Carlo Ignazio Busca Arconati Visconti was part of the nineteenth century fascination towards the culture of Ancient Egypt and came in contact with the main personalities of Egyptology. He travelled to Egypt in 1826. Even before this journey, he had started to collect Egyptian antiquities. The « Busca Papyrus » was known to modern Egyptological literature but the history of its arrival in Europe remained an unsolved question. In-depth research on this collector has resulted in the discovery of many details regarding his life and the formation of his collection, as well as the discovery of two stelae that belonged to him.

**Antecedent facts**

In November 1822, Amalia Nizzoli arrived in Milan. Her husband Giuseppe, originally from Modena but a naturalized Milanese citizen, had been appointed Austrian consular attaché in Egypt where he collected a great number of antiquities. After various vicissitudes, these pieces became the basis of the Egyptian collections in Vienna, Florence and Bologna. Amalia was so fond of Milan that she considered it her city of adoption, as may be gathered from her memoirs. On the first day of her stay, she visited the Duomo and was impressed by its beauty and grandeur; in the evening she attended a performance at La Scala.


2. The *Memorie sull’Egitto e specialmente sui costumi delle donne orientali e gli harem scritte durante il suo soggiorno in quel paese (1819-1828)* were published in Milan in 1841, thanks to Francesco Cusani’s solicitude. This volume has been published, in two subsequent editions, by S. PERNIGOTTI (a cura di), Amalia Nizzoli, *Memorie sull’Egitto e specialmente sui costumi delle donne orientali e gli harem, scritte durante il suo soggiorno in quel paese (1819-1828)*, Imola 2015 (cf. also the Pernigotti’s contribution *infra* in this volume). Two letters from Amilia to Cusani on the subject, dated 11 February and 27 August 1841, are in the Biblioteca Braidense, AF.XIII.14,N.102: cf. L. GABRIELLI, Amalia Nizzoli: nuovi documenti per una biografia, in «Ricerche di Egittoologia e di Antichità Copte», 1 (1999), pp. 66-72.