

SOUNDS, SIGNS, WORDS: ANTONIO MICHELA AND THE WORKSHOP OF LANGUAGE 1815-2015

The exhibition aims to celebrate the life and work of Prof. Antonio Michela, illustrious Piedmontese, inventor of the shorthand machine, born for the reporting of the works of the Senate.

He was born in 1815 in Cortereggio near San Giorgio Canavese. His phonetic studies led him to study the human vocal tract and to classify all the sounds it produced, assigning a graphic expression to each of them. His goal was to create an alphabet based only on phonic values, therefore universal.

His shorthand system was presented for the first time in Milan in 1863, arousing immediately great interest. Even Giuseppe Garibaldi, in a letter dated 1877, wrote: "I wish that the useful discovery of Prof. Michela is realized".

Over the years it has evolved, it has been adapted to the latest information technology and it is still used in the most important institutions in Italy and abroad. A shorthand machine is part of the permanent exhibition *Les grandes heures du Parlement* in Versailles.

Different models of stenographic keyboards as well as documents from Michela Archive are on show.

Palazzo Lascaris

Belvedere Gallery

2 – 20 May 2016

Monday – Friday 10:00 – 18:00

Free entry

