

Pordenone, Palazzo Mantica Cattaneo

Palazzo Mantica Cattaneo is the result of the union of two adjacent but distinct buildings, dating back to the period between the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries and, as it is structured today, has an irregular structure similar to a rectangle, with an internal courtyard.

Surely among the first inhabitants of the palace were the Mantica family, who at the beginning of the 15th century moved from Como to Pordenone. In the mid-seventeenth century the palace passed from the heirs of Andrea Mantica to Cristoforo Cattaneo. The Cattaneo family, who arrived at the beginning of the seventeenth century in Pordenone as merchants, went up, step by step, all the steps of the social hierarchy of the time, until acquiring the noble title of count in the eighteenth century.

The building on the left, with pre-existing windows, now blind, bears traces of geometric friezes and stylized floral decorations and between the first and second floors a strip of string-course with an arched motif. The fresco decorations on the facade, restored in 1992 by Giancarlo and Giovanni Magri, bear the date 1559 on the plaster of the under-eaves. It is assumed that in the realization of this decoration there may be by the hand of Antonio Sacchiense (1515? -1576), grandson of the most famous Pordenone. In the monochrome episodes remaining in the spaces of the under-eaves there are allegorical figures such as the *Tempo alato* between cornucopias, masks, horse heads and panoplies among phytomorphic spirals. Below runs a coloured frieze with grotesques, busts, sphinxes, putti and other allegorical figures around the Mantica coat of arms. In the large, but very ruined, square that appears in the lower part to the right of the building, it is possible to see the epic scene of *Milone sbranato dal leone* (Milone torn apart by the lion). The building on the right shows the frieze of the attic with marine allegories, winged cherubs, a dragon and winged figures. Between the windows of the second floor there is instead the episode of combat between *Valerio Corvino e un Gallo*, attributed to the hand of Giovanni Antonio de Sacchis, called the Pordenone (1483/84-1539). A string course, framed by fake columns, has a frieze with phytomorphic elements, cornucopias, scrolls and in the centre another Mantica coat of arms with the imperial eagle and the lion on three columns.

The dwelling is remembered in the city chronicles for having hosted for a night, in 1797, the young Napoleon Bonaparte, who stopped in Pordenone along the path that would have led him to the victorious battles in Friuli against the Austrian army, culminating then with the Treaty of Campoformido.

Curated by: Dr. Martina Solerte and Dr. Nicoletta Rigoni
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