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Masters and students: the Felici-Bartoli-Stracciati-Corbino case

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In the second half of the 19th century, a special practice of research and training in physics took shape in Pisa, characterized by a peculiar attention to theoretical studies and to combining experimental activity with a profound mastery of mathematical tools.

This approach, carried on especially by Riccardo Felici, Enrico Betti, Adolfo Bartoli and Vito Volterra, was quite an exception in the contemporary Italian physics community, generally marked by strict experimentalism and positivist empiricism.

We highlight a special path connecting this tradition of the Pisan school to the scientific environment formed in the early years of the 20th century at the Physics Institute in via Panisperna in Rome, through the interaction of Orso Mario Corbino with Volterra, and also thanks to the imprinting left on Corbino by Adolfo Bartoli and his student and collaborator Enrico Stracciati.

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