



FONDAZIONE BANCA DEL MONTE DI LOMBARDIA

Pavia e la sua provincia



6-University of Pavia

The historic branch of the University of Pavia is an ample complex composed of buildings and courts: it extends in the north eastern area of the city centre and occupies many blocks. The principle prospect, of neoclassic forms, faces the Corso Strada Nuova, supporting axle of the historic centre, and corresponds with antique cardo of the roman city.

The university is one of the most antique and prestigious in Europe, where all of the most important faculties are offered and is attended by students from every part of the world.

On the sides of the main entrance are portraits of the founder, Galeazzo Secondo Visconti, and of the king of Italy Lotario who, in the 9th century, established the Pavese Studium, forerunner of the university. In Pavia, in fact, lives an antique cultural tradition that has roots in the era in which the city was the capital of the Longobardo reign.

The actual General Studium was founded by Galeazzo Secondo Visconti in 1361: where he taught civil law and rectorial law, philosophy, medicine and liberal arts.

Attendance was favoured by a regulation which stated that if grave sanctions weren't desired, the students, residents of the Viscontine territory, were obligated to apply to the Studium of Pavia.

This was divided into two universities, each with its own chancellor: one for the lawyers and one for the artists.

At the time a space designated to lessons did not exist and the student would go to the private houses of the professors, to the convents or to the Municipal building. Only in the course of the 1400s, when the Sforza succeeded the Visconti, an antique family palace was donated by the former, to be adapted to the necessities of teaching.

The funeral gravestones of the first twelve docents of the Studium, that today can be seen walled under the portico of the Volta court yard, well illustrate how the lessons were carried out during the first centuries of life of the university. The docents, sitting in their richly decorated posts, bestowed the teachings to the students, that instead were seated on simple benches. Learning was thereby only entrusted in concentration and memory.

With Maria Teresa of Austria, in the 1700s, the university was profoundly renovated. The sovereign entrusted to the architect Giuseppe Piermarini the fixing of the building, which had, in the course of the centuries, slowly enlarged and incorporated new spaces. Merit is given to Piermarini and Pollack for the present aspect of the university in its elegant and sober neoclassic form.

Maria Teresa also led important administrative and teaching reforms. In particular, she developed the science faculty, calling on the most talented scientists. She had special classrooms built of a characteristic semicircular form, the Physics Theatre and that of Anatomy, and made teaching based on laboratory practice and use of text books, possible. Finally she endowed the university with a botanical garden and a rich library, of which the first books came directly from Vienna.

The works of expansion and modernization of the university continued even with the emperor Giuseppe Secondo, and involved the adjacent areas of the San Matteo hospital. The hospital, founded in the middle of the 1400s, had developed a tight rapport with the university from the beginning, particularly with the faculty of medicine. From there in fact, came the bodies to dissect during anatomy lessons.

The structure, with its courtyards and elegant arcades, was totally incorporated into the university during the first decade of 1900, following the construction of the new general hospital.

Con il patrocinio di:



Comune
di Pavia



Provincia
di Pavia

produced by

