

"Curator's letters": Curatorship of Pietro Kandler**Summary**

Pietro Kandler was appointed as the emperor's curator for Istria and the Littoral in 1856. It is evident from the "Curator's letters" published in *Osservatore triestino* that he had a network of trustees who informed him of new archaeological digs and finds and who would send him news of Istrian artefacts. The letters contain his attributions, dating studies and collected artefacts. Kandler explored the artefacts through correspondence with other prominent people from the Istrian cultural life and through his own research in the field. In the area of archaeology and art history he explored epigraphy and numismatics, he studied Roman ruins – their locations, placement and layouts, he studied the most significant monuments of Roman cities – the forum, temples, basilicas, walls, city gates, theatres, aqueducts, ports, roads, necropolis and ager belonging to a city, and he opted for their preservation and restoration. He also studied Medieval, for the most part sacral, architecture and noted every change on the monuments that appeared over the centuries.

With his work he contributed to preservation of many monuments and archaeological digs in the Istrian area. Other than asking the local government to take care of the monuments, especially those in danger of decay, he encouraged anyone who found or owned archaeological or other artefacts to give them to museums to be catalogued and studied. In that way he contributed to enrichment of museum collections which should be available to anyone.