



## The carnival of Venice



The first Doge, who authorizes the Carnival, was Vitale Faliero de' Doni, in 1094.

rotten eggs. In 1268, a decree forbade masked men to indulge in this game.

The Carnival of Venice began with a ball and continued with streets shows: theatre, concerts or games. The Venetians, of all social conditions, put on the bauta. The bauta is a costume composed of three pieces: the tricorn, black hat with three tips, the tabarro, long black cape and la larva or volto, white mask in papier maché. People hid the identity, everyone became equal and everything was permitted.



In the 16th century, controlled by the authorities, the carnival of Venice formalized certain customs such as the wearing of the mask, the entertainment on the small squares.

Many particularly cruel games, and fortunately today disappeared, took place at the expense of animals.



Soon, the costumes became more evolved, drawing their inspiration from the costumes we knew then, those of the Commedia dell'Arte. The whole city was transformed, sang, danced. Venice was the city of seduction and pleasure of life. But some practices were questionable. The young people, disguised as a clown in their mattacino costume, threw eggs filled with rose water at the beautiful ladies passing-by. As for those considered less attractive, they got





The 18th century was the peak of the Venice Carnival. On some occasions, more and more numerous, some Venetians used to wear a mask. This could give the impression of a



carnival that lasted 6 months. In 1797, under the rule of Napoleon, the Venice Carnival was banned. The Austrians finally rehabilitated the party. But the Carnival no longer experienced the same popular enthusiasm.



It was towards the end of the 1970s, that some teenagers reconnected with the (admittedly questionable) tradition of rotten eggs. Today, Carnival lasts 10 days before Ash Wednesday. Despite the economic stakes, which could have tarnished this extraordinary festival, the Venice Carnival still attracts visitors from all over the world. In Venice, everything is rented and booked well in advance. Prices soar. The streets and alleys are saturated with walkers. There are some pedestrian traffic jams in front of the vaporetti, on the bridges or in the narrow alleys. But, this trampling is always done with a festive spirit at least for tourists.



Nowadays, the costumes are left to the free appreciation of everyone. They are not mandatory, of course, but participate in the spirit of the Carnival of Venice. But be careful, we do not disguise oneself, we put a costume. Nothing trivial, nothing rude. It is the Carnival of elegance and refinement.



**Article from Véronique LEMOINE**  
Secrétaire du CJO

**English translation: Alain RICHARD**

### **The next activities of your twinning association** **(subject to change)**

**Annual general meeting on the 28th of May, 2021**

**Our next visit in Bourne End (United Kingdom), set from 3rd to 7th June 2021**  
**is postponed to 2021, at the request of our English friends**

**The next visit of our friends from Furci Siculo (Sicily) to Octeville**  
**should happen during summertime but the date is not yet determined**

**Our one daytrip to London is postponed**

**The trip to Egypt with a cruise on the Nile**  
**has been postponed from 23rd to 30th Octobre 2021**

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