

## **Pordenone, Palazzo Montereale Mantica and Palazzo Mantica Ellero**

Palazzo Montereale Mantica and Palazzo Mantica Ellero initially formed a single complex belonging to the Mantica family, a family of merchants who, in the fifteenth century, have moved from Pordenone to Como. In 1611, on the death of Giovanni Daniele Mantica, the last representative of the dynasty, his nephew Princivalle Montereale was named heir, with the legacy of having to assume the surname Montereale Mantica. In the last decades of the seventeenth century the Montereale Manticas have been quite active in intervening on the building and started a series of transformations aimed at its enlargement. These changes mainly concerned the part of the present Ellero palace. In 1725 the building was inherited by the brothers Giovanni Antonio and Gaetano, who agreed to separate it into two distinct groups, the current Montereale Mantica palace and the Ellero palace. The "Redecima" of 1740 documents that Giovanni Antonio received the Palazzo Ellero and the heirs of Gaetano took possession of the Montereale Mantica palace. From Palazzo Ellero, shops and simple apartments for rent were created. Under the building, the Strada Nuova (now Via Gorizia) was opened in the seventeenth century and, through the disappeared *Porta Cappuccini*, led to the homonymous convent and the church of San Gottardo. Palazzo Montereale Mantica, a few years after the split from Palazzo Ellero, was affected by complex restructuring operations, which restored a new, aristocratic and elegant facade, a large double-height hall with a balcony and a majestic stone staircase. The hall and adjacent rooms were enriched with decorations and stuccos, some by Antonio Francesco Re (1759). For decades the sumptuous palace hosted concerts and cenacles of poets and noble academies. In 1763 - on the occasion of Ottavio's wedding with Maria Elisabetta di Sbrojavacca - the bridal chamber was finished in stucco, with the coats of arms of the two families. Due to financial problems, the palace was sold in 1892 by the Montereale Mantica to the Benedetti family. With the First World War it was the seat of an Austrian military command. In 1944, after the bombing of the Vendramini Institute, the nuns of the Institute moved there and, since the end of the war, they have hosted orphan girls. To the family was left the behind part of the building, on the courtyard. From 1955 to 1964 the palace was the seat of the Gymnasium-Lyceum of Pordenone, but in 1964 it was declared unfit for use. The conservative restoration, carried out between 1983 and 1986, brought the dwelling back to its former glory. Today it is the location of the Chamber of Commerce of Pordenone.

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December 2018