Continuing the exhibition:

- **manuscripts** (with the famous *Book of the Boatmen of Portogruaro* dated 16th-17th century and the 18th-century *Book of Chapters of the Ferrymen of Portogruaro*);
- **circular wax** seal whose center contains an eagle with outstretched wings. One of the museum's oldest pieces, it belonged to the patriarch of Aquileia, John V of Moravia (1387-1394);
- "***soldo***" or "dinar" of fellow citizen Antonio Panciera, patriarch of Aquileia (circa 1402-1411)

Going up the internal staircase to the top floor of the tower:

- prints, old books, drawings, and vintage photographs that let visitors imagine Portogruaro at the turn of the 20th century. One of the most noteworthy photographs shows the public aqueduct being inaugurated on 2 February 1908 (including a scene of the present-day Piazza della Repubblica, with a fountain in the center);
- an extensive collection of seals belonging to bishops (especially the bishops of Concordia and dating to the 18th-19th century), patriarchs, doges, as well as commemorative medals.



Interno, 2° piano della torre.

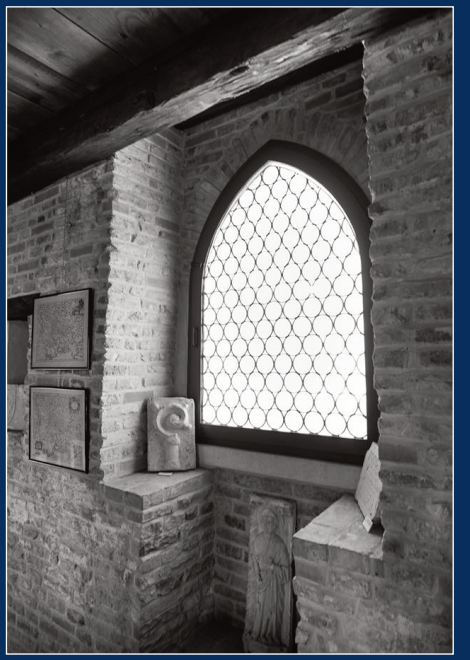

Foto: Fiorenza Azzariti

DISCOVER PORTOGRUARO SCOPRI

City Museum opening hours
Thursday 10.00-12.00 - Saturday 10.00-12.00
Sunday 10.00-12.00

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Città di Portogruaro

PRO LOCO PORTOGRUARO

THE CITY MUSEUM TOWER OF SANT'AGNESE

PORTOGRUARO • Via del Rastrello,1

Foto: Paolo Patorno

Inaugurated on 16 May 1999, the **City Museum** is housed in the ancient **Tower of S. Agnese** and the small building next door. The tower is one of Portogruaro's oldest medieval structures, purchased by the municipality in 1987. In the years following, it was carefully restored to ensure the best use of all its spaces. It may be visited thanks to the care and cooperation of the Pro Loco Portogruaro.



Foto: Paolo Patorno

La torre verso Borgo Sant'Agnese

Dating to the **13th century**, the building is one of Portogruaro's three surviving towers. In medieval times, the city was protected by a wall, which was permanently demolished in 1911. It had five gates that allowed access to the city (*Sant'Agnese, San Giovanni, San Gottardo, San Nicolò – demolished in 1886, and one last tower positioned on the road to Summaga*).

The historical and artistic heritage held in the city museum comes mainly from the non-archaeological collections of the Concordiese National Museum in Portogruaro (Via Seminario, 26). At the entrance, visitors are greeted by images and blow-ups of 15th- and 16th-century Portogruaro, the Mills, and the town hall (on the mezzanine).



Cortile esterno

Moreover, a series of publications by various cultural associations, reconstructing the city's history over time, have been collected. Inside the museum, visitors can appreciate uniformly chronological sections and collections of works *in stone* (paterae, coats-of-arms, statues, epigraphs, and tombstones) and *in metal* (weapons, tools, seals, and medals) plus *some glass and ceramic specimens mostly dating back to the **18th century***.

Among the approximately 300 pieces kept in the museum, the following are on display:

In the **small external courtyard**: note the two tombstones (dating to the 17th century) with inscriptions in Hebrew, evidence of the presence in Portogruaro of a **Jewish community** heavily involved in commercial activities and the Banco dei Pegni (authorized by the City Council in 1575). The cemetery was located in today's Borgo San Gottardo.

One of the larger collections on display is of the stone coats-of-arms (15 specimens) found mainly on the external walls in the museum's courtyard. • **First floor**: an interesting collection of marble and stone **paterae (circular medallions)** carved with zoomorphic decorations. Primarily datable to the 12th and 13th centuries, they were typically used to decorate the façades of religious and civil buildings. Of particular interest are the specimens with such curious subjects as a scaly-bodied snake, two birds facing each other with their long necks intertwined, an eagle snatching a hare, and, perhaps most interesting of all, a mermaid with a double tail sitting on the water.

Of particular note:

A small collection of **glass objects** (dating to the 18th and 19th centuries: three containers for essences and perfumes, a small lampshade, and a painted glass) and **ceramics**, from the 18th century (cake stands, jugs, and a two-handled candle holder). Of most interest is an elegant basket whose handle depicts a blacksmith forging an arrow for the goddess Venus.

Medieval and Renaissance **metal tools** used mainly by artisans: chisel, pincers, strongbox lock, compass, chisel tip, and sturdy nails.



Interno, 1° piano della torre.