

SECRET MUSEUM -

The Lombardy agricultural system in the European exchanges of Carlo Cattaneo and Cristina Trivulzio di Belgiojoso

ABSTRACT

The Archives of the Civic Historical Collections preserve important materials that bear witness to the history of Milan and Italy from the 18th to the 20th century. Today, these documents can help us understand how some of the protagonists of the Risorgimento period were part of a network of international relations that allowed ideas and knowledge to circulate, sometimes with the intention of pursuing the common good.

The Papers of Carlo Cattaneo, for example, contain information on the initiative taken by the British government to find potential solutions to the great famine in Ireland in 1845-1847 through the agricultural model of the Lombardy region.

Cristina Trivulzio di Belgiojoso, who developed a sensitivity for social issues during her years in France, describes the conditions of the Lombard peasants in her articles in 'L'Ausonio', a magazine she founded in Paris in 1846. In her letters to the French historian Augustin Thierry, she also reports on her experiences in the town of Locate di Triulzi for the benefit of the rural population, with special attention to the condition of children.

The documents, selected from the very rich heritage of the Archives and Library, and displayed in the rooms of the Risorgimento Museum, thus contribute to highlight the dialogue between worlds and the exchanges experienced by the protagonists of the Risorgimento.

POLE SUMMARY

As part of the Museo City for the 'Secret Museum' initiative, the Civic Historical Collections present visitors with precious documents usually kept in archives. This year's theme - 'Worlds in Milan' - offers our institute the chance to narrate the circulation of ideas and knowledge on an international scale thanks to some of the protagonists of the Risorgimento in pursuit of the common good.

The documents are on display in Room VI of the Risorgimento Museum.