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IHSI and Fondazione Polanco E.T.S.



Editorial

Introducing *Fondazionepolanco.org*: The New Online Service from IHSI Publications

Camilla Russell

“No one can truly know their deepest identity, or what they wish to be in the future, without attending to the bonds that link them to preceding generations.” Pope Francis, *Letter on the Renewal of the Study of Church History* (November 2024)

On Thursday, 8 May 2025, after almost one year of preparations, a new website was launched — www.fondazionepolanco.org — to serve as a one-stop resource for acquisitions and authors with IHSI publications.

The launch took place in the presence of Superior General Arturo Sosa, with colleagues at the Jesuit Curia, together with key collaborators of IHSI Publications. The location was the Reading Room of Archivum Romanum Societatis Iesu (ARSI), metres away from the Vatican City and only a few hours before white smoke announced the election of a new pope, Leo XIV. Thus, fortuitously converging with the much larger historic event unfolding nearby, IHSI’s launch was an opportunity to celebrate the publications, which, in addition to its bi-annual journal, is the publishing imprint for five book series, producing peer-reviewed scholarly works in Jesuit history from around the world.

The new website is the contemporary face of a publishing enterprise that began over 130 years ago — with the first *Monumenta* in 1894 — and with the founding in the 1930s of the Jesuit Historical Institute (Institutum Historicum Societatis Iesu – IHSI) and the *Archivum* journal. IHSI’s location, since 2010, within the context of ARSI, provides the ideal platform for delivering ARSI’s three-pronged mission: custodianship, access, and the development and promotion of Jesuit history: many useful resources connected to IHSI’s rich history may be accessed freely via the ARSI website at <https://arsi.jesuits.global>.

IHSI's new website for acquisitions and authors — www.fondazionepolanco.org — simplifies the process for individuals and institutions to purchase copies of IHSI books and subscribe to the journal. Through the new site, built and powered by the Zucchetti company, the high-quality scholarship promoted by IHSI is poised to reach the international research community in a convenient and accessible way.

The late Pope Francis' *Letter on the Renewal of the Study of Church History* (November 2024) recalled that the historian's task is to respond to the present "through dynamic and strong choices, through sharing, knowledge and research." This "sharing, knowledge and research" is what the new IHSI website seeks to provide.

As part of this aim, beginning in 2023, the Fondazione Polanco was created by the Jesuit General Curia, to promote the cultural and historical heritage of the Society of Jesus. In the following year, work began on the new website, which showcases IHSI's large catalogue of over 200 individual book titles, as well as back issues of the *Archivum* journal, now available for purchase at www.fondazionepolanco.org.

Furthermore, the IHSI website has been set up as an essential resource for prospective authors, providing all of the relevant information about submitting a proposal, with the necessary steps for a new publication with IHSI. Through setting out its procedures on this new platform, IHSI ensures its place among academic publishers, adding accessibility and visibility to its established reputation for rigour, reaching all authors and readers of Jesuit history wherever and whoever they are.

In this way, IHSI continues its crucial role in representing the wide variety of geographies, languages, disciplines, and perspectives that characterise Jesuit History. Through its new website, IHSI continues to hold a unique position within the large firmament of academic studies that today deal with Jesuit History. The Society of Jesus — through IHSI — contributes its own distinct voice to these studies, both as subject and participant, in dialogue with, and as part of the wider scholarly community – all of whom the new website is poised to serve.

With the current issue, the journal team wishes to mark, with sadness, the passing of Pope Francis (1936–2025), the first pope to

have been a Jesuit. We are confident that, as the present becomes the past, ARSI and IHSI publications will serve, as they always have, in the production of leading scholarly studies about the Jesuit past – which now includes Jorge Mario Bergoglio SJ and his remarkable papacy.

IHSI also extends its heartfelt thanks to Brother Brent Gordon SJ, who, as part of his formation within the Society, joined the IHSI team, between January 2024 and June 2025, in the roles of IHSI Assistant Editor and Project Manager. Our thanks to Brother Gordon for his substantial work, together with Administrative Assistant Dario Scarinci, in building the new website for IHSI.

This issue of the journal is dedicated to the memory of Eleonora Rai (1986–2025), esteemed researcher at ARSI and historian of the Society of Jesus.