Built between 1890 and 1893 on a plan by the engineer Giuseppe Davicini (1851-1892), the construction aimed to fulfill the need of the Opere Pie di San Paolo for a vast and modern facility where young women would be educated, from elementary to secondary school. The Educatorio Duchessa Isabella complied with the latest technical and sanitary standards for schools (1888) and was built in the Barriera di Francia area, that was then in the open countryside. The facility consisted of a main building, three pavilions for schools and dormitories, and a longitudinal wing that connected the three structures together, separated by courtyards and facing onto a vast garden.

During the 1942 bomb raids on Turin the complex was severely damaged. In 1960 the facilities in via Duchessa Jolanda and via Goffredo Casalis were reconstructed and converted into schools.

The restoration undertaken by the Compagnia di San Paolo (2009/2015) revitalized the historic building and turned it into office space for staff and the operating bodies. The facade on the piazza and the monumental spaces were also restored.

1890-1893
1960
2009-2015

Educatorio Duchessa Isabella
Built on a project by the engineer Giuseppe Davicini (1893)
The Historical Archives

Fondazione 1563 is one of the operating bodies of the Compagnia di San Paolo. Its mission is to safeguard, enrich and promote the artistic, cultural, archival and library heritage and to support research and advanced training programs in humanities. The Foundation manages and promotes the Historical Archives of the Compagnia di San Paolo and supports an articulated program of study and research on the times and the culture of Baroque.

Grants for advanced interdisciplinary studies in humanities for young Italian and foreign researchers, cultural research and enhancement projects, editorial production: these are the specific areas of interest of Fondazione 1563, with particular reference to Baroque culture - a crucial element of Piedmontese history and European civilization.

The Program on Baroque has developed significantly through an international historical and artistic research project that brings together inter-generational study groups in Rome, Paris, and Turin, discussing the relation between Modern and Ancient times with a special focus on the period 1680-1750.

The history of the Compagnia di San Paolo

Founded by seven citizens of Turin in 1563, the Compagnia di San Paolo was established to assist the poorest section of the population and to contain the spread of the Protestant reform. Assistance to the poor translated into home-based care and the creation of various institutions: the Mount of Piety (pawns shop, 1579), and the educational and charitable institutes Casa del Soccorso (1589) and Casa del Deposito (1683) – that evolved into the Educatorio Duchessa Isabella and Ufficio Pio (1595), the latter providing financial and religious assistance.

The Compagnia’s assets increased through bequests, leading to intense financial activities that peaked in the mid-1700s. With the advent of the liberal state, in 1853 Vittorio Emanuele II confined the activity of the Compagnia to the religious realm, entrusting all assistance and financial activities to a publicly appointed council, the Opere Pie di San Paolo, which in 1932 became a public-law credit institution, later to evolve into Istituto Bancario San Paolo di Torino. After decades of expansion, the privatization of 1992 separated the institute’s banking activities, entrusted to San Paolo S.p.A., from philanthropic ones, managed by the Compagnia di San Paolo, the foundation that revived the historical name. Since 2012 Fondazione 1563 is committed to the classification, study and dissemination of all the historical documents of the Compagnia.

1563–1853: Fund of the Ancient Compagnia di San Paolo

1853–1950: Fund of Istituto di San Paolo di Torino

1939–1997: EGCLI Fund: Management of property confiscated to Jews and enemies to 200,000 images - that can be consulted and researched using modern and versatile technologies. More than two linear kilometers of documents provide an important source of Piedmontese and Italian history, that can be consulted in the Study room in piazza Bernini 5 and online. To facilitate digital dissemination, the Fondazione 1563 has made available online the archives of the ancient Compagnia di San Paolo (1563–1852) – 45,000 folders and volumes associated and managed by the Opere Pie del Soccorso (1589) and Casa del Deposito (1683) – that evolved into the Educatorio Duchessa Isabella and Ufficio Pio (1595), the latter providing financial and religious assistance. The Compagnia’s assets increased through bequests, leading to intense financial activities that peaked in the mid-1700s. With the advent of the liberal state, in 1853 Vittorio Emanuele II confined the activity of the Compagnia to the religious realm, entrusting all assistance and financial activities to a publicly appointed council, the Opere Pie di San Paolo, which in 1932 became a public-law credit institution, later to evolve into Istituto Bancario San Paolo di Torino. After decades of expansion, the privatization of 1992 separated the institute’s banking activities, entrusted to San Paolo S.p.A., from philanthropic ones, managed by the Compagnia di San Paolo, the foundation that revived the historical name. Since 2012 Fondazione 1563 is committed to the classification, study and dissemination of all the historical documents of the Compagnia.

1563–1853: Fund of the Ancient Compagnia di San Paolo

1853–1950: Fund of Istituto di San Paolo di Torino


1982–1967: Giuseppe and Bartolomeo Gallo Fund


The history of the Compagnia di San Paolo

Founded by seven citizens of Turin in 1563, the Compagnia di San Paolo was established to assist the poorest section of the population and to contain the spread of the Protestant reform. Assistance to the poor translated into home-based care and the creation of various institutions: the Mount of Piety (pawns shop, 1579), and the educational and charitable institutes Casa del Soccorso (1589) and Casa del Deposito (1683) – that evolved into the Educatorio Duchessa Isabella and Ufficio Pio (1595), the latter providing financial and religious assistance.

The Compagnia’s assets increased through bequests, leading to intense financial activities that peaked in the mid-1700s. With the advent of the liberal state, in 1853 Vittorio Emanuele II confined the activity of the Compagnia to the religious realm, entrusting all assistance and financial activities to a publicly appointed council, the Opere Pie di San Paolo, which in 1932 became a public-law credit institution, later to evolve into Istituto Bancario San Paolo di Torino. After decades of expansion, the privatization of 1992 separated the institute’s banking activities, entrusted to San Paolo S.p.A., from philanthropic ones, managed by the Compagnia di San Paolo, the foundation that revived the historical name. Since 2012 Fondazione 1563 is committed to the classification, study and dissemination of all the historical documents of the Compagnia.