

## WHO COLLECTED THESE EGYPTIAN REMAINS?

**Count Lodovico Moscardo (1611-1681) set up a museum in Verona, famous throughout Europe at that time.** Among the various curiosities there were: mummified hands from the necropolis of Thebes and Luxor (Egypt) and the Basilisk, a legendary animal not present in nature, but was manmade by manipulating and mummifying a cartilaginous fish (*Raja clavata*).

## WHERE WAS THE OLDEST NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM OF THE WORLD ESTABLISHED?

**The oldest natural history museum in the world was established in Verona in the second half of the 500's by Francesco Calzolari (1521-1600), considered the first naturalist of Verona.** In the scale model (1:5) the cabinets of his museum are reproduced: they probably contained collections of Bolca fossils, with the typical oval cut.



*Bolca fossils  
from the Calzolari museum:  
note the typical oval cut*

## Why there are Bolca fossil fish in Paris?

Count Giovanni Battista Gazzola (1757-1834) owned a collection of 1200 specimens of Bolca fossil fish that in 1797 the French moved to Paris. Count Gazzola, in a short period of time, formed a new collection from the original nucleus of the current Bolca fossil fish collection present in this museum.