



Projet Erasmus+ Namur - Marsala

"Patrimonia"



A la découverte du patrimoine historique, architectural et culturel

"Pepoli" Museum Trapani and the Sanctuary of the Virgin



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ISISS « Abele Damiani » - Marsala

ABSTRACT



"Pepoli" Museum Trapani

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Signes historiques

The "A. Pepoli" regional museum of Trapani is located in the old premises of the convent of the Carmelite fathers, near the sanctuary of Maria Annunziata, where we worship the famous marble simulacrum of the Virgin of Trapani, work attributed to the sculptor Nino Pisano (1360 Ca.). The building was built in the 14th century and then restored from the 15th to the 18th century. The museum is entitled to founder, Count Agostino Pepoli, who invented it as a Civic Museum between 1906 and 1908; in 1925, thanks to the importance and richness of its historical and artistic heritage, it became a royal museum and even in 1946 a national museum.

The museum

On the ground floor, the section devoted to Renaissance sculpture includes works by 14th and 16th century coming largely from local churches, which most representative core is built around creations of Antonello Gagini and his sons Vincenzo and Giacomo.

The historical section of the Risorgimento houses memories and relics telling the story from the early 19th century to the annexation to a unitary state: from the guillotine used in Trapani in the Bourbon era, busts of Garibaldi, Cavour and Vittorio Emanuele II. A small adjoining room accommodates paintings of Sicilian painters including Giuseppe Errante and Giuseppe Patania.

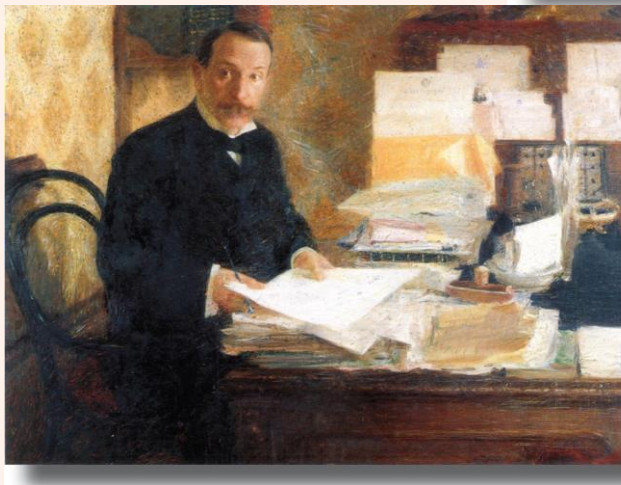
On the upper floor is the "Scalone Magnifico", an example of Baroque architecture, whose elegant balustrade features small red marble columns and a sumptuous handrail.

On the first floor is the "Polittico" representing the Virgin on the throne with the child between angels and saints, and the intense "Pity" of Roberto de Oderisio, disciple of Giotto.



In the large room dedicated to "Natura Morta" painting is the work called "Allegoria della terra" by the Flemish painter Abraham Brueghel.

Allegoria della Terra



The painting represents Nunzio Nasi, a work of Giacomo Balla who immortalized the famous politician of Trapani, then Minister of Education.

Portrait de Nunzio Nasi

Of great interest is the large section dedicated to the decorative and applied arts of the master craftsmen of Trapani for the work of coral, ivory, shells, hard stones, gold and silver.

Andrea Trapani's artist Andrea Tipa's creativity must be brought back to Nativity scenographic works with alabaster figurines. (the egg seller).



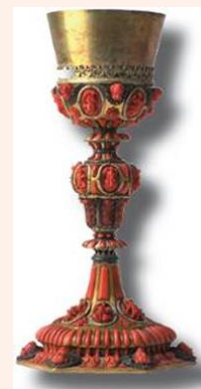
The egg seller (figura di presepe)

The section dedicated to jewelry, largely from the "Treasure of the Virgin of Trapani" through the donations of the faithful to the simulacrum, preserved in the Sanctuary of the Annunziata includes crowns, pendants, earrings, tiaras , etc. ...

The craft of coral is represented by many artefacts of sacred and profane use (chalices, crucifixes, rosary crowns, reliquaries, jewelry) from churches and convents of the region or private collections.



The mastery of the combination of different materials (silver, coral, enamel) and the quality of the finishing touch allowed the artists "Corallari" to produce a series of works expressing this noble art, like the Crucifix of Trapani from Fra Matteo Bavera. The same author made the Lampada pensile in gilded copper, coral and enamel. In the hall of sacred furniture stands the Paliotto, embroidered with silk and silver threads and applications of coral beads and Bohemian granadines, which reproduces the perspective of a rich palace.



In the center of the room are Greek and Roman amphorae. Of extraordinary expressive intensity are the fishing techniques practiced for centuries in the Mediterranean Sea of which we can observe the masonry floors of the eighteenth century, the work of Neapolitan masters.



Les informations et images suivantes ont été prises sur le site web www.amicimuseopepoli.altervista.org

The Virgin of Trapani

Translated by Muguette Rabaud 



Going back to the origin of the arrival in Trapani of the simulacrum of the Virgin is a difficult undertaking. Historical records are scarce; it seems that a severe epidemic, in the middle of V century, convinced public health officials to give to the flames furniture, books, convent writings, which had been infected by the plague victims. “Due to the wound of the times and the negligence of writers, it is unknown when this holy image arrived”. From a document, it appears that the statue of the Virgin had to be found in Trapani before 1345, in a chapel called “our wife”. The statue of the Virgin was already present in 1428, when Anna of Sibilis, in her last will, ordered a goldsmith to make for the image of the Virgin a beautiful and well-worked silver crown weighing about 500 grams. Among the most reliable legends about the origin of the statue of Our Lady, one of them tells that Our Lady, sculpted in Cyprus and venerated in Famagosta (city on the coast of the island), arrived in Trapani on a Pisan ship in 1291.

It can be attributed to the Pisan workshop, whose representatives are Nino and Father Andrea Pisano. The image of Our Lady of Trapani, venerated with great love and veneration by the inhabitants of Trapani, is a statue of marble, monolithic, 1.65 meters high and finely engraved. The Virgin holds the Child in her left arm and has her right hand on her son who carries his hand to his mother’s chest. Her face is “particularly kind”. Her eyes are not turned to her son, but to those who contemplate her. Her head is slightly tilted. The Child is held in the arms of the Mother and is also crowned. He wears a straight tunic. His hair is thick and curly. He has the face of an adult child. His eyes are serene and confident towards his Mother.



Solemn Coronation

The date fixed for the coronation is August 15, 1733, the solemn date of the Assumption of Mary; the crowns arrived late and it was decided to postpone the coronation to March 14, 1734. August 15 of each year marks the end of the Feast of the “Virgin of Trapani” which ends on August 16 with the celebration of a Bishop’s Mass and a procession through the streets of the historic center and the traditional fireworks.

Patroness of the city and diocese of Trapani

On January 30, 2006, by Decree of the Sacred Congregation of Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, the Virgin was confirmed Patroness of the Diocese of Trapani.



Information and images from www.madonnaditrapani.it