

Istituto Veneto di Scienze, Lettere ed Arti

Origins

The Istituto Veneto di Scienze, Lettere ed Arti stemmed as a branch from the “Reale Istituto di Scienze, Lettere ed Arti”, established by Napoleon in 1810. The current name was given in 1838 by Ferdinand I, Emperor of Austria, when Venetia was under Austrian Government. In 1866, after annexation of Venetia to Kingdom of Italy, the Istituto Veneto di Scienze, Lettere ed Arti was recognized as one of the most prestigious Italian Academies. Since 1838, the activity of Istituto Veneto di Scienze, Lettere ed Arti run uninterruptedly till now days.

Mission

By statute, Istituto Veneto di Scienze, Lettere ed Arti promotes studies on Sciences, Humanities and Arts. Moreover, it is actively engaged in organizing and achieving research projects in collaboration with others Academies, Universities and Research Centers at national and international level.

The Istituto Veneto di Scienze, Lettere ed Arti is a member of AICI - Associazione delle Istituzioni di Cultura Italiane, UAN – Unione Accademica Nazionale and ALLEA - European Federation of Academies of Sciences and Humanities.

International relationships

The Istituto Veneto di Scienze, Lettere ed Arti established formal relationships of collaboration with the following foreign institutions:

France: Ecole Normale Supérieure; Ecole du Louvre; Institut National du Patrimoine; Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Arts Decoratifs.

Austria: Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften; Konrad Lorenz Institut.

United Kingdom: Environmental Systems Science Centre – Reading University.

USA: MIT, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Duke University, Princeton University, Vanderbilt University, Wake Forest University.

Moreover there are collaborations with UNESCO, Italian Academy for Advanced Studies in America-Columbia University, NASA National Aeronautics and Space Administration, ESA European Space Agency, Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, CERN at Ginevra; Istituto Ellenico di Studi Bizantini e Post-Bizantini; Centro Tedesco di Studi Veneziani.

In the last decade International meetings were organized with the International Union on Biological Sciences and the Academia Europaea.

Structure

The Institute is headed by the President and by a board including the Vice-president, the Secretary of the Class of Humanities, the Secretary of the Class of Sciences and the Treasurer.

Presently, the Institute accounts for 283 fellows, 141 in the class of Sciences and 142 in the class of Humanities; 104 are fellows (*soci effettivi*), 139 are corresponding fellows (*soci corrispondenti*), 38 are foreign fellows (*soci stranieri*) and 2 are honorary fellows (*soci onorari*). Fellows are formally appointed by the Ministry of Cultural Affairs after having been elected by the Assembly of the *soci effettivi*.

The activities of the Institute rely on the Chancellery, the Administration and the Accounting Office, the Editorial Office, the Library and the Media Center.

The Institute still benefits of revenues from generous loans and of a yearly financial support by Italian Government and by Regione Veneto.

Premises

The premises of Istituto Veneto are two prestigious historic buildings in the center of Venice near the Accademia bridge: Palazzo Loredan and Palazzo Franchetti, in the same area where some of the main cultural centers in Venice are located (Teatro La Fenice, Palazzo Grassi, Punta della Dogana, the Peggy Guggenheim Collection, the Gallerie dell'Accademia, Palazzo Fortuny, Ca' Rezzonico and the Benedetto Marcello Conservatory).

Palazzo Loredan, owned by the State, is the historic seat of the Istituto Veneto di Scienze, Lettere ed Arti since 1891. The building hosts the offices, the assembly room, the historical library, the archives and art collections in 60 rooms covering about. 3200 square meters.

Palazzo Franchetti was bought in 1999 by Istituto Veneto to turn it into one of the liveliest hubs of the city of Venice and of Italy's cultural life; it is an impressive neo-gothic building in the close proximity of Palazzo Loredan. The overall surface area in the building accounts for 2850 square meters, divided into spaces for conferences and meetings (900 m²), exhibitions (450 m²) and the large garden (1500 m²). The garden is one of the largest of those visible from the Grand Canal. The building is equipped with a sophisticated heating and air-conditioning system. The conference rooms are equipped with an update audiovisual system and wi-fi connections. The technical

equipment allows organization of meeting with up to 75 speakers at the same table and with simultaneous translation.

Activities

The Institute's activities include monthly academic meetings (*adunanze*), where fellows present their studies which are published on the journal «Atti dell'Istituto Veneto di Scienze, Lettere ed Arti».

The Institute also regularly promotes meetings, conferences, seminars, exhibitions, postgraduate and postdoctoral international schools in different fields. Every year a number of awards focused on science and the arts are assigned.

Diffusion of Culture

In recent years the Institute devoted particular attention to diffusion of culture by audiovisual media, information technology and internet communication.

The majority of conferences held at the Institute are available to the public via the Institute's channel YouTube www.youtube.com/user/istitutoveneto; presently the channel accounts for more than 400 audio-video registrations, which obtained so far over 250.000 views.

Almost all initiatives organized by the Istituto are free entrance and can be attended in live streaming.

Publishing

The Institute publishes and prints the journal «Atti dell'Istituto Veneto di Scienze, Lettere ed Arti» and monographic studies and books (called "Memorie"): presently the catalogue accounts over 100 titles.

Through the website of the Institute it's possible to buy the books or to download and get for free the PDF file of same publications.

Library and archives

The Institute owns a rich library (over 300.000 volumes) and several archives, including that of Luigi Luzzatti, Italian prime minister in 1910-1911.

The Institute keeps all documents associated to its history, the research projects, awards and competitions in a single archive.

In addition to its historical archives, the Istituto Veneto also keeps the bequests of relevant figures for the history of Italy, such as Luigi Luzzatti, Giusto Bellavitis, Pietro Saccardo, Massimiliano Aloisi, Augusto Ghetti.

Its archives also safeguard art collections put together during its long history and collection of photographs, plaster casts, absorbent paper and tracing paper used and collected by Giuseppe Gerola during his archaeological expedition to Crete promoted by the Institute and conducted between 1899 and 1902.