Pasquale Belli
Italian Sculptor
(1752-1833

He was born in Rome on Dec. 3. 1752, Giambattista and Annunziata Mirabelli. After attending the first studies at the fathers of the pie schools, he directed himself to painting and drawing, under the guidance of L. Pécheux, practicing also restoration works. But soon he devoted himself to architecture, having master P. Camporese the old man. In 1775 he won the second prize in the first class of architecture at the Accademia di S. Luca. Among his early works, as assistant to Camporese. the arch arises to Subiaco in honor of Pius VI and arrangements for accommodation in the palace of Apollinare in Rome.

Subsequently it was the help of G. Antinori and his collaborator in the arrangement of the ancient colossal statues and in the raising of the obelisk on the square of the Quirinal (1783-1786) by Pius VI's will; the rise of the obelisks of Trinità dei Monti (1789) and Piazza Montecitorio (1789-1792) was completed by Belli for the death of the Antinori; He also cared for the construction of Nola's seminary.

On 7 Oct. 1810 was elected Academician of Merit of St. Luke, then actively participating in the life of the Academy: in 1817, together with Canova, Camuccini to Thorvaldsen and other academics, he was part of the commission that reformed the statutes of the Academy itself.

In 1813, along with other architects, including Camporese, he took part in a competition for a monument that Napoleon wanted to raise on Moncenisio in memory of his victory, an unfulfilled undertaking. In 1816, he cared for with Camporese and Zappati, a more appropriate placement of Michelangelo's Moses. His most important work, however, lies in the third decade of the century when he was seventy years old. The 5th week. In 1820 he commissioned to build a crypt after the discovery of 1818 in the lower basilica of Assisi of the remains of St. Francis: he designed a Greek cross-country environment, finished on four sides by emicicules with 16 Doric columns supporting the vault ; the rigidly "neo-classical" taste was not properly blended with the overlying Gothic architecture, so that in 1926 it was decided to destroy the nineteenth-century construction (Ugo Tarchi was commissioned for the new arrangement, which finished work in 1932). In 1821 he was entrusted with the continuation of the works of the Chiaramonti Museum in the Vatican, already begun by R. Stern, work completed in 1822: "he covered the roof: he made the elegant compartment of the entire decoration of it with beautiful stucco and carvings; and so the ornaments that turn around the doors". On the 18th of September 1825 was appointed chief architect of St. Paul's Basilica outside the Walls, and charged with the reconstruction after the destruction caused by the fire in 1823. He abandoned the five dangerous naves and the so-called arcade of Galla Placidia, which perhaps, at least in part , could be preserved, thus destroying the frescoes of Cavallini; in the reconstruction project, however, he respected the principle - supported by Lion XII himself - to respect the original structure of the early Christian basilica; in 1831 the first column of the new church was erected. Bosio and young Pietro Camporese assisted in these works. He had in the meantime arranged the arrangement of the façades of S. Maria della Consolazione

(in the second order) and S. Andrea delle Fratte (1826), both for willful will of Cardinal Consalvi, who had charged Propaganda Fide, his universal heir, to the façade of the Ara Coeli: for this church exists in fact a Belli's design, which nevertheless was never executed.

Belli died in Rome on 31 October. 1833.

Although devoid of an original personality, it has been noted that he has given "his contribution to the formation of the architectural, 'purist', Roman, of those constructors ie, which, until the 1970s, showed to prefer to old forms those Renaissance and Early Christian Age".

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