

FACT SHEET

Exhibition: *Federico da Montefeltro and His Library*

Dates: **June 8 through September 30, 2007**

Summary: This exhibition conjures up one of the greatest libraries of the Italian Renaissance—that of Federico da Montefeltro (1422–1482), Duke of Urbino. During his reign, Montefeltro helped transform Urbino from a small Renaissance state to a notable economic and cultural center. This exhibition coincides with the three-hundred-fiftieth anniversary of the dismantling and subsequent transfer of the Montefeltro library from Urbino to the Vatican Apostolic Library.

Content: The centerpiece of the exhibition is the famous portrait of the fully armored Federico reading in the ducal library, with his son, Guidobaldo, at his side. The painting (ca. 1475), by Justus of Ghent or Pedro Berruguete, is preserved in the ducal palace in Urbino. The show includes the imposing eagle-shaped lectern from the Museo Diocesano Albani in Urbino, a group of lavishly illuminated manuscripts, and an incunable, which together reveal the intellectual range of his collecting.

The exhibition is installed in the Morgan's Clare Eddy Thaw Gallery, a 20 x 20 x 20 foot cube designed by architect Renzo Piano and inspired by Renaissance chambers he encountered in Italy. The show re-creates Montefeltro's *studiolo* through the installation of many of the artifacts in the original library and through digital reproductions of its inlaid wood-paneled walls as well as twenty-eight portraits of illustrious philosophers, popes, saints, and poets.

Catalogue: A catalogue entitled *Federico da Montefeltro and His Library*, edited by Dr. Marcello Simonetta, with introduction by Jonathan J. G. Alexander, accompanies the show. The catalogue is published by Y. Press in collaboration with Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana.

Organization: Dr. Marcello Simonetta, Professor of Italian and Medieval Studies at Wesleyan University, is the guest curator of the exhibition in collaboration with William M. Voelkle, Curator and Department Head of Medieval and Renaissance Manuscripts at The Morgan Library & Museum.

Education and Programs:

The Morgan will offer a number of special programs held in conjunction with *Federico da Montefeltro and His Library*, including lectures, gallery talks, and an international symposium. On **Saturday, June 9, 2007, at 5:30 p.m.**, Marcello Simonetta, guest curator of the exhibition, will open the half-day symposium with an overview followed by illustrated lectures by distinguished scholars on Piero della Francesca, Raphael, and Castiglione. This event is cosponsored by the Italian Cultural Institute of New York. For more information, please contact the Education Department at (212) 590-0333.

Venues:

The Morgan Library & Museum June 8 through Sept. 30, 2007
Palazzo Ducale, Urbino, Italy Winter 2008

About the Morgan:

A complex of buildings in the heart of New York City, The Morgan Library & Museum began as the private library of financier Pierpont Morgan, one of the preeminent collectors and cultural benefactors in the United States. Today it is a museum, independent research library, musical venue, architectural landmark, and historic site. Nearly a century after its founding, the Morgan maintains a unique position in the cultural life of New York City and is considered one of its greatest treasures. With the 2006 reopening of its new campus, designed by renowned architect Renzo Piano, the Morgan reaffirmed its role as an important repository for the history, art, and literature of Western civilization from 4000 B.C. to the twenty-first century.

Hours:

Tuesday to Thursday, 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Friday, 10:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Closed Monday and Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day.

Admission:

Adults \$12; children (under 16) \$8; seniors (65 and over) \$8; students (with current ID) \$8; free to members and children 12 and under (must be accompanied by an adult). Admission is free on Fridays from 7 to 9 p.m. Admission to the McKim rooms is without charge during the following times: Tuesday, 3 to 5 p.m.; Friday, 7 to 9 p.m.; Sunday, 4 to 6 p.m. Admission is not required to visit the Morgan Shop.

General Information:

(212) 685-0008 or **www.themorgan.org**

For further information, please contact Sandra Ho, Communications and Marketing department, (212) 590-0311, or at media@themorgan.org.