

KNOT

KNOWLEDGE OF THINGS:
REASSESSING THE INDIGENOUS
AMERICAN HERITAGE IN ITALY

Biblioteca Universitaria di Bologna

Via Zamboni, 33, 40126 Bologna (BO)

Form compiled by: Davide Domenici (member of the scientific committee)

Introduction

The Biblioteca Universitaria di Bologna, in addition to countless texts of Americanist interest, among which the manuscripts of Ulisse Aldrovandi stand out, holds what is perhaps the most precious Indigenous American artefact in Italy, namely the pre-colonial Nahua pictorial manuscript known as the Codex Cospi.

Cultural Areas (tags)

Mesoamerica

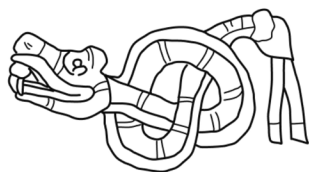
Collection name	Manuscripts and rare books
Collector	Domingo de Betanzos (c. 1480-1549) Zani, Valerio (?-1696) Cospi, Ferdinando (1606-1686)
Cultural areas	Mesoamerica
Ethnic group / community / cultural sphere	Nahua (Puebla-Tlaxcala, Mexico)

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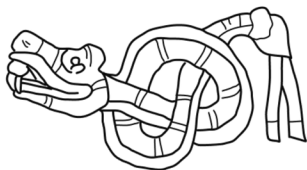
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Description of the collection	The so-called Codex Cospi (BUB, ms. 4093) is a pictorial divinatory manuscript, produced – in two different stages – in the eastern Nahua regions of Puebla-Tlaxcala, probably between the fifteenth century and the early sixteenth century. It is part of a group of stylistically and functionally similar manuscripts known as the codices of the Borgia Group. The exceptional importance of the Codex Cospi is also due to the fact that it is one of only fourteen pre-colonial Mesoamerican manuscripts that survive today.
History of the collection	The Codex Cospi was brought to Italy by the Dominican missionary Domingo de Betanzos who, on 3 March 1533, took it to Bologna and presented it to Pope Clement VII. Remaining in the city, the manuscript passed through various collections until, on 26 December 1665, it was donated by Count Valerio Zani to Marquis Ferdinando Cospi. Deposited in the Cospiano museum in the Palazzo Pubblico, it was kept there until 1743, when it was transferred to the Istituto delle Scienze in Bologna, whose library later merged into the Biblioteca Universitaria di Bologna.
Online database	
Web page	https://bub.unibo.it/it/bub-digitale/il-codice-cospi
Bibliography	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Anders, F., M. Jansen, P. van der Loo. 1994. <i>Calendario de pronósticos y ofrendas: Libro</i>

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