

Giuseppe Pomba and Giorgio Paravia pioneered the first vertically organized companies that integrated the activities of printing, publishing, and book-selling and produced a number of important works of scholarship and literary significance in these years.

As developments in the publishing sector suggest, the decade of the 1820s offered the first indications of Turin's potential as a center of economic and commercial activities. During these years, a more favorable royal budgetary balance attested to a small, but promising revival of economic life in Piedmont. Charles Felix's government invested a growing share of state resources to improvements in the road system, which facilitated the flow of commercial traffic between his capital and the provinces. By 1827, the king's confidence in his country's economic recovery led him to follow the recommendation of Turin's Chamber of Agriculture and Commerce and decree the institution of triennial expositions "to promote the expansion of the arts and industry". The first industrial exposition, two years later, offered an important showcase for entrepreneurs like the Sella family, the ceramic manufacturer, Richard, and the publishers Paravia and Pomba, who all went on to play enduring roles in the economic life of Italy in the ensuing years.

The relative calm in Turin that characterized the years after 1821 came to an end in 1830 as a result of events in France. The July Revolution in Paris, the fall of the Bourbon king, Charles X, and the accession to the French throne of Louis Philippe and the Orleanist dynasty in the summer of that year, followed by the Belgian and Polish revolutions and successive insurrections in central Italy in 1831, sparked a resurgence of sectarian political activity in the Kingdom of Sardinia. While Turin remained less touched by the unrest than other areas of the realm like Genoa, it nonetheless became the home base for a new secret society, the Knights of Freedom (*Cavalieri della libertà*), in the winter of 1830-31. The conspirators, who included a former member of the king's bodyguard, a surgeon, and a number of young lawyers and junior officers, were plotting an insurrection to overthrow the monarchy and introduce a constitutional regime, when they were discovered and arrested in early April. In this climate of "shadows and suspicions", Charles Felix passed away in his royal capital and Charles Albert became the new Savoyard monarch on April 27, 1831, ushering in a remarkable new era in the history of the city and the Italian peninsula.