

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND AND LIBRARY HOLDINGS

The Central Library of Assicurazioni Generali in Trieste was founded immediately after the incorporation of the Company in 1831 (fig. 1) *.

The Head Office collection, basically intended for the use of employees, consists mainly of texts published from the mid-19th century to the present day, and a small but valuable collection of early printed books (16th, 17th and 18th centuries). The volumes published in the late 19th and early 20th centuries in particular reflect the growth and expansion of insurance studies in Italy and throughout the area dominated by the Hapsburg empire, to which Trieste belonged until 1918 (fig. 2).

The library, located in the 19th century Palazzo Geiringer on the Rive along the sea shore, currently houses some 30,000 publications on the subjects of insurance, law, economics, actuarial mathematics and statistics, in view of the inextricable links between insurance and its economic, legal, technical, social and customary aspects.

It also contains a large collection of celebrative volumes published by insurance companies and institutes, which provide a valuable source of information about the development of the insurance industry in various countries.

The library also owns a collection of Italian and foreign periodicals on the subjects of insurance, law and economics. They include *Il Bollettino delle Assicurazioni Generali* (*Assicurazioni Generali Bulletin*), one of the oldest Italian company journals, founded in 1893 by Marco Besso, chairman of the Company at beginning of the 20th century.

In addition to books on insurance, a collection of local history and art history publications has existed for some time. The latter in particular reflect the Company's traditional support for sponsorship in this field.

One of the most noteworthy historical collections is the **Marco Besso collection**, which comprises insurance, economics and literary works.

A printed catalogue of part of the library collections published between the late 19th and first half of the 20th century was published in 1981 to mark the 150th anniversary of the Company's foundation (fig. 3).

The Generali Group acquired the library holdings of INA, whose Antigono Donati Library contains over 30,000 publications on insurance-related subjects, in 2000, and in 2006 the collections were further increased by the addition of the library belonging to ISA (Istituto per gli Studi Assicurativi), founded in Trieste in 1945, which closed down in 2006.

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



1

The first rubber stamps used by the Head Office Library in Trieste. On the right: round rubber stamp bearing the words I. R. PRIV. ASSICURAZIONI GENERALI AUSTROITALICHE IN TRIESTE (photo C. Tommasini)



2

Manuale pratico di tutti gli affari marittimi e di assicurazioni compiled by Raphael Marco Morpurgo, Trieste, G. Stallecker, (1849) (photo C. Tommasini)



3

Central Library's printed catalogue (1981)