



Unione Europea / Regione Marche



FONDO EUROPEO AGRICOLO PER LO SVILUPPO RURALE: L'EUROPA INVESTE NELLE ZONE RURALI

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Ripatransone



Pinacoteca civica

Vincenzo Pagani

Madonna in gloria con Bambino e Santi

Museo Civico Palazzo Bonomi Gera





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CATALOGUE-GUIDEBOOKS FOR THE MUSEI PICENI NETWORK

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CATALOGUE GUIDEBOOKS INTRODUCTION

This guide is part of a set of 22 volumes which will lead the reader on an exciting journey of discovery of Piceno territory. Of these 22 guides, 18 are dedicated to the collections of the four museums that make up the Musei Piceni network (Palazzo de Castellotti museum complex, Offida; Palazzo Bonomi Gera municipal museum, Ripatransone; San Francesco museum complex, Montefiore dell’Aso; San Francesco cultural complex, Monterubbiano). The other four volumes are written as itineraries that focus on the specific history, art and environment traits that forge the Piceno identity (Piceno Museums and Collections; Natural Environment and Environmental Education Centres; Typical Towns and Products in Piceno; Artisan Studios of Piceno). Inspired by the complexity of the museum system and the lavish territory where it is located, these guides offer important proof of the fact that every element of material cultural heritage (whether housed in a museum or otherwise) and of Piceno’s traditional and typical way of life is the product of what happened and was generated in history and by the territory’s social development.

For this purpose, the 18 guides dedicated to Musei Piceni collections not only contain a presentation of each single collection and the relative museum, but also offer the reader an engaging cross-referenced text for putting together the various aspects of the complex web of relationships woven between a museum’s heritage, the actual container, the heritage spread across the territory, and the extensive intangible heritage of customs, traditions, rites, legends, and traditional production processes that still reflect the Piceno identity.

The Italian version of each guidebook comprises two main sections: the first is an introduction dedicated to the museum tour and brief notes point the reader/visitor in the direction of the idiosyncrasies of each collection. The second part focuses on one or more objects in the collection and in addition to the general information and the description of the object, offers a series of focused facts for explaining the artefact in more detail and revealing the link between the object and the museum and territorial context in which it is found.

Foreign language texts, in addition to general information offering concise, immediate tips for locating and identifying the object, contain a **descriptive part**, with three main areas of content: a reading of the image/description, origin and original location (physical context and social setting of provenance), original function and meaning.

The Musei Piceni guidebooks are conceived as four macro categories, one per museum, and are dedicated to the following subjects, which reflect the collections on show in each museum venue.

POLO MUSEALE PALAZZO DE CASTELLOTTI, OFFIDA

1. Museo delle Tradizioni Popolari – museum of folk traditions
2. Quadreria civica – municipal art gallery
3. Museo del merletto a tombolo – bolster lace museum
4. “G. Allevi” municipal archaeological museum.

MUSEO CIVICO PALAZZO BONOMI GERA, RIPATRANSONE

5. Pinacoteca civica – municipal art gallery
6. Galleria d’Arte Contemporanea – contemporary art gallery
7. “U. Gera” plaster cast museum
8. Raccolta storico-etnografica – historical and ethnographic collection
9. “G. Mercantini” – history of the Risorgimento museum

POLO MUSEALE SAN FRANCESCO, MONTEFIORE DELL’ASO

10. Carlo Crivelli room
11. “G. Basili” set design documentation museum
12. Museo della civiltà contadina – museum of rural culture
13. “D. Cantatore” collection
14. “A. De Carolis” – museum

POLO CULTURALE SAN FRANCESCO

15. Model of the Aso valley
16. Museo Civico Archeologico – municipal archaeological museum
17. “S. Mircoli” coin collection
18. Quadreria civica – municipal art gallery

RIPATRANSONE
VIRGIN IN GLORY WITH CHILD AND SAINTS – VINCENZO PAGANI

The *Virgin in Glory with Child and Saints* is on display on the first floor of Palazzo Bonomi Gera, in the fifth of the nine rooms that make up the town's art gallery (Pinacoteca Civica). In addition to the works of Pagani, the gallery vaunts seven panels by Vittore Crivelli (room II); a rich collection of pottery (room III); various paintings of secular allegorical subjects (room IV); altarpieces and other paintings from the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries (rooms VI and VII); a collection of sketches by Francesco Coghetti (room VIII); the building's original furniture (room IX).



Vincenzo Pagani's *Virgin in Glory with Child and Saints* is found in the Sala Pagani, the fifth room of Ripatransone's Pinacoteca Civica, located on the first floor of Palazzo Bonomi Gera. This room is dedicated to the works that the Monterubbiano-born artist left to Ripatransone. Besides the *Virgin in Glory with Child and Saints*, there is an *Enthroned Virgin with Child and Saints Catherine, Nicholas of Tolentino, Joseph, and Augustine*, an altarpiece which still retains its original wooden frame, from the church of Sant' Agostino in Sant'Elpidio a Mare, brought to Ripatransone in 1970 after it was purchased by Uno Gera. Another work from the church of Sant'Agostino in Sant'Elpidio a Mare is displayed in this room: the *Virgin between Saints Sebastian and Victoria*, probably painted by Vincenzo Pagani with his father Giovanni. Worthy of note, since they illustrate the artistic context in which Pagani worked in Ripatransone, are two large canvases with Saint Mary Magdalen and Saint Martha, produced for the Minor Observant Church of Ripatransone after the plague of 1527–28 by Luca di Costantino, an Ancona painter and contemporary of Pagani.

The *Virgin in Glory with Child and Saints Martin, Michael the Archangel and George*, was painted in 1529 by Vincenzo Pagani to a commission for Pietro Giovanni Spina to furnish the high altar of the church of San Michele Arcangelo in Ripatransone, of which the purchaser was the rector. The altarpiece was surrounded by a lovely wooden frame of which only the base remains. The subject is a sacred conversation, namely a representation that was popular in the fifteenth–sixteenth centuries, to replace the medieval polyptych of the *Enthroned Virgin with Child surrounded by Saints*. From a composition perspective the altarpiece is in two orders. In the upper part the Virgin and Child are depicted on a carpet of clouds with a host of angels, reminiscent of Raphael's Madonnas; in the foreground the painter has depicted Saint Michael the Archangel (centre), patron of the church for which the altarpiece was commissioned; Saint Martin (left), depicted in his iconography as a bishop with a cope, pastoral and book; Saint George (right), with a sword and long spear, dressed in the armour that alludes to his status of knight. In the background there is a large, airy hill landscape that recurs frequently in Vincenzo Pagani's corpus and which serves as a connecting element between the heavenly nature of Mary and the earthly experience of the Saints.



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