

MINISTERO PER I BENI  
E LE ATTIVITÀ CULTURALI

DIREZIONE REGIONALE PER I BENI  
CULTURALI E PAESAGGISTICI  
DELLA TOSCANA

SOPRINTENDENZA PER I BENI  
ARCHITETTONICI, PER IL PAESAGGIO  
E PER IL PATRIMONIO STORICO,  
ARTISTICO ED ETNOANTROPOLOGICO  
DELLA PROVINCIA DI AREZZO

REGIONE TOSCANA

PROVINCIA DI AREZZO

COMUNE DI AREZZO  
COMUNE DI MONTERCHI  
COMUNE DI SANSEPOLCRO

COMUNITÀ MONTANA  
VALTIBERINA TOSCANA

CAMERA DI COMMERCIO, INDUSTRIA  
ARTIGIANATO E AGRICOLTURA DI AREZZO

BANCA ETRURIA

TOSCANA PROMOZIONE  
AGENZIA PER IL TURISMO DI AREZZO

The Museum is located in the Renaissance-style Bruni Ciochi Palace, built by Donato Bruni (Leonardo's son) as from 1445, and is not far from San Lorentino's Door. The 3-floor building is also known as the Customs Palace: in fact, in 1816, when it was transferred to the Tuscan Government, it was turned into a customs and salt storehouse. On the ground floor, where elements of previous medieval buildings can still be found, there is a beautiful courtyard with elegant "serena" stone columns and composite capitals attributed to *Bernardo Rossellino*, while on the first floor visitors can admire a great hall and pensile garden.

The Museum is one of the most significant museums in Tuscany for the importance of the works and variety of collections it displays. It was opened as a State Museum in 1972, assembling collections of different kinds and origin coming from a large number of collectors, erudites and artists of Arezzo's leading civil and religious institutions. Its two main sections are, in fact, constituted by collections of the *Laymen Fraternity* and of the Municipality of Arezzo, combining many other important collections in Arezzo. The collections bear witness to the development of art in its different forms, and mirror the complex artistic history and great cultural wealth of Arezzo. The halls on the ground floor are devoted to Medieval sculpture, and are dominated by the big sandstone statue of Saint Michael the Archangel, found in the Medici's Fortress, and by the 14th century *Virgin Maries* of the Doors of the Tarlatesca boundary walls.

A 17th century grand staircase leads to the first floor and to the first three halls, with masterpieces of Medieval painting in Arezzo — from Margarito to Spinello aretino and Parri di Spinello. The show-cases display Medieval and late Renaissance jewellery.

The following halls contain works by Bartolomeo della Gatta, Luca Signorelli, Domenico Pecori and a selection of steel weapons, among which the valuable *Parade Crest* and *the Urn of Saints Lorentino and Pergentino*.

The other halls contain collections of bronze works and plates, and above all a splendid collection of majolicas decorated with historical scenes, which are among the most important in Italy, with famous works by the main Italian manufacturers, such as *Cup of Hercules and Omphale* by Francesco Xanto Avelli and Maestro Giorgio Andreoli, and the *basin* coming from Fontana's workshop in Urbino, with the *Triumph of Galatea*.

The large corridor is dominated by Vasari's monumental painting representing the Banquet of Esther and Assuerus, where collections of coins, medals and merchants' cards are also displayed.

The Salmi collection, with works by Cristoforo Munari, Alessandro Magnasco and a painting by Adriano Cecioni, *Aunt Herminia*, is also notable.

The halls on the second floor also contain an exhibition of 16th century paintings (with works by Luca Signorelli, Giorgio Vasari, Alessandro Allori, Ludovico Carracci), of 17-18th paintings (including works by Viviano Codazzi, Carlo Dolci, Jacopo Vignali, Gaspard Dughet and Salvator Rosa), and 19th century, neoclassic and romantic works by Carlo Ademollo, Pietro Benvenuti, François Gerard and by Macchiaioli painters, such as Giovanni Fattori and Telemaco Signorini.

