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Caterina Scarpellini (1808-1873): a woman astronomer on the Campidoglio.

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Caterina Scarpellini (1808-1873) spent all her private life and scientific activity in Rome at the Tower of Pope Nicholas V on the Campidoglio. There, she acted first as the assistant guardian of the astronomical instruments of the local Observatory and then as the holder of a meteorological station. During her lifetime, that same place hosted several scientific institutions and took on opposite connotations (first private, then public, then private again) in relation to the political choices of the papal government, but also based on the role that Catherine played within them. My contribution focuses on this story to reflect more broadly on the social dimension of the work of the first female scientists.

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