



### **THE PIFFETTI LIBRARY**

This is one of the Palace's most impressive rooms: the Piffetti Library. The room was not designed for the Quirinale Palace but for the Villa della Regina, one of the residences of the House of Savoy in Turin. The library dates back to the first half of the 18th Century and was brought to Rome in 1879 to be adapted to the apartment of Queen Margherita, the wife of King Umberto I. The original structure consisted of a tall base and book shelves, while the wooden flooring was laid at the time the library was installed in Rome.

This masterpiece was made by Pietro Piffetti, one of the greatest woodworkers of his time, who mainly worked at the service of the royal House of Savoy. The Quirinale Palace library is made of a poplar frame lined with different kinds of wood such as rosewood, olive wood, boxwood and yew wood. The structure is embellished with refined ivory inlays.

The room is completed with two small console tables lined with tortoiseshell and ivory inlays, reproducing sheets and engravings lying on the table. One of the faux ivory sheets bears the signature of Pietro Piffetti.

On top of the shelves sit eight majolica vases and four gilded wooden sculptures representing the Four Seasons.

The books kept in the library mostly date back to the end of the 19th Century and many of their bindings are decorated with the coat of arms of the House of Savoy. Some also contain dedications to and ex libris of Queen Margherita.