

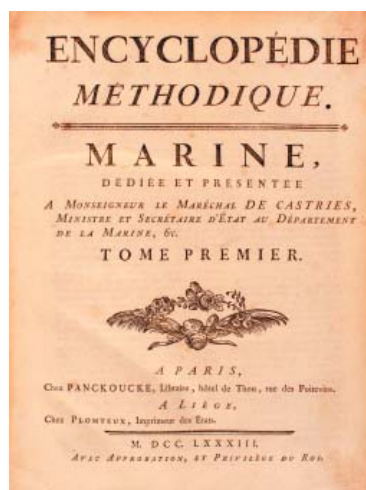
## EARLY PRINTED BOOKS

The themes of seafaring and shipping legislation, including the first and oldest forms of marine insurance cover, are the common denominator of the library's Early Printed Books Collection, which including some editions dating from the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries on the subject of insurance, together with books on Venetian history, the navy, and construction manuals for wooden ships and sailing boats.

We will briefly cite some examples from the collection, such as the three fine volumes with illustrated plates entitled *Encyclopédie méthodique marine*, published in Paris by Panckoucke between 1783 and 1787. This is a particularly important work, which condenses all the maritime know-how of the period into hundreds of explanatory illustrations of various types of boat. In particular, the second volume discusses the risks of navigation, known as the "fortunes of the sea". The term assurance includes all the characteristics of the marine policy of the period (fig. 1) \*.

Another work on the subject of shipping is *Trattato della nave, della sua costruzione, e de' suoi movimenti* by Pierre Bouguer, in the Venetian edition by Carlo Palese, dated 1777. This volume, which was popular because of its completeness and the importance of its mathematical calculations, is illustrated by 12 plates showing the construction of wooden craft (fig. 2).

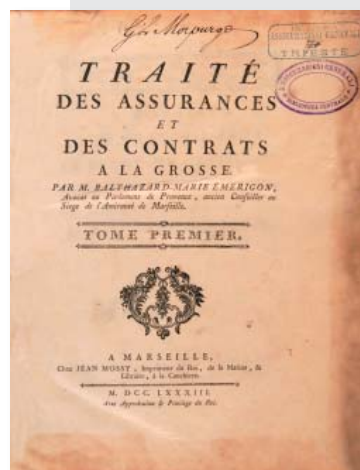
Finally, the insurance world features in *Traité des assurances et des contrats à la grosse* by Balthazar-Marie Emerigon, printed in Marseille by Jean Mossy in 1783; this was first edition of the manual by the famous French lawyer, who was also advisor to the Marseille Admiralty. The work covers all of maritime law, contains lengthy citations from legislation and legal commentaries, and is illustrated by numerous precedents. The frontispiece of the first volume is signed by Giuseppe Lazzaro Morpurgo, one of the principal founders of Assicurazioni Generali, who owned the book (fig. 3).



1  
*Encyclopédie méthodique marine*, Paris, Panckoucke (1783-1787) (photo C. Tommasini)



2  
*Trattato della nave ... di Pierre Bouguer*, Venezia, C. Palese (1777) (photo C. Tommasini)



3  
*Traité des assurances et des contrats à la grosse* by Balthazar-Marie Emerigon, Marseille, J. Mossy (1783). Autographed by Giuseppe Lazzaro Morpurgo on the frontispiece (photo C. Tommasini)

\* All documents reported in the images are property of Assicurazioni Generali Central Library (Trieste) unless otherwise specified