

One sheet, (justification c. 330 x 487 mm.), written in an elegant italic script in thirty long lines, framed on three sides with a gold rule, headings and names in gold capitals, one six-line gold initial, stamp in the lower margin with the

has been the subject of considerable recent scholarship, including studies examining its relationship with the Studium Romanae Curiae (the University of the Roman Curia) (Cherubini, 1992; Schwarz, 2013). No longer under Papal control, today it is one of the largest universities in the world.

Doctoral diplomas from Italian universities, long neglected in scholarship, are now the subject of considerable academic interest, focusing on a broad range of topics, from their value as historical and institutional sources, to their interest as artifacts (Farina, 2005). Diplomas from the University of Padua have been particularly well studied (Baldissin Molli, 1998; Mariana Canova, 1999). Diplomas from Rome, in contrast, have yet to be systematically examined in the scholarly literature.

Here we have an example of a diploma copied as a large document on a flat sheet. This is of interest because in Northern Italy, including Padua, diplomas in quarto format, usually illuminated and elaborately bound, replaced the earlier flat sheets by c. 1580-90. Both formats seem to have been used at the University of Rome in the seventeenth century; see for example, Rome, Biblioteca nazionale centrale Vittorio Emanuele II, S. Maria in Traspontina, Traspontina 47, a law diploma from 1640 with six folios, 215 x 150 mm., and Rome, Biblioteca nazionale centrale Vittorio Emanuele II, Vitt. Em.791, a 1592 diploma in Philosophy and Medicine, twelve folios, 238 x 195 mm.).

Baldissin Molli, Giovanna, Luciana Sitran Rea and Emilia Veronese Ceseracciu, eds.

History of the University of Rome, La Sapienza  
<http://en.uniroma1.it/sapienza/about-us/our-history>

Betty Braaksma, "Padua on the Prairies: How a 17th century diploma di laurea brought Enlightenment to Winnipeg" (discussing Manitoba, University Archives, Dysart item 7)  
<http://www.ifla.org/files/art-libraries/braaksma-padua-on-the%20praries.pdf>