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fundamental archival principles and their application to the complexities of the Vatican Archives was the critical factor in the ability of the project staff to complete the work thoroughly and in a timely manner. Her intelligent applications of the spirit as well as the letter of the USMARC-AMC format have resulted in a comfortable integration of the Vatican archival material into a database designed for modern archival records.

Leonard Coombs, associate archivist at the Bentley Historical Library at the University of Michigan, had charge of the database itself. He reviewed all entries before entering the information to be sure they were in a consistent form. He carefully determined the strategies for entering the information first in a personal computer and later into the mainframe computer of the Research Libraries Group. He prepared many of the agency histories and worked with Sr. Carlen in all phases of this work. Moreover he determined the structure of the indices and the choice of the index terms. In all this he worked steadily and patiently as the project began and grew. The printed version of the database required another intensive round of checking and standardizing of the information gathered. The careful attention to consistency in presentation that characterizes this volume is another of his fine accomplishments.

Sr. Claudia Carlen, IHM, has devoted a significant portion of her sixty-five years of service in the Catholic church to the study of papal documents. For this project she conducted painstaking research on the histories of the most complex agencies of the Holy See through the standard sources and through the appropriate papal bulls. She also prepared histories of the various individuals and families who deposited private papers in the ASV. Her combination of experience and persistence was the prime factor in the completeness of the histories contained herein.

Katherine Gill, now assistant professor of history at the Yale Divinity School, served as principal historical adviser to the project. She advised on the scope and content of particular series in the ASV as well as on the structure of the most complex parts of the ASV holdings. As a graduate of the Scuola vaticana di paleografia, diplomatica e archivisitica, she had a thorough knowledge of the types of documents in the archives. A specialist in medieval history, she had an extraordinary ability to comfortably read sample documents. Her understanding of the complexities of the archives as well as her interest in communicating the results of this project to the scholarly community that makes use of these archival materials was important to this overall effort.

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