



FONDAZIONE BANCA DEL MONTE DI LOMBARDIA

# Pavia e la sua provincia



## 10-Civic Museums

In the magnificent frame of the Visconteo Castle are reunited, since 1951, the Civic Museums of Pavia. They open on the ground floor with five halls dedicated to the archaeological section.

The first hall includes exhibits of the Gallo Roman era that come from Pavese territories.

The second, called the turquoise hall because of the frescoed vaults of a starlit sky, hosts an Egyptian collection donated by the founder of the museum, the marquis Luigi Malaspina. Thanks to him, man of culture and collector of art and antiques, the first museum unit was formed.

In the third, fourth, and fifth halls, glass and ceramic, architectural works and sculptures, sarcophagus' and funeral stele of the Roman Pavia, are in exhibit. Subsequently, the medieval section opens with the Longobardi hall, that regroups objects of goldsmiths and gravestones, sacred ornaments and early Christian silver, all evidence of the splendid era in which Pavia reigned capital.

The Romanesque Renaissance section is developed in the seventh hall until and including the fourteenth. Bas-relief sculptures, ceramic basins, and architectural and mosaic fragments from suppressed churches are preserved here. Many belonged to the twin cathedrals of Santa Maria del Popolo and Santo Stefano, where the present Duomo was erected.

Climbing the ample staircase brings to the upper floor where the castle halls are, in which the fresco decorations of the 1400s are best preserved. In the east and south wings are the paintings of the Malaspina art gallery, with works of art from the 1300s to the 1700s, grouped by pictorial schools, Italian and foreign. Amongst the many masterpieces, a few stand out: the Madonna with baby by Giovanni Bellini, the Sacred Family by Correggio, the Portrait of Man by Antonello da Messina, the Bottigella Shovel by Vincenzo Foppa and the table with Christ Cross bearer and the ten Carthusian by Bergognone. Among the foreign paintings, the Madonna with baby by Hugo Van der Goes.

The hall of the east tower is occupied by the 1400s grand lineage model of the Duomo of Pavia, piece by Giovanni Pietro Fugazza. Next to it, another model planned at the beginning of the 1800s by Luigi Malaspina and Carlo Amati. It reproduces in scale, a project of remodelling of the facades, and never carried out.

Still on the noble floor, the artworks of the 1800s are arranged, recently enriched by the generous bequest of the Morone donation. Thereby, a vast panorama of the world of Italian painting between the 18th and 19th centuries is given. Among others, artworks are present by Giovanni Hayez, Tranquillo Cremona, Federico Zandomenoghi, Giovanni Boldini, Giuseppe De Nittis and Giovanni Segantini.

The very rich Art Library, the Photo gallery, the section on modern sculpture, and the Gypsy gallery are also part of the Civic Museums. These include plasters, bronzes and terracotta, made between the 18th and 19th centuries.

Finally, very interesting are also the Robecchi Museum and the Pavese Museum of the Italian Revival. The first was donated in 1926 by the Pavese explorer Luigi Robecchi Bricchetti, consequently enriched by other collections: photographs, manuscripts, clothing, jewellery, arms, naturalistic findings and other objects from Africa, particularly from Somalia and Eritrea.

The second was founded in 1885 thanks to the contribution of the citizens of Pavia that donated to the municipality, photographs, books, testimony and documents relative to events of the revival period. Today the exposition, broadened and rearranged, focuses on those events in a social and cultural context, more detailed and complete.

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