6	18 cav. din.	3 attivi,	10 maschi	7 donne	17	260
totale	5	8	48 cav. din.	5 attivi, 1 inattivo	14 adulti, 1 bambino	12 donne, 1 bambina	28	256

(image taken from «Vigolzone e la storia della territorialità della Val Nure» of Valeria Poli)





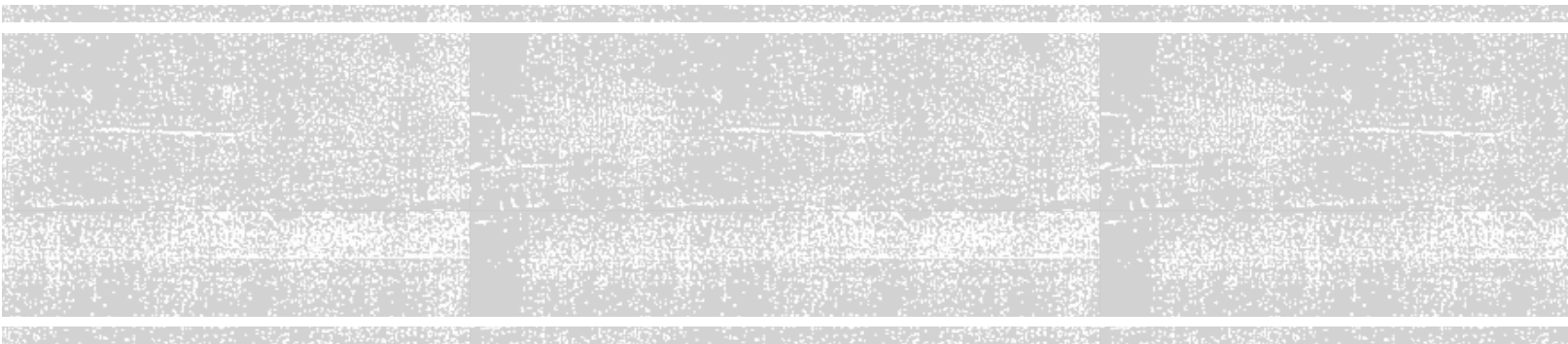


Paper mill of Loc. Follo, Vigolzone





Paper mill of Loc. Follo, Vigolzone (mallet tanks)

- 
- **The paper mill of Vigolzone is an incredible example of integration of the productive activities of a territory. In fact, along the canals, already at the time of Ludovico Sforza il Moro, the cultivation of white mulberry (*Morus alba*) was practiced for the production of silkworms, which had an important development for the local economy from the 18th century to the mid-20th century: the mulberry trees also provided the raw material for the production of Albarola paper, although it cannot be excluded that in addition to the mulberry tree, linen, hemp or cotton rags were also used.**
  - **The use of a particular variety of mulberry (*Morus nigra*) to produce paper is ancient, and it is still used today in the Hotan Oasis (near Khotan, Southern Silk Road, Xinjiang Province, China). Also in Korea, from the sec. VII onwards, a particular mulberry paper was produced, the Taknamu; even in Japan they preferred to produce paper from the mulberry 'book' (Kozo), which was introduced, according to tradition, by the monk Damjing who exported it from Korea around 610 AD.**

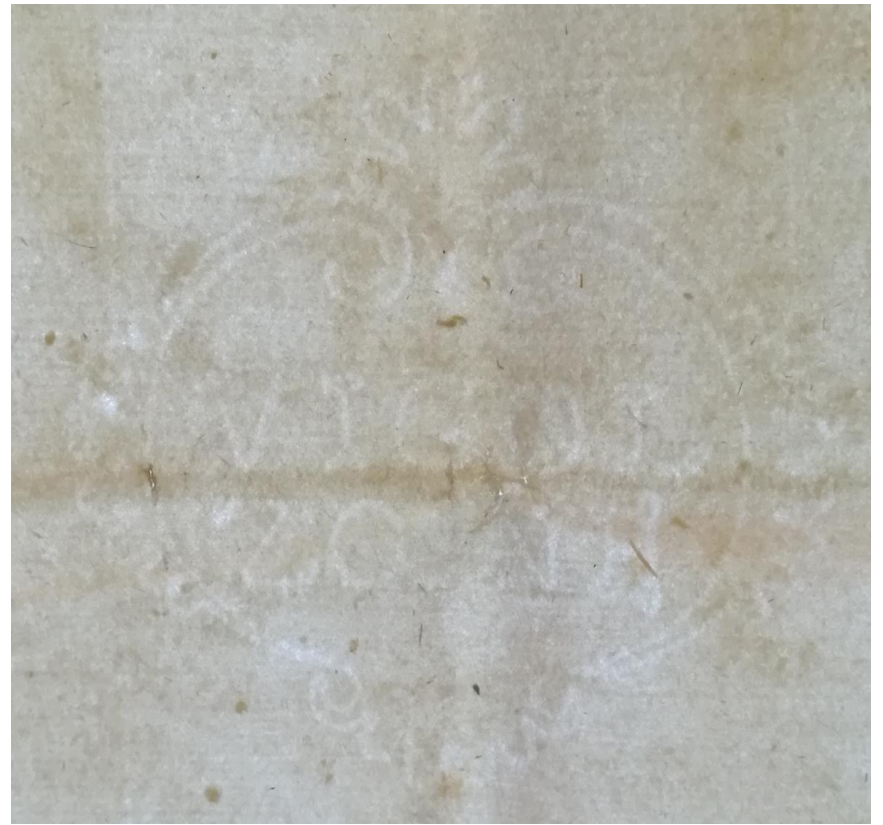
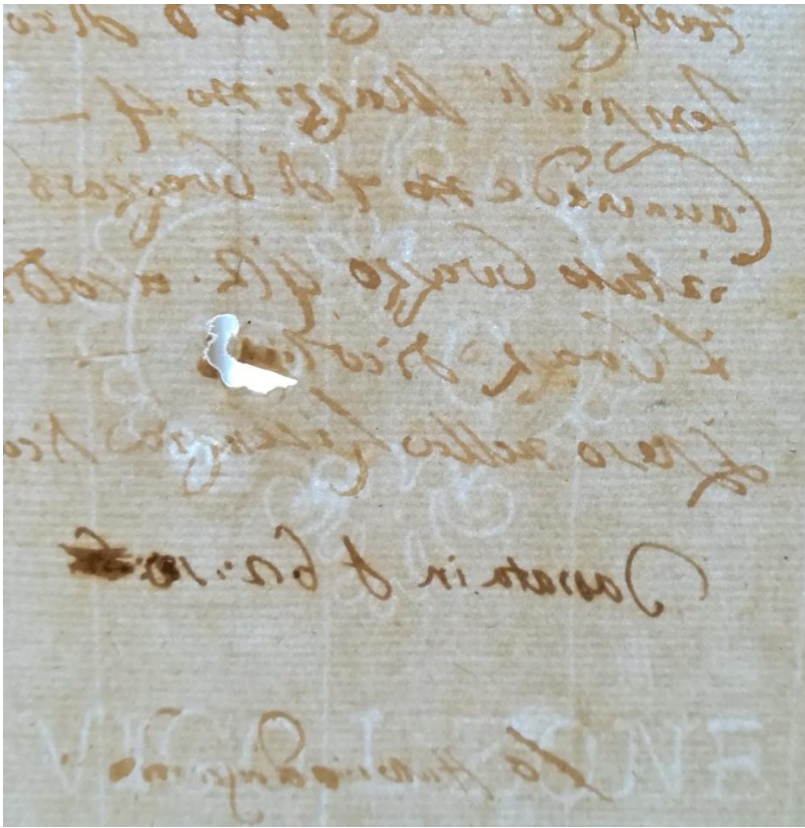




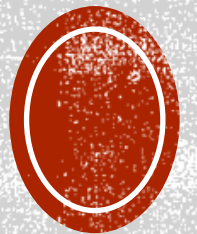


# THE MULBERRY TREE AND THE BREEDING OF THE SILKWORM

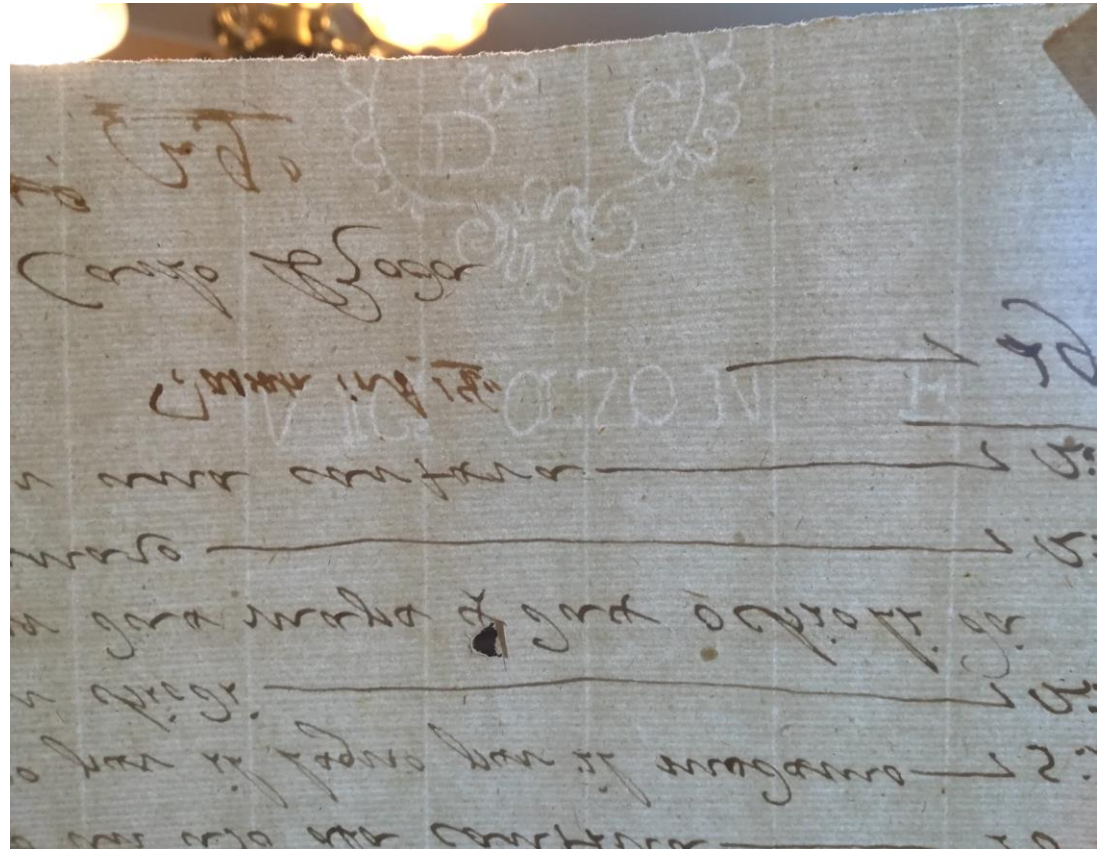
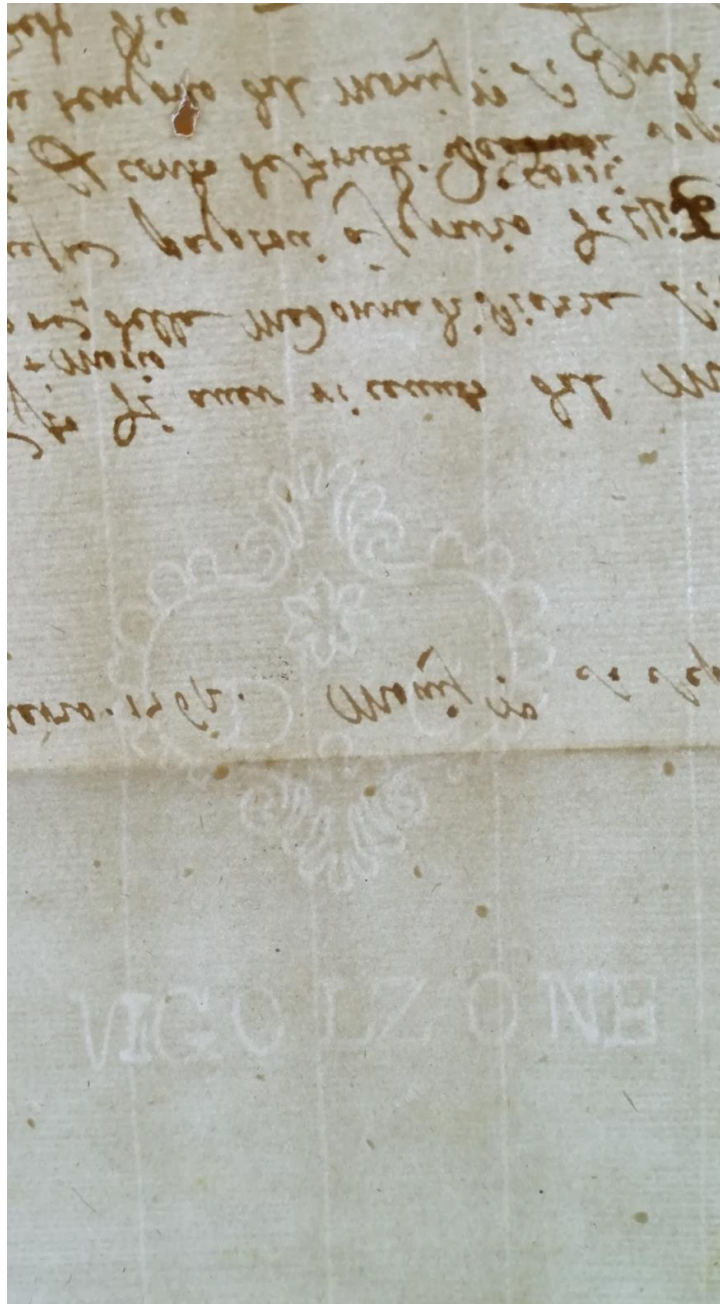




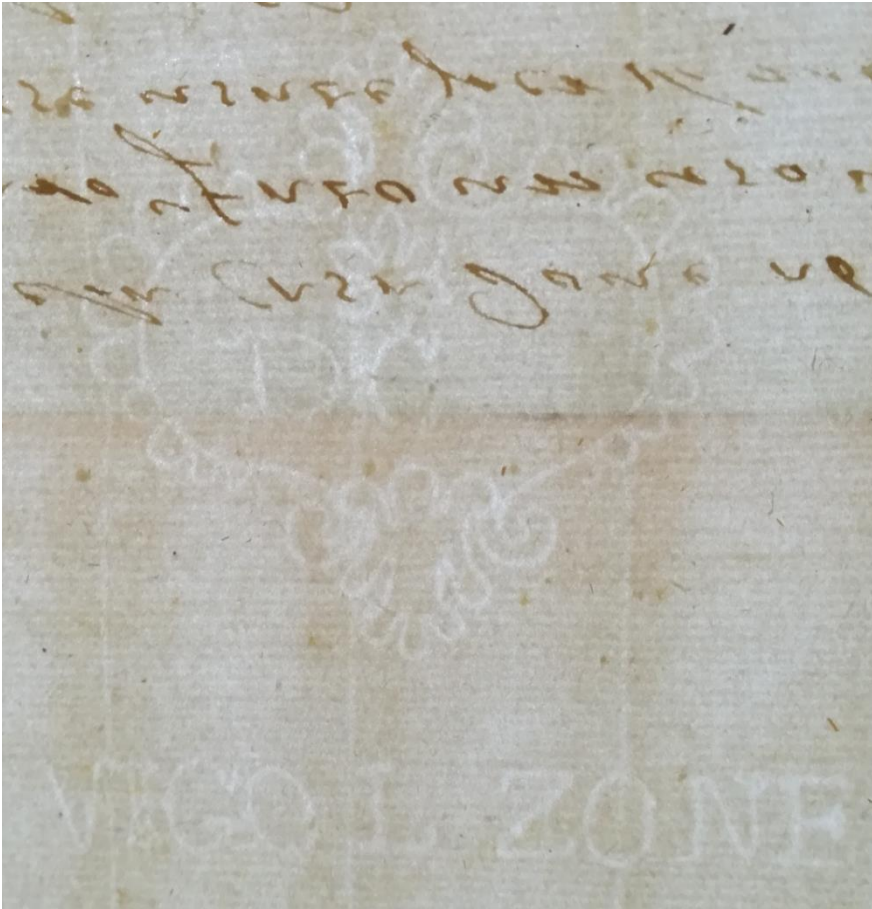
Two documents dated 1760







Two documents dated  
1762



1763



1764





Per altre città. pro exped. cause  
Per altre città. pro exped. cause  
Per altre simili città.  
Per altre simili città.  
Per città. per far fare la monizione al  
Den. Per città. per la rinoua. di monizione  
Per l'ultima città. per far dar' la sent.  
Per estensione e scrittura della longuou  
zione di consenso sequita con Bartol. Ben  
Compravore delle Case ceruini, e deleg. d'oro  
fr. Don Eras. nante il fr. Editor. etc.  
Per compare fatte in d. causa ceruini  
n. 10.

1767

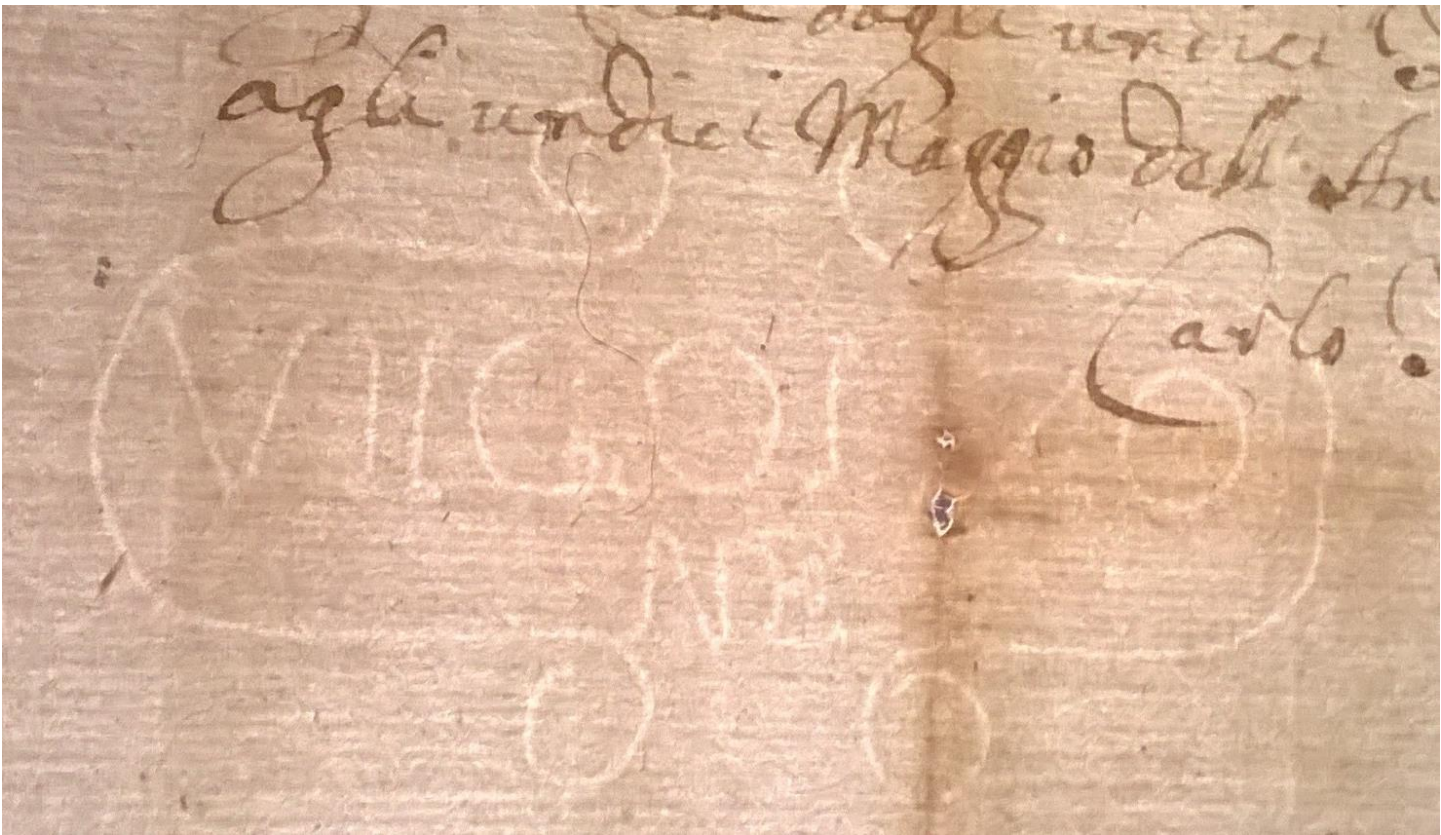
1768. gno. Eugno

Spiceno in capo dal m. g. dal. d. sine. co. Fra  
de ore quaranta tre in saldo della  
die

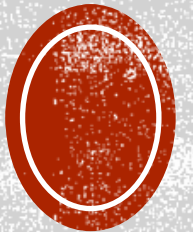
in Tom. co. d. d. d. d.







1725





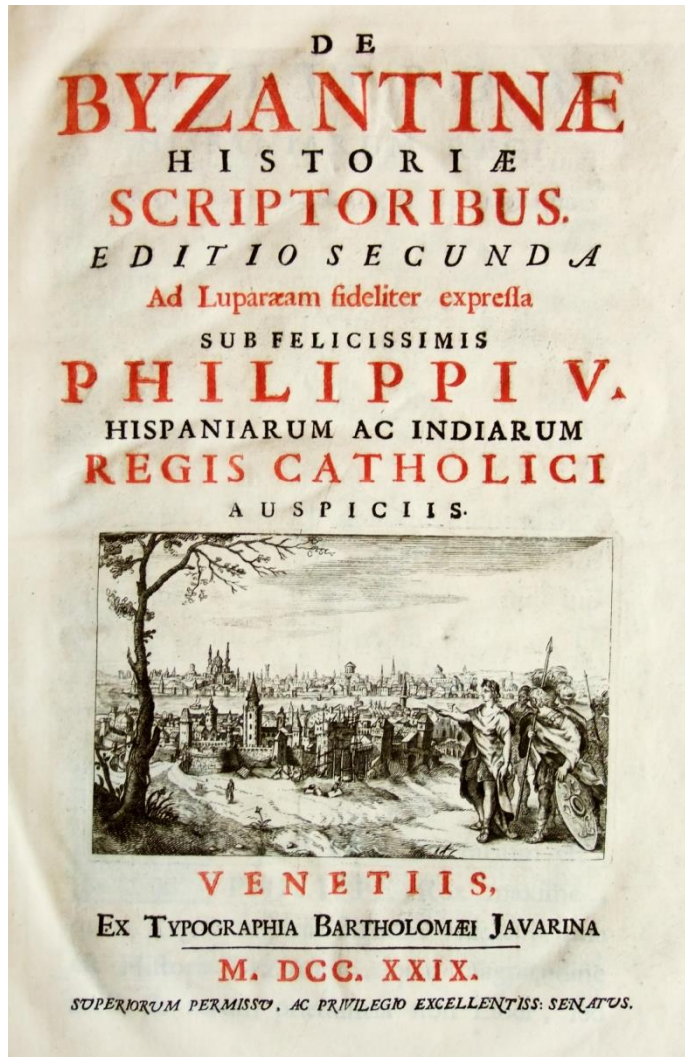
# VIGOLZONE WATERMARKS ON ENDPAPERS OF BOOK BINDINGS

Vigolzone watermarked paper is also present in the backguards and endpapers of the bindings of some printed volumes, made in the 18th century, with white parchment cover and spine without nerves, bearing a label showing the author and/or title of the work in gold.





# CORPUS BYZANTINÆ HISTORIAE, VENICE 1729



Printed in Venice between 1729 and 1733, which in its current location is part of the Landi Fund of the Passerini-Landi Municipal Library of Piacenza, with signature (L) K/3.09.001-025, but contains two other signatures, one on the front verso (SS.I.1-26) and one on the spine (E.VI.1-26) which do not give the certainty that the work actually originally belonged to the Landi Collection. In this opera, there are two types of watermarks.



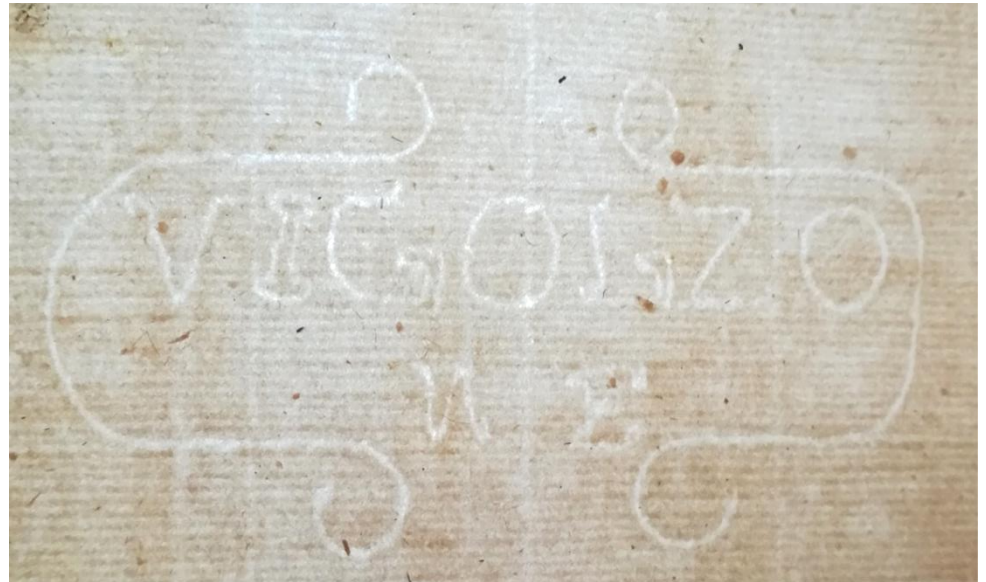
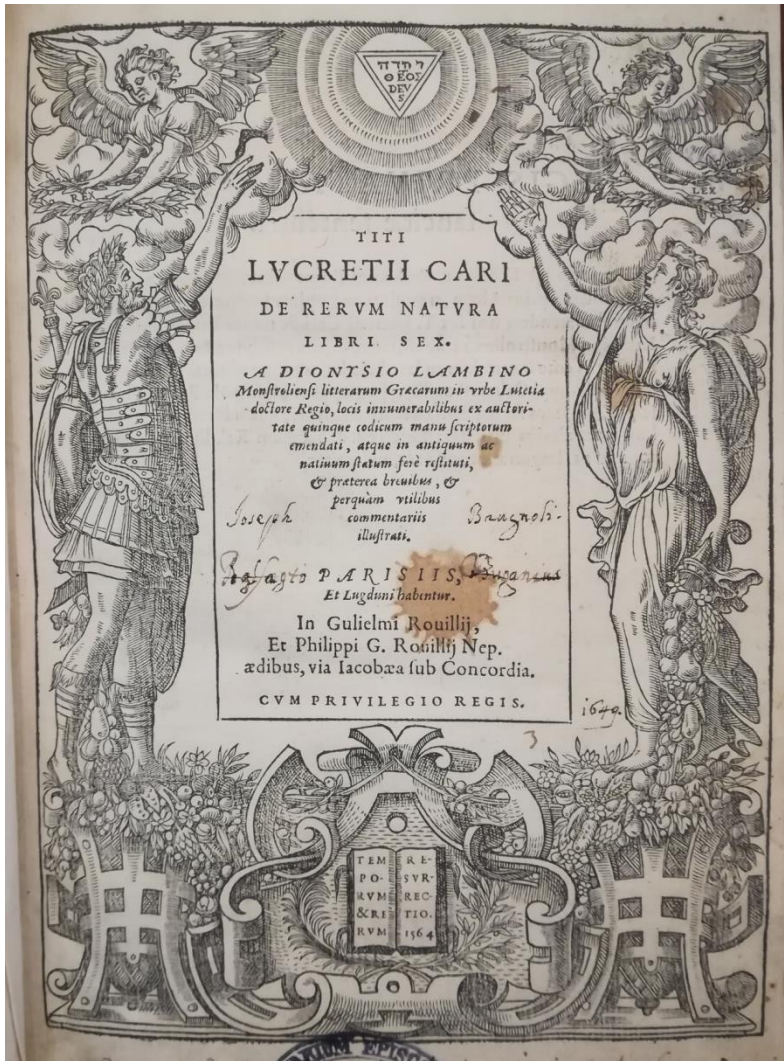




Courtesy of the Ancient Collection, Landi Fund, of the  
Municipal Library Passerini - Landi, Piacenza



# LUCRETIO, "DE RERUM NATURA", PARIS 1564, 18TH CENTURY BINDING



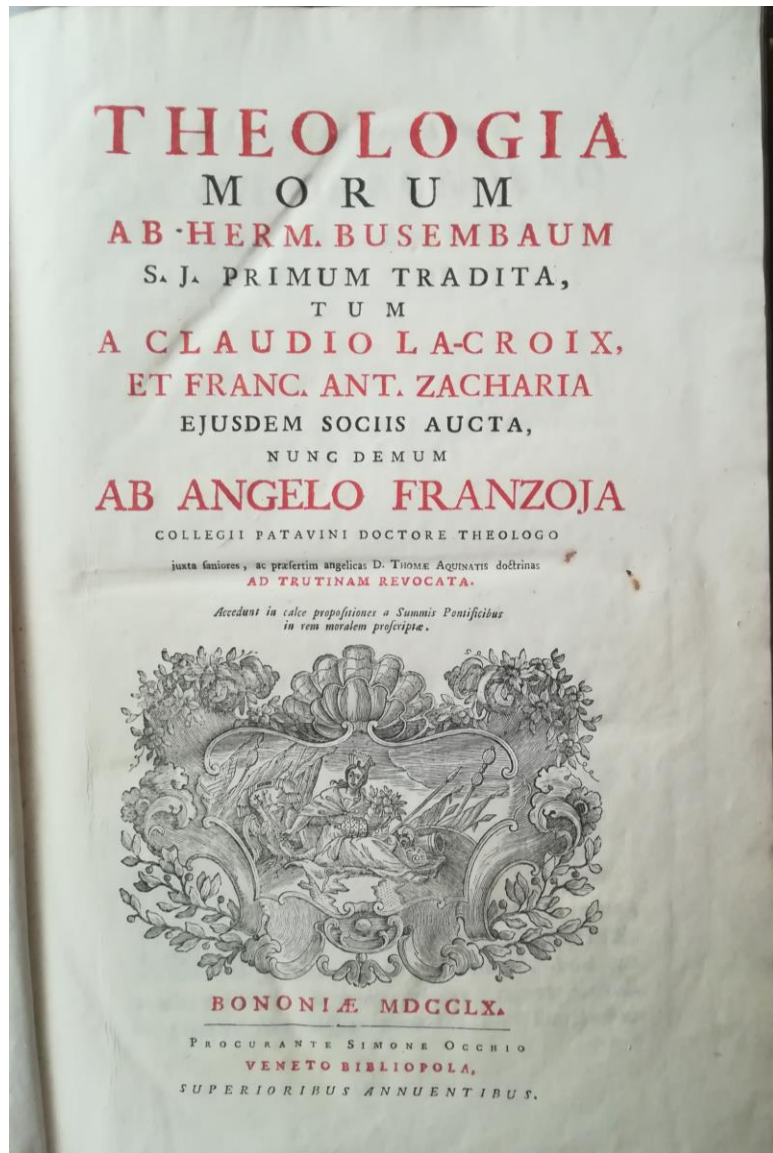
Binding of Lucretio's *De rerum natura*,  
printed in Paris in 1564, kept in the Library  
of the Episcopal Seminary of Cremona,  
with signature 500.M.9.

(Courtesy of the Library of the Episcopal  
Seminary in Cremona)





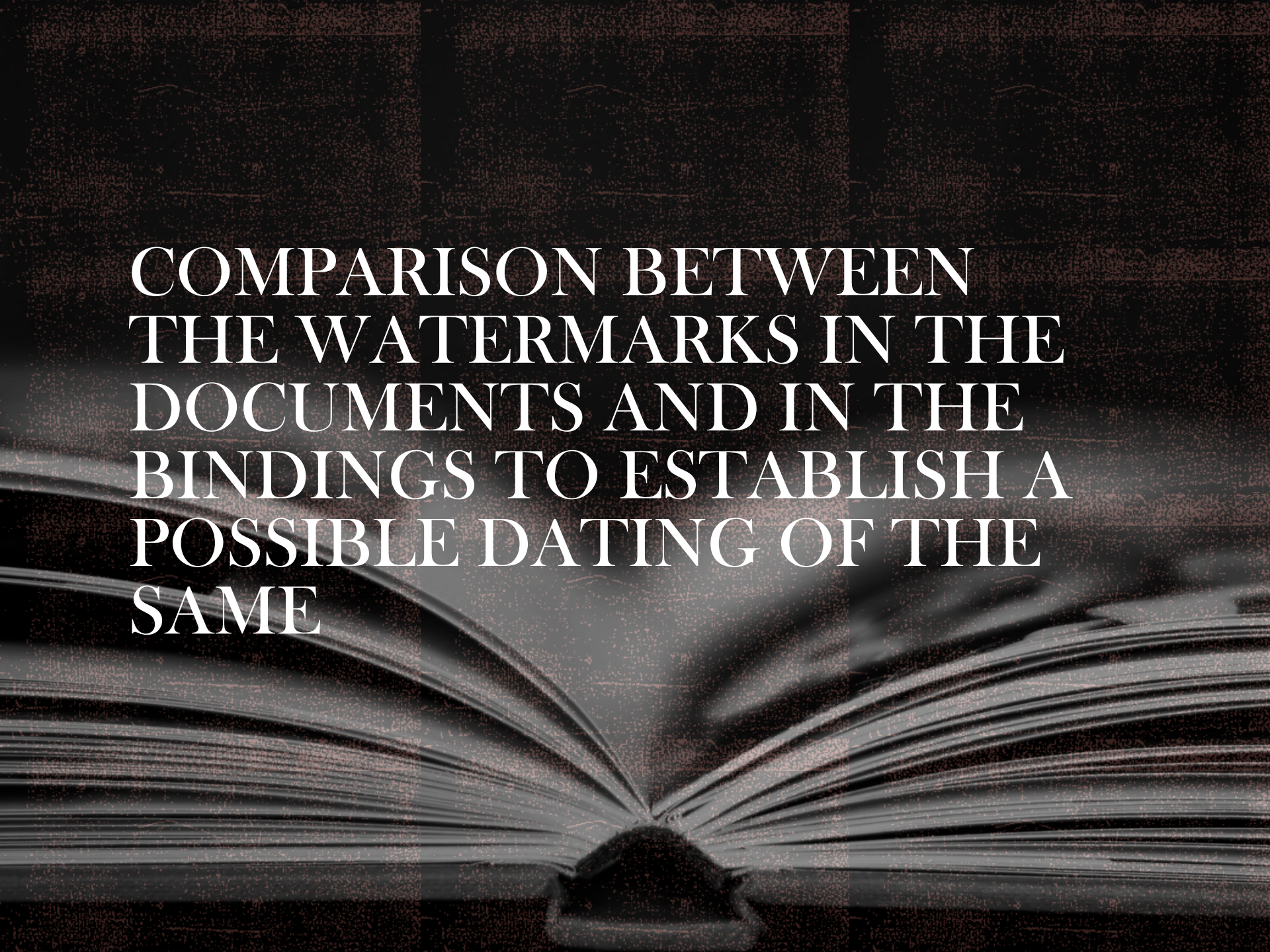
# THEOLOGIA MORUM AB HERMAN BUSEMBAUM, BOLOGNA 1760



Binding in the privately owned *Theologia morum ab Herman Busembaum*, printed in Bologna in 1760.







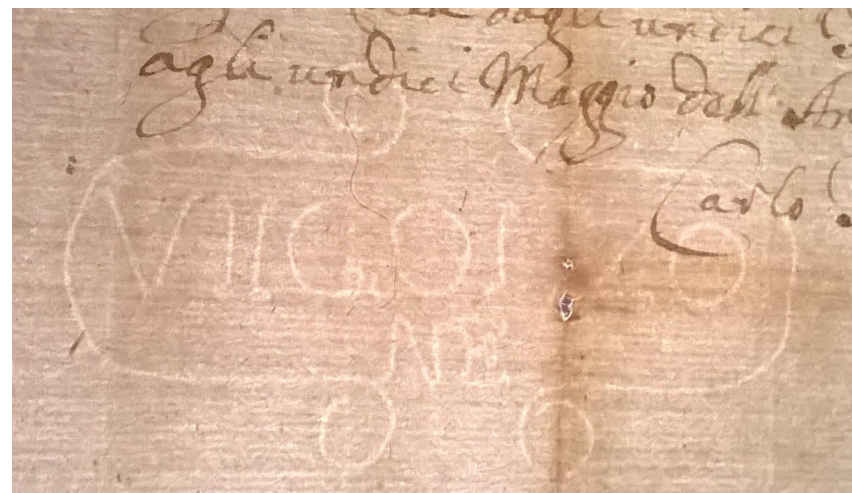
COMPARISON BETWEEN  
THE WATERMARKS IN THE  
DOCUMENTS AND IN THE  
BINDINGS TO ESTABLISH A  
POSSIBLE DATING OF THE  
SAME



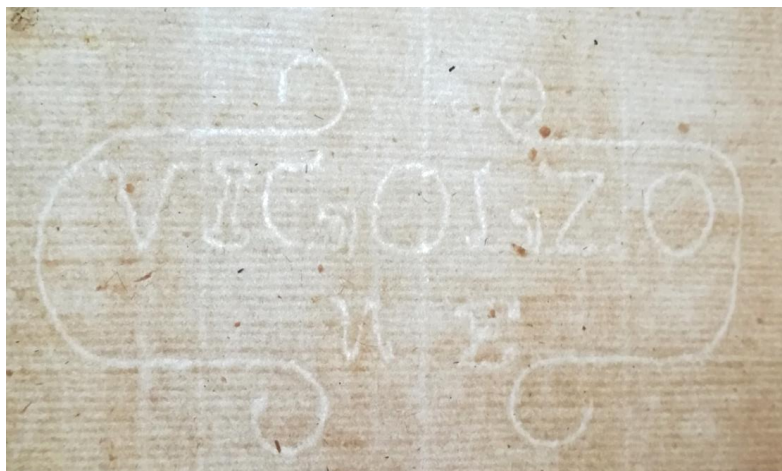
A type of watermark found in the 1720s/1730s, comparable with those of volumes 1-6 and 17-25 of the Piacenza *Corpus*, of the Cremonese *Lucretio* and found in a document of 1725.



*Corpus Bizantinae Historiae*



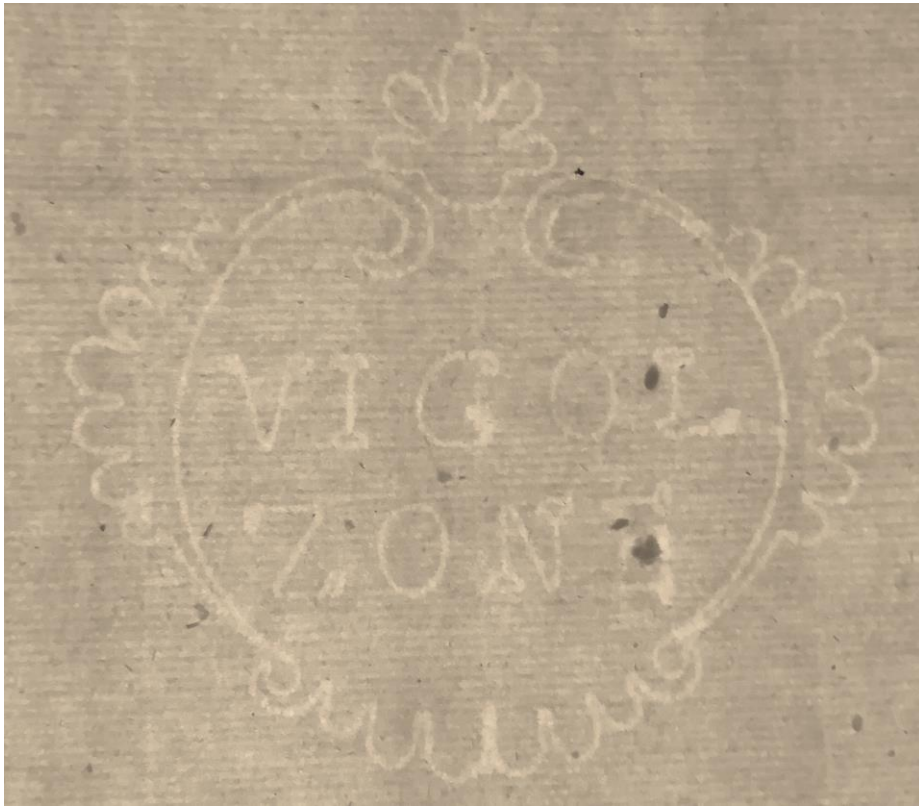
*Document dated 1725*



*Lucretio's De Rerum Natura*



A type of watermark that may have appeared around the middle of the eighteenth century, comparable with that of the *Theologia*, also observed in the documentary minute of 1760.




*Theologia Busembaum*



*Document dated 1760*





- 
- The importance of the study of watermarks lies in the fact that they can open up new perspectives for the study of local history, deepening the commercial, socio-cultural and productive aspects, as well as for the history of the book, to go back to a dating as precise as a manuscript or a binding.

# DEDICATED TO FATHER PIETRO LUIGI MURATORI

Descendant of one of the families that owned the Albarola paper mill, and precisely for this great researcher of all available sources, discoverer of other types of watermarks that can be connected to the Vigolzone paper mills.

My gratitude goes to him for all that he passed on to me.

**Thanks for the attention!**

