

## **Pordenone, Palazzo Amalteo**

The building probably has a sixteenth-century origin and has the architectural features of a typical Venetian palace. The first testimonies concerning this building date back to 1681 when we remember the palace of the counts Ferro, in Piazza del Moto, now Via della Motta, opposite that of the Amalteo, a family that distinguished itself in the history of Pordenone with characters of letters, arts and sciences, known far beyond local boundaries. In 1729 it is told of a fact of blood happened right near the door of "Casa Amalteo" while in 1760 the palace, opposite the house Ferro, is the property of the noble Antonio Fontana. In 1814 the house was inherited by the brothers Pietro and Gaetano Montereale and in 1824 it was acquired by the Pischiutta family, landowners and shopkeepers, as indicated by an act drawn up by the notary Alvisè Peschiutta.

In 1863, after several decades, from 1831 to 1858, when the Pischiutta family rented some spaces to the Municipality, in particular to obtain classrooms for male (first floor) and female (ground floor) schools, the building was taken over by the Municipality and by that time it hosted several public bodies: in 1871 the palace was the first seat of the city court, in 1872, in a classroom in the inner courtyard, the drawing school established by the workers' society was placed, in 1874 provisionally the municipal office and in 1877 the kindergarten then closed in 1898. In the attics, between the last decades of the 800s and the early 1900s, a part of the municipal historical archive was deposited. Between 1920 and 1930 the Casa del Fascio of Pordenone was housed in the building and towards the end of the Second World War its attics housed some displaced families. In the following years, Palazzo Amalteo hosted many other scholastic institutions: from the Classical High School to the Commercial Technical Institute and for Surveyors, to the Andrea Galvani School of Commercial Practice.

In December 1969 a group of enthusiasts, who had founded the "Società Naturalisti Silvia Zenari", set up a naturalistic exhibition in six rooms on the ground floor of the building, which was a great success. The Municipality of Pordenone then decided to permanently accept the assets of the Company, transforming the building into the Civic Museum of Natural History in 1970. The activity, interrupted abruptly by the 1976 earthquake, resumed in 1991 after an important restoration of the building, assuming the name of Museum of Sciences and hosting both the natural history section and the archaeology section. In 2003 the archaeological section moved to the Castle of Torre to give life to the Archaeological Museum of Western Friuli in 2006. In 2007 the Science Museum resumes the old name of Civic Museum of Natural History named after the Pordenone professor Silvia Zenari (1895-1956), professor at the Institute of Botany of the University of Padua.

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