

artistico manifestò colmando il suo tempo libero con la pittura e le esecuzioni sul pianoforte. Con la sua presenza e organizzazione contribuì alla vita sociale e culturale di Pola, mentre nelle città in cui si soffermò, lasciò in ricordo degli edifici rappresentativi.

Archduke Charles Stephen at the Adriatic Sea

Summary

Political changes in the 19th century Europe forced Habsburg Monarchy to channel their military and financial resources to the Eastern Adriatic. The consequence of these actions was the development of Pula, which experienced demographic and all other developments. Among the newcomers were people of all social classes, and one of the more prominent ones was Archduke Charles Stephen of Austria. After graduating from Naval Academy in Rijeka, he had advanced within officer ranks up to the rank of rear admiral. At that point he had retired, often spending his time sailing the Adriatic and governing his estate in Poland. During World War I he became the sponsor of charities responsible for collecting donations for the war, and by the end of the war he was the head inspector investigating the mutiny of sailors in Boka Kotorska, his counsel was the most influential on Emperor Charles I. Because of his ties to Poland, he was considered as the ruler of the country, he was offered the crown by the German Emperor; however, he had refused the offer. During his service, and especially later during retirement years, Archduke had the penchant for sailing the Adriatic. This is why he had built villas in Veli Lošinj, which he had made his base when sailing the Adriatic, and in Pula, where he had relocated due to his duties. Enamoured with the sea and yachts, he had a tendency for designing his own yachts, fulfilling his artistic inclinations by painting and playing the piano in his spare time. He had contributed to the culture and social life of Pula with his presence and arrangements, and to the cities which he inhabited, he had left his monumental edifices as a memento.