

## Pordenone, Palace of Monte dei Pegni

The Monte dei Pegni building was built in Piazza della Motta in 1767, as shown by the inscription carved on the entrance portal, replacing the previous site, annexed to the Battuti hospital and the Church of the Christ, which became cramped. The project of the building has come down to us without any signature, but we know that it had the approval of the great Matteo Lucchesi proto engineer of the Serenissima, and that in 1765 the Pordenone manufacturer Giobatta Cajal (or Cagial) put up a cost estimate. The following year the Cajal began the works that were completed in 1767. When the building opened its doors, in 1769, it had not only the function of Monte di Pegni, but also of *biavaro*, that is a warehouse for commerce of the wheat from the public *fontego*, located on the top floor of the building, accessed by an external staircase. Attached to the Monte di Pietà there was also the service of weighing hay, with its guardian.

The building maintained its function as Monte dei Pegni throughout the eighteenth century, but during the Napoleonic domination it often changed its use destination: in 1803 it became a "hay deposit", a hospital and in 1815 it was used as a military barrack. Later, and until the early twentieth century, it returned to be used as Monte dei Pegni. A period of neglect followed, after which it was taken over by the Municipality of Pordenone which converted it into a public dormitory. Starting from 1968, at the end of an important restoration project, the two city libraries, the civic and the scholastic libraries, which had been separated up to that time, were unified in the building. This new function remained in force until 2010, the year in which the Civic Library was transferred to the ancient complex that once housed the Dominican friars' convent.

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