

## VINCENZO CORONELLI (1650-1718)

The Venetian Franciscan Conventual friar Vincenzo Coronelli was for more than twenty years the most famous globemaker in Europe. In Paris, between 1681 and 1683, he built for Louis XIV a pair of huge manuscripts globes, celestial and terrestrial, whose printed reductions he put on the market in the following years. Back in Venice, Coronelli gave life in his Frari convent to a 'laboratory': there books illustrated by views and plans, astronomical and geographical maps and globes of various sizes were produced with the collaboration of confreres and workmen. In 1685, to support his intended publication of a Venetian atlas, the Senate of Venice gave him the title of Cosmographer of the Republic, a pension, and later a public teaching chair of cosmography. In the following years Coronelli published 13 large volumes of terrestrial and celestial maps, plans of cities and fortresses, portraits of patrons, plates of ships and boats and gores of his globes (*Raccolta dell'Atlante veneto*), books describing war zones (*Teatri della guerra*), and other volumes of varied character: a handbook of cosmography (*Epitome cosmografica*), travelers' guides, projects of hydraulic works, weapons, mud-dredgers, an encyclopaedia of 40 volumes (interrupted at the seventh) and theological texts. Between 1701 and 1704 he was also Superior-General of his Order.

Coronelli's atlases and globes sold well in Italy and the Empire, and his skills as a mathematical practitioner gave him the esteem of many scholars and the interest of the public. In Venice, a group of patricians, gathered in an 'Academy of the Argonauts', followed and discussed his geographic and astronomical works. After 1700 these began to be outdated: astronomers and geographers were changing the figures of the sky and the size of the continents. At the time of his death, the favor of the Republic was lost, and his career as an international publisher and instrument maker, like that within his order, had long since ended.

Here we present some of his many works owned by the Marciana Library, together with the pair of large printed globes that Coronelli dedicated to the Republic of Venice in February 1689 (1688 *more veneto*). The gores belonging to the Schmidt and Wohlschläger collections allow to closely observe their design, and their reductions, up to the pocket size, published between 1689 and 1699.