

According to this perpetual decree of Pope Sixtus the Fifth, concerning the books in the Vatican Library, let those rules which are written hereinafter be regarded as sacred, and be inviolably observed. Let it be the right of no one to take away, take out, or in any other way remove the books, codices and volumes of this Vatican Library, neither the librarian, the curators, the investigators, nor anyone else of whatsoever rank or dignity, except by the permission of the Supreme Roman Pontiff in his own hand writing. If anyone commits such a crime and carries off, or draws out, or steals, or snatches away, or plucks away or takes possession of the books to any other place with malice aforethought, let that person be expelled from the communion of the faithful, let him be damned, let him be confined by the bonds of anathemas, and let no Roman Pontiff ever thereafter absolve him.

Translated from the Latin of an inscription in the Vatican Library at Rome. For this we are indebted to the pages of *Quarto* issued by the William L. Clements Library, Ann Arbor, Michigan.