

## Pordenone, House of the Captains

Palazzo Varmo-Pomo is located in the historic centre of Pordenone, within the urban nucleus that developed in medieval times. The building is traditionally called the "House of the Captains", although it is certain that the imperial captains and the Venetian representatives usually resided in the castle of the city. However, the lack of documents did not allow to determine with certainty the original function of the building. During the conservative restoration of the building, built in the early 2000s, traces of combustion were found on the interior frescoes, probably caused by the fire that destroyed most of the city in 1318. It is hypothesized that the date of construction of the building could be placed at the beginning of the fourteenth century. Particularly interesting are the frescoes on the external facades, a precious testimony of the decorative taste developed in the fifteenth century, also present in other urban centres of Friuli Venezia Giulia and the nearby Veneto. The decoration is realized in "fake upholstery", that is with a serial repetition of a basic motif, as in fabrics. They are geometric squares, punctuated by a triple black line that delimits the compartments and, at the corners, the ornament evolves into bands with stylized foliage motifs. On the side of the building overlooking Via del Mercato, a figure of a warrior, or *Telamone*, with a Nordic taste, which for centuries has attracted the curiosity of passers-by, appears at the chimney. On the surface of the main facade there are also three coats of arms. The first probably corresponds to that of the Tyrolean Baumkirchen family and depicts a church on a red background. The second "of red colour with the silver band" represents the colours of the House of Austria and is surmounted by a box with the imperial sign. Then, the third coat of arms belongs to the noble family of San Daniele and Varmo. It emerged that in 1424 a member of this family, named Guglielmo, held the position of mayor of Pordenone and, in the same year, participated in the laying of the first stone of the church and convent of San Francesco. Among the owners of the building there were also the Pomo, of which we remember the seventeenth-century diplomat Giovanni and the chronicler Giovanni Battista, author in the eighteenth century of the *Comentari Urbani*, analytical descriptions of the life and history of the city.

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