

Pordenone, Piazza della Motta

The space of today's Piazza della Motta was originally a non-urbanized area belonging to the Castle of Pordenone, called "prà del castello", which citizens in 1583 asked the Venetian government to transform into the square, built then in 1592 and already used from 1594 to market space especially for animals. On the area, which was accessed from the Piazzetta del Moto (now via della Motta), there was from the first half of the fifteenth century the convent of the Frati Minori Conventuali of San Francesco, built on the will of Francesco Ricchieri on a castle land granted by the Captain.

During the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries the square began to take on the appearance that we know today: the area was covered with cobblestones and probably the modest houses that close the east side of the square were built. In the second half of the eighteenth century the Palazzo dei Monte dei Pegni and the Palazzo Galvani-Damiani, now Casa di Riposo Umberto I, were built. Since then the square, finally closed on all sides (the so-called "noble interruption", anonymous building portico which closed the north side between the convent of San Francesco and the Monte dei Pegni, was demolished in 1960), became an integral part of the life and entertainment of the Pordenone people. Inside there were bullfights and dogs, football matches, games of tennis, carnivals with folk dances, traditional Epiphany bonfires, exhibits of exotic animals, street vendors and bingo games.

During the nineteenth century the square was called "Piazza dei Grani" because of the public barn, located on the top floor of the Palazzo di Monte di Pietà, overlooking the square.

In the sixties of the twentieth century in the centre of the square was placed a circular fountain with a bronze sculpture of St. Francis, by the sculptor Pietro Sam. In 2002 the fountain was eliminated due to its poor state of preservation and the statue was moved to Via della Motta in front of the church of San Francesco.

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December 2018