

Rabano Mauro. *De laudibus Crucis* (s. IX).

CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION

The BHUCM also has a **Conservation and Restoration Department** that carries out preventive conservation and restoration work on damaged copies.

ACCESS CONDITIONS

1) For UCM researchers:

- University faculty with Library card.
- Students and administrative staff of the University with a Library card that justifies the need to use the collection of the BHUCM.

2) For accredited faculty and researchers from other universities and research centres.

2) Individual researchers who justify the need to use the Library's collections.

BIBLIOTECA HISTORICA DE LA UNIVERSIDAD COMPLUTENSE DE MADRID

<https://biblioteca.ucm.es/historica>



OPENING HOURS :
Monday to Friday, 9:00 to 21:00

ADDRESS
Calle del Noviciado, 3.
Madrid 28015 (Spain)
Telephone: (+34) 91.394.66.12
E-mail: buc_foa@buc.ucm.es

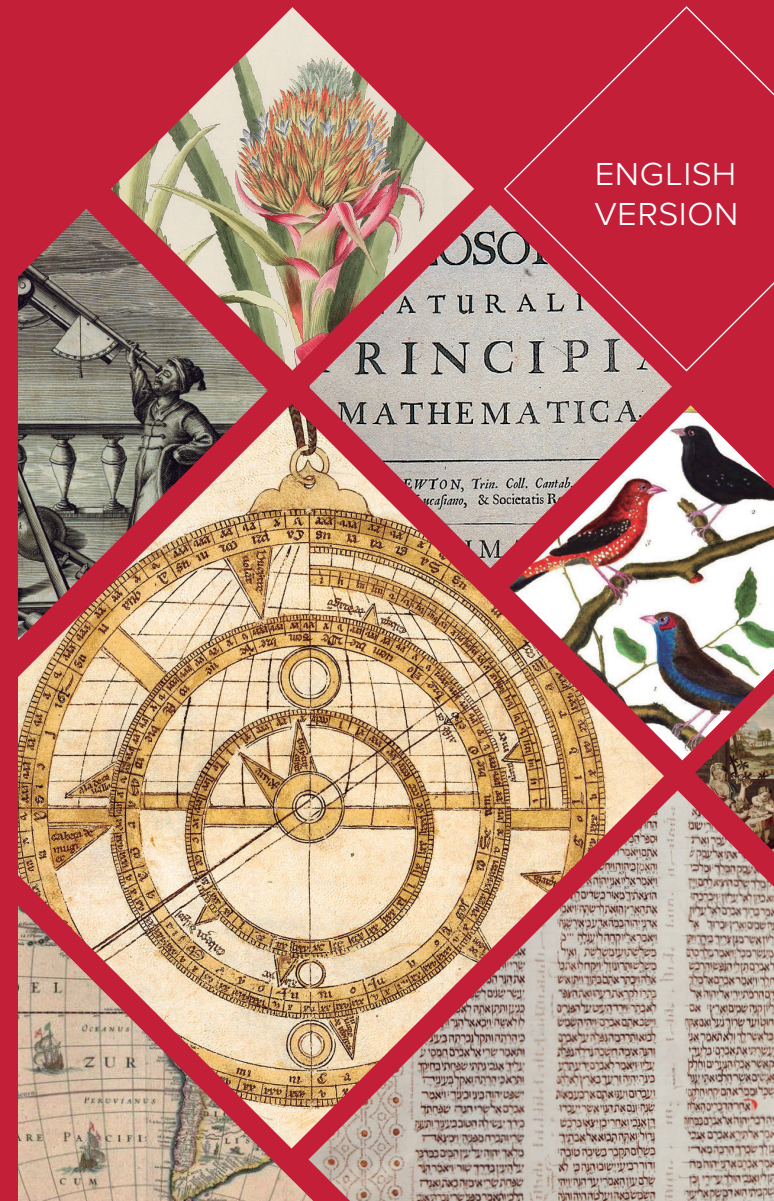
HOW TO GET THERE
Metro: lines 2 (Noviciado),
3 and 10 (Plaza España).
Buses: lines M-2 and 147
(San Bernardo),
1, 2, 44, 46, 74, 75, 133 and 148
(Gran Vía and Plaza España).



UNIVERSIDAD
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BIBLIOTECA HISTORICA DE LA UNIVERSIDAD COMPLUTENSE DE MADRID

ENGLISH
VERSION





C. Ptolomeo. *Cosmographia* (1486)

PRESENTATION

The Biblioteca Histórica of the Universidad Complutense de Madrid (BHUCM) is the centre for the comprehensive management of the bibliographic heritage of the Universidad Complutense de Madrid. It was created in 2001 with the aim of bringing together the collections of old books and special collections from those educational institutions which, throughout their history, have made up the current University.

The **Colegio Mayor San Ildefonso**, founded by Cardinal Cisneros in 1499 in the town of Alcalá, the **Colegio Imperial de los Jesuitas**, founded in Madrid in 1609, later transformed into **Reales Estudios de San Isidro**, and the **Real Colegio de Medicina y Cirugía de San Carlos**, founded by King Carlos III in 1785, were the institutions from which the University of Madrid was created in the 19th century. They were joined by the **Real Colegio de Farmacia de San Fernando**, the School of Veterinary, the Diplomatic School, or the College of Fine Arts. In the 20th century, the incorporation of the libraries of the **Residencia de Estudiantes** and of the **Residencia de Señoritas** stands out.

To the rich bibliographic collections inherited from these institutions must be added those that entered the Library from private libraries belonging to noblemen, scholars, scientists, doctors, writers, professors, politicians, bibliophiles and other personalities linked to the University.

Today, the BHUCM holds an outstanding position among the main libraries in Spain in terms of the quantity of books and special collections it holds, prior to the 20th century.

The building was built in 1928 under the patronage of Ramón Pelayo de la Torriente, Marqués de Valdecilla and, after a complete refurbishment, it was equipped with modern facilities and the best conditions for the conservation and preservation of the collection.

COLLECTIONS

The BHUCM's bibliographic collection consists of more than 6,000 manuscripts, 741 incunabula and a collection of almost 140,000 printouts from the 16th to 19th centuries, as well as more than 20,000 books from the 20th and 21st centuries.

Within the collection of manuscripts we find the most valuable works in the library, such as the Carolingian codex *De laudibus Crucis*, by Rabano Mauro, from the 9th century, or the manuscript of the *Libros del Saber de Astrología* by Alfonso X, from the 13th century, which is considered to be the most important scientific codex in medieval Spain. Also noteworthy are the codices acquired by Cardinal Cisneros for the edition of the *Complutense Polyglot Bible*.

The collection of incunabula contains representative examples from the early years of Hispanic printing, such as some of the works printed by Juan Parix, as well as incunabula from all over Europe.

Also significant are the 16th, 17th and 18th century prints, among which we find examples of most Spanish and European typographies. The high number of scientific books in the collection, which correspond to the disciplines taught at the University throughout its history, is striking.

The BHUCM also has a collection of engravings made up of loose prints by engravers working at the Royal Chalcography, and an exceptionally complete series of the



U. Pinder. *Epiphanie medicorum* (1506)



G. Piranesi. *Vedute di Roma* (1800-1807)

work of one of the most influential engravers of all time: Giambattista Piranesi.

Other notable collections of the BHUCM are the photographic archives, among which Enrique Lafuente Ferrari and Eduardo Hernández Pacheco stand out, and the personal archives, the most significant example of which is the Rubén Darío's archive, with more than 5,000 documents.

SERVICES

The BHUCM offers different services to the public, in order to satisfy the demand for access and consultation of all researchers and citizens:

- **Consultation of collections at the Research Room**, which also holds a Reference Library.
- **Bibliographic information service**, with personal attention, by telephone and by e-mail.
- **The Complutense Library Catalogue**, which includes exclusive access to the old collection.
- **The Complutense Digital Collection**, which offers more than 200,000 open access books and documents.
- **Teaching Support**, including students' practical and theoretical classes at the Simón Díaz Classroom.
- **Digitization and use of cameras**.
- **Dissemination activities**, such as guided tours, exhibitions, cultural events, *Folio Complutense* blog, *Pecia Complutense* journal, etc.