



Banca Popolare di Sondrio

COMUNICATO STAMPA

“Old Style”: the Banca Popolare di Sondrio celebrates World Savings Day through the timelessness of books.

The 31st of October marks the celebration of World Savings Day now in its 100th edition. It is an opportunity to educate and create awareness of the importance of maintaining and increasing one's assets, however small or large they may be.

It is an occasion to focus attention, above all for young people, on the difficult and patient art of looking after oneself both as an individual and as a citizen, part of the community, something that goes well beyond the purely financial world. Our primary wealth which must not be wasted but enriched is our past, the remains of which today hold the memories of our territory. The Banca Popolare di Sondrio has always seen this as its personal vocation, creating a collection of art in its own art gallery and in its Luigi Credaro library. The bank has acquired and made these precious resources accessible to the community at large; resources that number over a hundred ancient books thus preventing them ending up in private collections or worst, their destruction. The focus of the bank's cultural activity is the community, in particular the younger generations who play a fundamental role in the awareness of the material and immaterial legacy that surrounds us.

The Library of the Polo Liceale Città di Sondrio also conserves some ancient books that date back to the birth of print. They have survived until now in our hands, yet the passing of the centuries has left its mark so much so that they have needed significant restoration, financed by the Banca Popolare di Sondrio. The restoration process has involved 5 works published between 1479 to 1586 for a total of 12 volumes. Having returned them to their original ancient splendor it would have been a pity if the

community could not, at least temporarily, have enjoyed these extraordinary historical exhibits. Thus the idea of the Ancient Book Exhibition “Tipi all’antica” (Old style) came about which will make them available to all interested parties. In this era of Internet, an ancient book could seem anachronistic, something that has merely survived from the past. Yet even with the incessant passage of time there are some values that do not change, in fact their importance grows with time, their intrinsic attraction increasing just like a good wine in ancient casks and are like the wisdom of a grandparent who never fails to tell us stories that seem always new and so for us become indispensable. Therefore we look after them and try to keep them safe and, through restoration, in good health.

As well as the fruits of the restoration work, together with the volumes of the Luigi Credaro Library there will also be a section dedicated to the ‘ancient book’ as an artefact in itself in order to better discover its most curious and fascinating aspects.

The exhibition will be held from the 7th of December 2024 to the 18th of January 2025 at the Luigi Credaro Library in Lungo Mallero Armando Diaz 18 in Sondrio. The inauguration will be on the 6th of December at 4 p.m. Following the opening of the exhibition, at 6 p.m. in the Sala Fabio Besta at BPS two important experts in this sector will give talks on the subject: the writer and book collector Andrea Kerbaker, author of such titles as ‘Breve storia del libro (a modo mio)’ and ‘ Lo scaffale infinito’, and the book restorer and conservator Luciano Sassi, who was responsible for the restoration work carried out on the volumes. A similar meeting with a more didactic slant will be held by the same speakers for the schools at 9.30 a.m. on the 6th of December. Students will continue to be involved during the exhibition opening times as guides assisting visitors in the wonderful and mysterious world of ancient books: a bridge between ancient tomes and the new generations, a continuous dialogue in search of knowledge.

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