

Birth of the Royal School of Commerce

Displayed objects – case 1



1. The Royal School of Commerce was established with the Royal Decree No. 4530 of August 6th, 1868. Ca' Foscari Historical Library.

With the Royal Decree No. 4530 of August 6th, 1868, King Vittorio Emanuele II founds the Royal School of Commerce of Venice.



2. Group photo of students and teachers of the School with the director Francesco Ferrara, 1881. Ca' Foscari Historical Archive.

Group photo of students and teachers of the Royal School of Commerce, posing in the courtyard of Ca' Foscari, in front of the portico (the current main entrance). At the center we see the Director of the School, Francesco Ferrara.



3. Japanese Grammar, 1890. Ca' Foscari Historical Library.

Giulio Gattinoni, Grammatica giapponese della lingua parlata, Venezia, 1890.



4. Ca' Foscari's courtyard, late 19th century. Ca' Foscari Historical Archive.

Historical photograph of Ca' Foscari's courtyard soon after the foundation of the Royal School of Commerce.



5. Museum of Commodity Science, late 19th century. Ca' Foscari Historical Archive.

The Merchandise Museum of the Royal School of Commerce, once located in the room now called Aula Baratto.



6. Library of the School, about 1920. Ca' Foscari Historical Archive.

The Library of the Royal School of Commerce, which was created together with the School, used to be located on the first floor of Ca' Foscari.

Displayed objects – case 2



7. Book containing the portrait photographs of students and teachers, 1915: the first woman graduated in 1906. Ca' Foscari Historical Library.

The book, created by the Old Students' Association, shows the portrait of Maria Rimoldi (1884-1958) who was the first woman to graduate from Ca' Foscari (1906). After having obtained her first degree in Business in 1906, she obtained another degree in Accountancy in 1908, and in 1909 she gained the Teaching Degree in Accountancy. She worked as a teacher and became a prominent figure within the Catholic world for her commitment to the emancipation of women: she participated in AC (Catholic Action), Fuci (the Italian Catholic Federation of University Students), and in The Union of the Italian Catholic Women, of which she was the national president between 1924 and 1949.



8. Monument in remembrance of the Ca' Foscari students fallen during World War I, 1941. Ca' Foscari Historical Archive.

The photograph shows a ceremony held on September 1941 at Ca' Foscari in remembrance of the Ca' Foscari students fallen during World War I. The monument which can be seen in the photograph was unveiled on July 6th, 1919. The marble slab showed the names of 75 fallen; the base carried the following inscription: "They died – for the Country – for freedom – In the everlasting gratitude of the School – they live – and teach – faith – and sacrifice". The marble slab was later substituted with the Memorial monument to the fallen in war and in the Italian Resistance.



9. Yearbook 1943-1947: photo of the Memorial Monument to the fallen in war and in the Italian Resistance. Ca' Foscari Historical Library.

The Memorial monument to the fallen in war and in the Italian Resistance was made by Napoleone Martinuzzi in the internal courtyard of Ca' Giustinian dei Vescovi and inaugurated in 1946. At the center of the monument there is fountain, together with a statue representing Niobe. According to the Greek myth, Niobe was a haughty mother whose children were killed by Apollo and Diana to punish her excessive pride. Niobe's suffering was so intense that it caused her to transform into stone, from which tears of pain still flow.



10. Graduation examination, 1937. Ca' Foscari Historical Archive.

Graduation examination with Rector Agostino Lanzillo, November 1937.



11. Honorary Register: photo of Luigi De Prospero, 1920. Ca' Foscari Historical Library.

The Honorary Register collects and lists every member of Ca' Foscari (students, teachers, staff) that participated in World War I, both the fallen and the injured, with Medals of Military valor and the relative motive. The Register is opened at the page dedicated to Luigi De Prospero, who graduated from Ca' Foscari in 1902. After his death, his library was donated to the Royal School of Commerce.



12. The rector Gino Zappa awards honorary academic degrees to the families of the students fallen in the war, 1941. Ca' Foscari Historical Archive.

At the inauguration of the academic year 1941/42 in the Sala del Consiglio (Hall of Council) at Ca' Foscari, the Rector Gino Zappa awards honorary academic degrees to the families of the Ca' Foscari students fallen in the war, Great Hall, November 5th, 1941.