



ERASMUS+ 2017-1-ES01-KA219-038074_1
OUT OF THE DARK: ASTRONOMY AS UNIFYING THREAD FOR CULTURES.



Visit to Gubbio

The Studiolo of Federico di Montefeltro



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Introduction

Gubbio is one of the most ancient medieval towns of the Umbria region, as witnessed by the Tables of Gubbio (Tavole Eugubine). These are seven bronze tablets, written in the native Umbrian alphabet probably from the 3rd to the 1st century BC, discovered in a farmer's field in the year 1444 and currently housed in the Civic Museum of the Palazzo dei Consoli. They contain information on the uses and customs of this beautiful town.

It is a place rich in history, culture, art and old traditions. Its buildings clearly show the passage from Middle Ages to the Renaissance. During the Renaissance period it was ruled by Federico da Montefeltro who was a real Renaissance man. He became Duke of Urbino in 1474 and made it an intellectual centre. In his palace in Urbino, he built a study room (studiolo) intended for meditation and study, he also had a studiolo built in his Ducal Palace in Gubbio (where he was born).

The Ducal Palace in Gubbio (interior)



Materials

Pictures, Internet to look up information, tourist guides

The studiolo in the Ducal palace



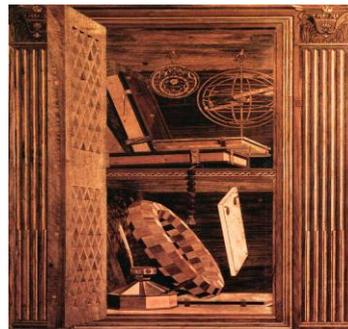
Procedure/Method

Students researched information about the Duke of Montefeltro and his studiolo in the Ducal Palace in Gubbio. They passed the information to their foreign partners using English, acting as guides.

Results

All the students were able to visit and admire the studiolo; actually it is a faithful copy of the original one that was sold to the Metropolitan Museum of art in New York in 1939. It is built in a wood-inlay technique known as intarsia to render realistic, two-dimensional images. In addition, paint and more intarsia is used to depict objects that refer to the Duke's studies. The depicted objects include **measuring instruments, astronomy instruments**, a tropical bird in a cage, armor, books, and musical instruments. The studiolo's coffered wood ceiling is adorned with carved geometric designs. Three windows provide lighting for the room.

Scientific and astronomical objects studied by the Duke of Montefeltro in his "studiolo" in the Ducal Palace in Gubbio



Conclusions

We have learnt that many of the scientific, artistic and cultural achievements of the so-called Renaissance share common themes—most notably the humanistic belief that man was the centre of his own universe. In Gubbio everyone was able to have a tangible idea of the passage from the Middle Ages to the Renaissance period, visible throughout the architecture that goes from the Roman period (Roman theatre) the Medieval buildings (e.g. Counsellor palace) to get to the Ducal palace of Federico di Montefeltro.

Bibliography

Wikipedia: Federico da Montefeltro, Ducal Palace in Gubbio
See blog: Out of the Dark

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