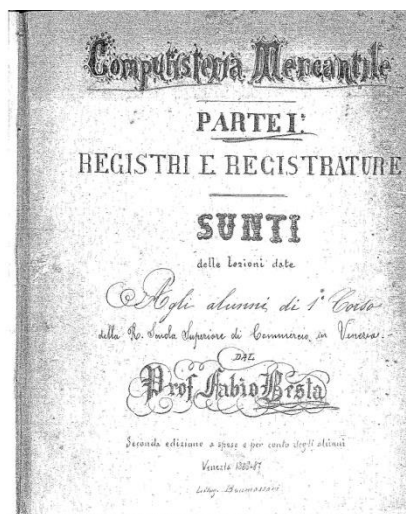


# Student life

## Display objects - case 1



### 1. Summaries of lessons in *Mercantile Book-keeping*, 1886/1887

The volume on display, a lithographic manuscript, contains the transcription of the lessons in the course of Mercantile Book-Keeping Part I by Professor Fabio Besta, at the expense and on behalf of his students.

The lesson notes were manually transcribed by the students and then given to the printers to be printed by means of the lithographic process.

Often these summaries were not officially recognised by the teachers and were accompanied by notes like the following: *Warning: Given that Prof. Besta was unable to check the handwritten notes, he accepts no responsibility for the numerous errors of transcription.* In other cases, teachers would authenticate a printed copy by signing and dating it.

From the late nineteenth- to the mid-twentieth century, the lithographic reproductions of the lessons held at Ca' Foscari were mainly carried out by the following printers:

- Litografia Luigi Kirchmaÿr (1801-1902),
- Tipografia del Commercio di Marco Visentini [later known as Fratelli Visentini] (1870-1906),
- Litografia D. Bonmassari (1880-1887),
- Litografia Giovanni Arnauti (1886-1904),
- Tipo-litografia Officine Grafiche Carlo Ferrari (1890-1938),
- Litografia Alberto Pellizzato (1895-1944)
- tipografia editrice La Litotipo di Padova (1912-1927),
- Rotografia del Gruppo Universitario Fascista di Venezia (1932-1939)
- Tipografia Zanetti di Venezia (1935-1949).

After the Second World War, Ca' Foscari lesson summaries and text books were printed by:

- Libreria Universitaria di Venezia, from 1945 onwards,
- Tipografia editrice La Goliardica di Venezia (1948-1970),
- Libreria editrice Cafoscarina, from 1966 onwards.



## 2.The School Library, 1915/1920 (photo Filippi)

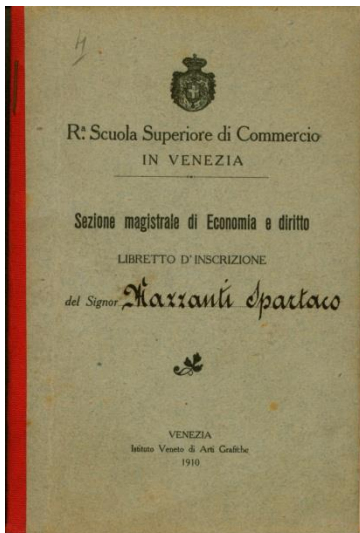
The photograph on display, which was taken between 1915 and 1920, shows a room in the library formerly situated on the first floor of Ca' Foscari. The room is now the International Relations Office to the right of the "Sala Berengo".

It features a German shelving system purchased in 1913 and considered very avant-garde for the times that was based on adjustable metal shelves slotting into uprights. When the library moved to its new home in Ca' Bernardo in 1975, the shelving system was set up in the storerooms on the ground floor, remaining in use until 2005.



## 3.Thesis, 1921

The thesis on display is by Mario Camerino, a master glassmaker at the Salviati glassmaking workshop. The thesis is illustrated by numerous technical and artistic diagrams hand-drawn by Camerino in Indian ink.



#### 4. Student's exam booklet, 1910

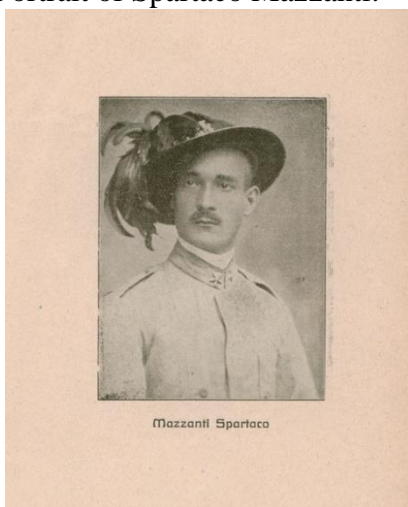
In addition to students' personal details, their exam booklet contained a list recording every exam taken, along with the date, marks and signature of the teacher.

The booklet on display belonged to **Spartaco Mazzanti** who was born in Jesi in 1891 and matriculated in the autumn of 1909 with the matriculation number 1474/C. He attended courses regularly until 1913/14.

At the outbreak of the Great War, in May 1915, he joined the corps of the Bersaglieri as a volunteer, becoming an officer and obtaining the rank of Captain by the end of the war. After the war he took up his studies again, graduating in Economics and Law in August 1919 with the highest grades (60 out of 60).

In 1920 he moved to Paris, participating in a selection process to work in a bank – thanks to his degree – and obtaining a position in the Paris branch of the Franco-Italian Bank of Latin America. In 1924 he founded the bank's branch in Bogotá (Colombia), and lived in Barranquilla, Colombia's leading port, until his death.

Portrait of Spartaco Mazzanti:





## 5. Academic Calendar, 1914/1915

The calendar on display refers to the 1914-1915 academic year. It has a postcard format and is lithographed on both sides. The first side features the calendar in a decorative frame, with a photolithograph of the façade of Ca' Foscari accompanied by the motto: “Crescit in horas doctrina” (*“Knowledge increases hour after hour”*). The other side holds a description of the Regia Scuola Superiore, or Royal High School.

That year, the ceremony inaugurating the academic year was held on 9 November 1914. Lessons began on the following day, 10 November, and ended on 15 June 1915.

The autumn exam session started on 16 October 1914, while the summer session was held from 16 June to 31 July. Holidays took place in the following periods: Christmas from 24 December to 7 January, Carnival from 15 to 17 February, and Easter from 29 March to 10 April.

There were also “special” holidays on the birthdays of King Victor Emanuel III (11 November), of the queen mother Margherita of Savoy (20 November) and of Queen Elena of Savoy (8 January), and to mark the city holiday on 22 March commemorating the 1848 Risorgimento uprising, with particular reference to the day of the expulsion of the Austrians from Venice.

The back of the card has information on the organisation of the courses, the value of degree qualifications, the offer of Japanese and Arabic language courses. The matriculation fee at the time was 60 lire while the annual tuition fee was 120 lire.



## 6. Lecture Room, 1930/1940 (photo Giacomelli)

The lecture room in the photograph is now occupied by the Central Administration offices on the second floor of Ca' Foscari. Note the wooden desks with ink wells, the blackboard, and the teacher's desk beneath the bust of Francesco Ferrara, the School's first director from 1868 to 1900, which is flanked on either side by photographs of the King and Mussolini.



#### **7. Lecture Room, 1930/1940 (photo Ferruzzi)**

The lecture room in the photograph corresponds to the room now known as “Sala del Vittoria”, and formerly called Sala Teste Mozze, situated on the second floor of Ca' Foscari next to the Aula Baratto (formerly holding the Merceological Museum).

Some of the desks visible in the photograph are still used as occasional tables in several of the university offices.



#### **8. Laboratory, 1930/1940 (photo Giacomelli)**

This was the laboratory used to teach chemistry in the Merceological course, which was directed by the full professor, Prof. Ferruccio Truffi (1859-1947), who taught merceology from 1897 to 1934. The assistant was Pietro Ghelfi (1914 to 1935). The laboratory was later used by Prof. Giuseppe Rossi (1889-1956), who taught from 1934 to 1936, Prof. Orfeo Turno Rotini, who taught from 1936 to 1948, and by Ferruccio Francesco Leiss (1892-1968), merceology assistant from 1936 to 1941, and celebrated as a great photographer.

# Display objects - case 2



## 9. Satirical student magazine “Pax tibi Marce pecunia nobis”, 1924

The first issue of Ca' Foscari's satirical student magazine *Pax tibi Marce pecunia nobis*: *numero permanente, Venezia, Cà Foscari: tiratura al massimo sforzo*. 1924. Editorial board: Achie Andrei, Giulio Cesare Cabianca, Lotti, Bertozzi; editor-in-chief: Paolo Pezzato; cover design by Gian Maria Lepsky, caricatures drawn by Dureghello and Marco Novati.

It was donated to Ca' Foscari in 2015 by Gian Vittorio Bartolucci whose father **Athos Bartolucci**, Ca' Foscari student from 1923 to 1928, is caricatured on page 11 (the cartoon at the top of the page titled “The Judge”).

The Latin title, which means “Peace to you Mark, and the money to us” is a satirical word play on the Latin motto accompanying the Lion of St Mark, and symbol of Venice (“pax tibi Marce evangelista meus”).

“Goliardia” was the name given to university student associations popular during the first half of the twentieth century and which were responsible for jokes and provocations, caricatures and double meanings.

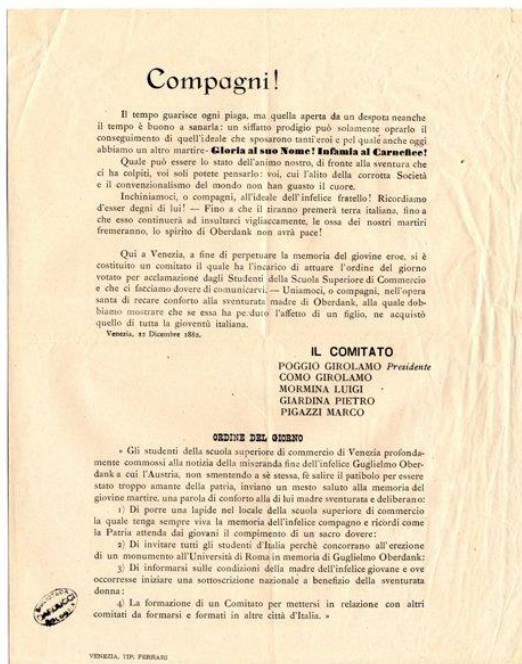
In 1927, during the Fascist period, these associations were suppressed and replaced by Fascist university groups established in 1920.

After the liberation, in February 1946, the Libera Unione Goliardica Dogadum Cafoscarinum invited student representatives of these “goliardic” university associations to Venice where they draw up and published the “Principles of *Goliardia*”, proclaiming them at the Caffè Florian: “*Goliardia* is culture and intelligence, a love of freedom and awareness of our responsibilities with regard to the schools of today and the professions of tomorrow. It is a cult of the spirit, which gives rise to a specific way of considering life in the light of a complete freedom of criticism without prejudices before men and institutions. Finally, it is the cult of the ancient traditions that diffused the name of our free universities of scholars in the world.”

Extract from the meeting of the representatives of the “goliardic” associations held in Venice, in the Aula Magna of Ca' Foscari, in February 1946.



(<http://sitogratis.wedesa.com/goliardia-istituzionale/principes/2-venezia-convegno-1946.html>)



## 10. Student flyer for Oberdan, 1882 (from the Casa Carducci archive, reproduction)

The flyer on display (a reproduction of the original document conserved in the *Archivio Giosuè Carducci*, Bologna), was written on 22 December 1882 by an anti-Austrian committee of Ca' Foscari students set up with the “task of carrying out the order of the day voted by acclamation by

the students of the Scuola Superiore di Commercio”, which was to remember Guglielmo Oberdan, executed by the Austrians in Trieste on 20 December 1882.

On that same day, Giosuè Carducci published the news of Oberdan’s death in the newspaper, appealing to young people and urging them to rebel against the Austrian powers and join their efforts in order to erect a monument to the young martyr from Trieste.

The Ca’ Foscari students who responded to his appeal sent him this flyer which remained in his personal archives and is now conserved at the Casa Carducci (Bologna).



## 11.Ca’ Foscari University Theatre Company, tour in Latin America, 1962

The Ca’ Foscari theatre company was established in 1949 thanks to the enthusiasm and passion of theatre director Giovanni Poli (1917-1979) and the far-sightedness of the then rector Gino Luzzatto. The first plays were staged in the Aula Magna (now the Aula Baratto) until March 1953, which saw the inauguration of a theatre set up in the hall of Ca’ Giustinian dei Vescovi.

The company took part in many tours, some of which abroad, all of which were hugely successful, including the 1962 South American tour described in the article above. During this tour, which took place from July to August 1962, the company performed in Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo, Montevideo and Buenos Aires.

The company ceased its activities in 1974 due to logistical and financial difficulties until the birth of the new Teatro Ca’ Foscari in 2011.

The book on display is a Portuguese presentation of the comedy (“commedia all’improvviso”) *A comédia de improvisação* / edição curada pela Seção de Imprensa do Teatro Universitário de Ca’ Foscari, illustrated with photographs of various plays staged by the Ca’ Foscari theatre company.





## 12.Canteen, 1950/1960

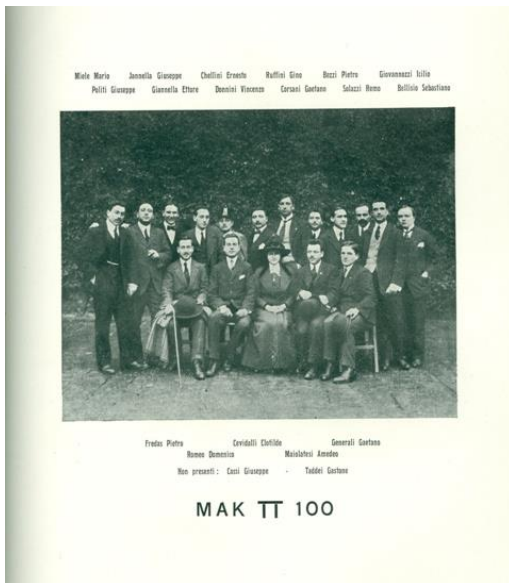
The first student canteen was set up in 1937 on the ground floor of the “Rio Nuovo” building recently built in Calle larga Foscari and known as the “firemen’s building”. In 1942 it was moved to the first floor of that same building to make room for a students’ surgery on the ground floor. The photograph on display, which dates to the nineteen-fifties, shows the canteen on the first floor of the “Rio Nuovo” building, where it would remain until the end of the nineteen-eighties.



## 13.Group of students, 1881

Group of graduating students from the third course of the Regia Scuola Superiore di Commercio di Venezia, in the courtyard in front of the portico of Ca' Foscari (currently the main entrance), in May 1881.

Beneath the photograph are the handwritten names of the students: Imeroni - Bertolini - Coen - Ravà - Camuzzo - Mongini - Falcomer - Pastega - Brandaglia - Bottai - Canale - Buscaino - Paccanoni F. - Brocadello - Sardagna - Ronchini - Pastorelli - Camicia - Gradara - Ugolino - Dal Bianco - Maltese - Zanotti - Calderari - Calzarotto - Armuzzi - Del Negro - Cararia - De Feo - Pelà - Fornara - Fagarezzi - Burgarella - Paccanoni U. - Bapi - Menegazzi - Groppetti - Corvetta.



#### 14.Accounting students, 1914: “mak $\pi$ 100” celebration (less than one hundred days to the finals)

The photograph, published in the *Bollettino degli Antichi Studenti*, issue no. 52 (March-April 1914) shows accounting students during a celebration known as “MAK  $\pi$  100” (= less than 100 days until the exams), held on 7 March 1914.

Mak  $\pi$  100, a “goliardic” students’ celebration, gave students the opportunity to take leave from their fellow students before their exams and graduation.

The tradition of celebrating Mak  $\pi$  100 began in 1840 at the Military Academy in Turin when a decree established that courses would last three years, a duration that had not previously been clearly defined. The decree also established a fixed exam period, and the official graduation date. When the new regulation was read out, upon learning of the date on which their course was due to end, one of the students, Cadet Emanuele Balbo Bertone di Sambuy, ironically exclaimed in Piedmont dialect, “mac pi tre anni!” (“Only three years to go!”). His comment was greeted with much laughter and was repeated by his fellow students, who would reduce the years until graduation every time they repeated it to someone. It became part of the “goliardic” tradition and in 1863 the Piedmont “pi” turned into a Greek letter “ $\pi$ ” and marking the start of the Mak  $\pi$  100 celebration ([http://www.profilodonna.com/eventi/2011-6/mcp100.asp\\_marzo\\_2016](http://www.profilodonna.com/eventi/2011-6/mcp100.asp_marzo_2016)).

This celebration soon became extremely popular, spreading to all the schools in the Kingdom of Italy.