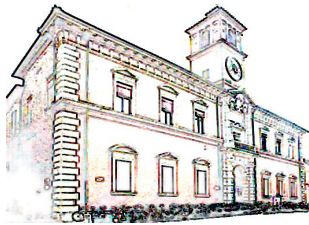


The building

Palazzo Paradiso was started to be built in 1391. It wanted to celebrate the wedding of Alberto d'Este with Giovanna Cabrino from Reggio. This name, *Palazzo Paradiso*, reveals a series of frescos which do not exist any longer today and which were dedicated to the *Reign of the Beati* and to the glory of Heaven. The name is also connected to the existence of a closed garden as it was very common to have gardens in the noble buildings of the 14th century. The word "Paradise" comes from the greek word "Paradeisos" which means a "Closed place". *Palazzo Paradiso* was born as a private Estense property and it was later used as a place to check other most populated places in the city where were located most of the commercial activities and the "Ghetto degli Ebrei". It was a palace that hosted the Council of Cristhian Churches and important people such as the cardinal Bessarione or Pope Eugenio IV, to mention just a few. In 1567 the municipality rented the Palace from Ippolito d'Este and in it were located university schools. Then the municipality bought it in 1586 other important transformations were made in the XVIII century: the *Teatro Anatomico*, the *Accademia del Disegno*, the *Orto Botanico* and the *Sala della Biblioteca*, now Sala Ariosto, were born in this period. The elegant marble staircase, which takes upstairs to the library rooms, was built in 1780 by the architect Antonio Foschini. An important event was the removal, in 1801, of the ashes and of the Memorial dedicated to Ludovico Ariosto from the church of S. Benedetto.



Figurative aspects



Two important frescos were discovered in this place in September 1851. They represented two chivalric episodes of the first years of the fifteenth century.

In the sixteenth century they were placed in the *Palazzina*

Marfisa d'Este and, a few years later, they came back to their original place.

They are an example of the late gothic painting and they were the work of many different painters. We must also remember many more works in this period such as the "Frammenti Monocromi" of the so called Green Room and a Crucifixion.

There are also the frescos of the *Sala di Ercole* and in it it is very important to notice an astronomer with a lion skin on his head and an astrolabe in his hand (probably referring to the myth of Hercules).



There are also many fighting pictures on the walls of the *Sala dei Cavalieri* and many hunting scenes in the *Sala del Falcone*.

From the end of the XVI century to 1851 this building started to be related to the University and there are other improvements to the building which show some differences: there are many pictures of the University Professors and the tempera of Antonio Ghedini made in 1773 which shows *La Sapienza*. This tempera is considered the most beautiful example of the profane painting made in Ferrara in those years.

The library

After that the Ducato Estense passed to the Church and the Court moved to Modena, Ferrara lost quite a large part of the patrimony of the Este Library. The public library, however, was born only in 1747. It was part of the University and it was supervised by Giovannandrea Barotti, a scholar. Three years later the Magistratura received the library of the cardinal Cornelio Bentivoglio and also some other important donations such as the collection of the Cardinal Riminaldi to whom the Sala Riminaldi has been dedicated. The Library was officially inaugurated in 1753.

With the coming of the Napoleonic age the Library became the place where all the books taken from the religious institutions were set and it no longer depended on the University but on the City hall. When the reign of Italy was created the Library passed again in the hands of the University.

The name "Ariostea" was born in 1933 together with the celebrations of the fourth anniversary of Ariosto's death. Next to the "Collezione Ariostea" there are today the "Collezione Savonaroliana" and other precious manuscripts. Very important are also, especially for the lovers of history and heraldry, the Collezione Antonelli, il Fondo Antolini, il Fondo Statuti, la Raccolta degli Autografi which complete the ancient patrimony. Recently the library has had the Fondo Govoni, which consists mostly of the personal library of the poet, and the Biblioteca Caretti: both important for the contemporary culture; it complets ALFE, the Literary Archive of Ferrara (XX century). Today, the library follows the procedures of the National Library Service with updated computer services.



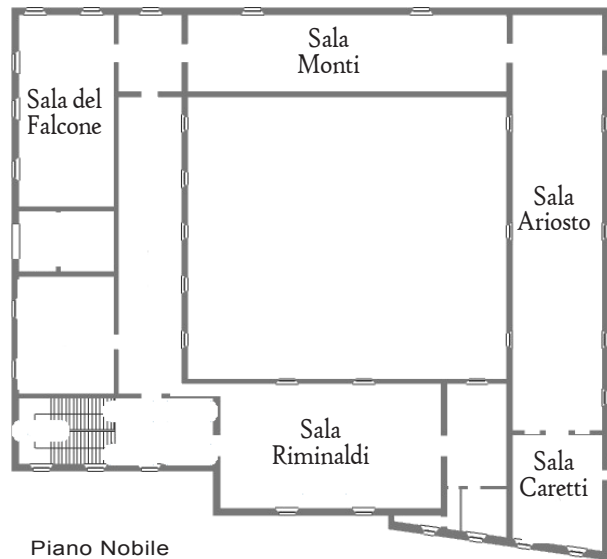
VENETIAN WATER BUTTS (XV-XVI SEC.)



The water butts below were underground rain storage tanks which were found in the courtyard in 1984. They were used for collecting and purifying rain water through a complex system of downpipes which carried rainwater from the roof and filters which made water drinkable.

This system is said “venetian” because it was butts may also be seen in some of the most important renaissance palaces of the city, and even in the Estensi’s castle. They ceased from being, used for water storage in XVII century and they became cesspools.

A great quantity of waste material was found inside the butts: there were mainly everyday objects, earthenware and glassware but also soles and coins.



Riferimenti web e social

RIFERIMENTI WEB E SOCIAL

<http://archibiblio.comune.fe.it>

<http://www.youtube.com/archibiblio>

<https://www.facebook.com>

[BibliotecaComunaleAriostea/twitter@archibiblio](https://twitter.com/archibiblio)

www.instagram.com/bibliotecariostea_official/

Fausto Natali 2023

a&b
archibiblio
ferrara



BCA
BIBLIOTECA COMUNALE ARIOSTEA

Comune di Ferrara
Assessorato Politiche e Istituzioni Culturali
Servizio Biblioteche e Archivi

Biblioteca Comunale Ariostea
Via Scienze, 17 Ferrara
44121 Ferrara
tel 0532 418200



**History
of Palazzo Paradiso
and of the Library
- English -**