

# CASSERO TOWER

Perugians built the Casseretto around 1330 and the Tower itself seems to date back to this period although this appears to be built on a small rise which may have been elder. The Casseretto appears today as a square plan structure of which only the perimeter walls with their round-arch portal were preserved and including, besides an extremely deep well, a narrow staircase leading up to portal through which the Tower is accessed.

A newly renovated wooden staircase leads all the way to the top of the tower allowing visitors to get acquainted with the different stages in which the structure was built and characterizing the same: the opening through which the terraces of the Porta del Soccorso were accessed, the four large round-arch windows ending with smaller square openings, four embrasures and the works of the 18th century weight clock. In the upper part of the Tower where remains of the brackets supporting the tower's balconies and battlements are still visible stands a dell gable with a single lancet window where in 1804 was placed a large bell named "Calfurnia".



# OLD COLLECTION



The Castiglion Fiorentino Public Library was founded in 1873 after

The abolition of Religious Companies. After this abolition, the Municipality of Castiglion Fiorentino asked for the government's permission to take ownership

of the libraries in order to avoid sale and dispersion of its documents and manuscripts. Once the libraries are in the municipality's ownership, the institution of the Public Library was deliberated with the goal to serve the needs of students and the youth. The Ancient Room was established by the Scolopiani, Minori Conventuali and Cappuccini libraries.

The Ancient Room is composed of around 12000 volumes on Law, Religion and Philosophy. The Library was originally located in two of the rooms in the Palace of Scolopi, and then in the City Hall. It then relocated to the Palace of Dragomanni and finally found its final location in the rooms of the Palazzo Pretorio in 1999. The first librarian, in 1873, was Sir Giuseppe Ghizzi, author of the first book History of Castiglion Fiorentino.

During the years, the Castiglion Fiorentino Public Library acquired more rooms such as the Ghizzi Room and is now composed of an important quantity of manuscripts, prints, original documents, and copies. There is also the Serristori Room, where one can find many works such as two antiphonaries from the XII century, incunabula, and books of the 1500's. The Valdarnini Room was donated to the Municipality by the well known Professor of Philosophy's heirs. The Tafi Room includes all of Monsignor Angelo Tafi's library volumes. And finally, the Salvemini Room contains a precious volume collection about Jurisprudence which covers the time span from the XV century to the XVIII century.

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Città di Castiglion Fiorentino

# Sistema Museale Castiglione



## PICTURE GALLERY

The city Picture Gallery is housed in the renovated premises of the ancient, former church of S. Angelo al Cassero.

The Picture Gallery houses a collection of high quality paintings and a collection of impressive pieces of Medieval and Renaissance jewellery.



Amongst the paintings on display: the large *Cross* (tempera on panel) datable to the 60s of the 13th century, the *Stigmata of St. Francis* by Bartolomeo della Gatta, *St. Francis* by Margarito d'Arezzo, the bright *Madonna with Child* by Taddeo Gaddi and pieces by Giovanni di Paolo and Jacopo del Sellaio.

Moving on to the jewellery pieces: a cross shrine from the 13th century, the *Holy Cross*, manufactured by French goldsmiths with gold plated silver filigree and the *Reliquary Bust of St. Orsola*, a 14th century carved and chiselled piece of Rhine manufacture studded with precious stones and enamels.

The mentioned pieces alone would be more than enough to build an extraordinary collection. Within the collection you will also find precious shrines, monstrances with enamels and other extremely interesting pieces of jewellery.

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM

The Archaeological Exhibition is housed in the recently restored Palazzo Pretorio. The exhibition showcases findings from excavation campaigns carried out in the surroundings and the area of the Cassero that allow to identify Castiglion Fiorentino as a formerly, unknown Etruscan centre surrounded by walls (4th century b.C.) and the site of a sanctuary (late 6th century—early 4th century b.C.) with polychrome terracottas.

Worth mentioning amongst the various findings on display the bronzes (copies) of the famous “Deposito di Brolio” (550-500 b.C.) for which a new interpretative reading is proposed and the findings from the Etruscan site of Brolio—Melmone serving as an example of a productive and trade settlement on the river *Clanis*.

The collection is characterised by its state-of-the-art computer and didactic facilities and for its several multimedia supports.



## UNDERGROUND PASSAGE

The underground path running beneath the Cassero includes part of the areas investigated in the course of several excavation campaigns carried out from 1989 to 2004. The archaeological site shows an extraordinary degree of settlement continuity from the Etruscan Age (8th century b.C.) to the middle ages which constitutes the actual common thread running through the entire exhibition.

All structures existing prior to the first half of the 14th century were torn down and raised to the current level within the framework of urban transformations carried out under bishop Tarlati; it was then that the hamlet of the Cassero was turned into a fortress.

The restoration and enhancement work carried out on the area fully complies with the 13th century arrangement of the site as it brought back to life the former parade ground and allows guests to visit the underground areas discovered at different stages by archaeologists. In the area of Casseretto dwellings from the hellenistic period were enclosed within medieval premises whilst in the crypt of the church of S. Angelo were discovered Etruscan Wall remains and materials dating back to the late 7th century b.C. and the late hellenistic period.

