



HISTORICAL HERITAGE HELPS BUILDING EUROPE

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I.I.S. "LEONARDO DA VINCI" POTENZA

ITALIA

BASILICATA

A COLLECTION OF FOLK LEGENDS AND STORIES

THE LEGEND OF SATRIANO TOWER

Rocco Pignata, IV B Linguistico



Alessia Tomasillo – IV A Lin.

The tower is on a hill between the village of Satriano and the town of Tito. That is why there is an historical feud between these two places. It is a tall tower with a square base, built between the V and the VII centuries. There are two legends linked to this place.

The first legend says that the cruel Queen of Naples Giovanna II, King Ladislao's sister, made a beautiful maid move from Terlizzi to Apulia,

protected by an armed escort. When they passed through Satriano, the noble woman was kidnapped because her beauty was dazzling. Two escort members begged and begged until they managed to set her free but Queen Giovanna II ordered cruel revenge and the settlement was fired and destroyed by her army after coming back to Satriano. The fire left intact only the Tower and few walls. The population moved to "Pietrafixa", a village under the tower which would be named "Satriano di Lucania" at the end of 1800s.

There is also a more fantasy story, though. There was a beautiful queen going through Satriano who had heard about a handsome baron living nearby. Therefore, she decided to go to his house with a maid, Siae, to seduce him. That was love at first sight, but between the maid and the baron! The Queen, who was madly jealous, left Satriano to lock the maid in a tower. But the baron did not surrender and, with his fighters, followed the royal procession and came back to Satriano with the maid. To take revenge, the Queen besieged the castle and the two lovers died under the ruins of the tower. It is said that, when the cock sings and the storm flies, you can still hear the baron and Siae's horse running, running and running far from the Queen to preserve their love.

EMANUELE GIANTURCO

Rossella Potenza, Tatiana Ridolfi, IV A Tecnico, Avigliano



Emanuele Gianturco, a jurist, a musician and, above all, a famous Italian politician was born in Avigliano (Potenza) in 1857. He studied in Naples, where he graduated in Law and obtained a Diploma as Master of Music at the Conservatory of San Pietro a Maiella. He became one of the most important personalities in the struggle for liberty, establishing himself as a lawyer and as a politician. He was a renowned jurist and a professor of Civil Law at the University of Naples, where he founded the Italian school of Roman law. He wrote important law works, including the *System of Civil Law* and the *Institutions of Civil Law* which are considered as milestones in civil law.

He was an interpreter of his time and of the needs of the South of Italy, especially of Basilicata, his native land. His dream was to renew the whole world, to bring peace and love among people.

After his election to Parliament in 1889, his commitment was to make Basilicata rise from its condition of economic and social weariness and he fought several battles in Parliament for the emancipation of the South of Italy. He was Under-secretary of State for Justice, then Minister of Education, Minister of Justice (twice) and finally he was Minister of Public Works until November 1907, when he resigned due to health problems. He died in the same year.

In 1926, the town of Avigliano dedicated a monument to him in the main square. People from Avigliano are very proud of this monument because he was a great man. A man who was not afraid of anything, who just wanted the welfare of his country. That is why people from Avigliano consider him as a model.

THE POOR COBBLER

Annamaria Sarli, IV D Linguistico

Once upon a time, in Basilicata, there was a poor cobbler. It was the late 90s of XIX century and in



that period there was a terrible band of brigands who terrified the population.

Their den was in a hollow tree where they used to go after their robberies.

One day the cobbler saw them and when they went away, he entered the tree and took some money, not too much to prevent the brigands from being suspicious.

He went back to the tree two more times, then he understood that the brigands suspected someone had stolen their money, so he did

not go there anymore.

The bandits prepared a trap for the mysterious thief: they hid near their den and waited for him.

The cobbler's brother, a greedy merchant, after hearing his brother's story, decided to steal some money without saying anything to the cobbler. When the brigands saw him, they killed and quartered him and left his body in a faraway field. The cobbler, who had followed his brother and had seen everything, took his brother's body and brought it home where he filled it with all the money he had stolen.

Then he sewed up his brother's body and left him far from his house, because he did not want to be discovered and die like his brother. He had forgotten his dream of being rich.

The brigands thought there were other thieves and tried to find them out but they never managed to get their money back.

FEDERICO BARBAROSSA'S BARBER

Marco Lo Sasso, IV A Tecnico



Once upon a time there was a king called Federico Barbarossa (Frederick Redbeard). When he grew old, he retired to Lagopesole Castle; being affected by a disease that had made his ears very long, he was forced to wear long hair. To keep his secret, he used to lock up all his barbers in a tower. In this tower there was a trap, through this trap the barbers fell into a hole and died. One day a young barber managed to escape from the deadly tower. When they found him, the king decided to spare the barber and made him promise that he would not reveal his secret.

The secret was very difficult to keep though, so not to break the promise made, the young barber went to a wood which was very far from Lagopesole, and after digging a hole, he cried his secret into it. After some time, where the hole used to be there were some barrels instead. Still today on a windy day, we can hear the barrels singing their secret to all passers-by.

LEGENDS

Giulia Matturro, IV A Ling

Legend says that one day a shepherd, whose name was Paolino, found out a perfect place to build Castelmezzano. Paolino, who was travelling to look for new rich pastures, detected this perfect place to rescue the inhabitants that were in danger. This place was protected by high rocks and rich in water that flew from the rocks.

Later (1000 AD), Castelmezzano was conquered by the Normans that built the fortress we can see today. Then this town became a place of brigands. Shepherd Ualano is famous because he killed a terrible brigand, whose name was "Occhio Di Cane".

Lucania's ancient traditions

Unfortunately, there are only the memories of the elderly and few traditions that derive from Christian rites. The "Quarantana" is an example : on Ash Wednesday, and for the whole period of Lent, people hung a female puppet up between two balconies overlooking streets. This means that after 40 days, this puppet was burnt or hanged.

Another tradition is to dress girls , even children, in clothes like those of the Virgin Mary or other Christian characters.

Saint Faustino legend

Saint Faustino was Turkish. He wanted to be Christian but his father could not accept this. So Saint Faustino was brought by his father into the woods where he was asked : " Do you want to be Christian or pagan?" and S. Faustino answered: " Christian". For this reason, he was killed and interred in a ditch. After a long time, a merchant passed by in his chariot and saw a lily. He had

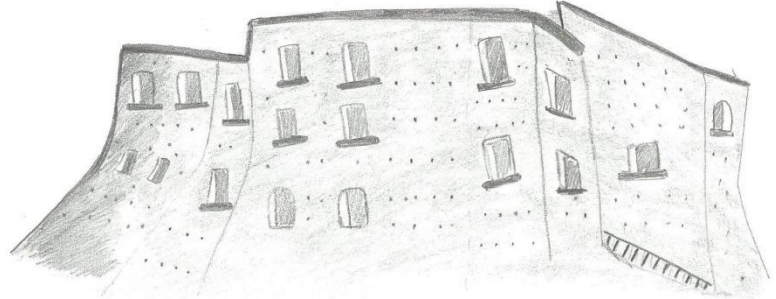
never seen such a beautiful flower, so he decided to pick it but it was so difficult. He started to dig and found out Saint Faustino's body. The body was taken to Vaglio, where everybody saw it. There was only one person who did not want to go and see it and he said: " If Saint Faustino had been a saint, he would have stayed at home". As soon as the man uttered these terrible words, his fork got stuck in his throat. The fork went out of his throat by itself when he changed his mind and went to see Saint Faustino's relics.



THE LEGEND OF THE MEDIEVAL CASTLE

Mariangela Saracino, IV A Lin.

According to legend, there is a long dark burrow under Cancellara castle. It is considered the door of hell. The legend says that the tunnel gets to the gate of the convent crossing the old town from one side to the other. So many people have been looking for this burrow but nobody has ever succeeded in finding it. Legend has it that a gold hen hides together with its gold chicks in the deep of the burrow. This legend fascinated 1950's children who played dangerously in search of this burrow. Even if a postcard of the end of the 19th century shows an opening on the south side, there is no trace of it nowadays.



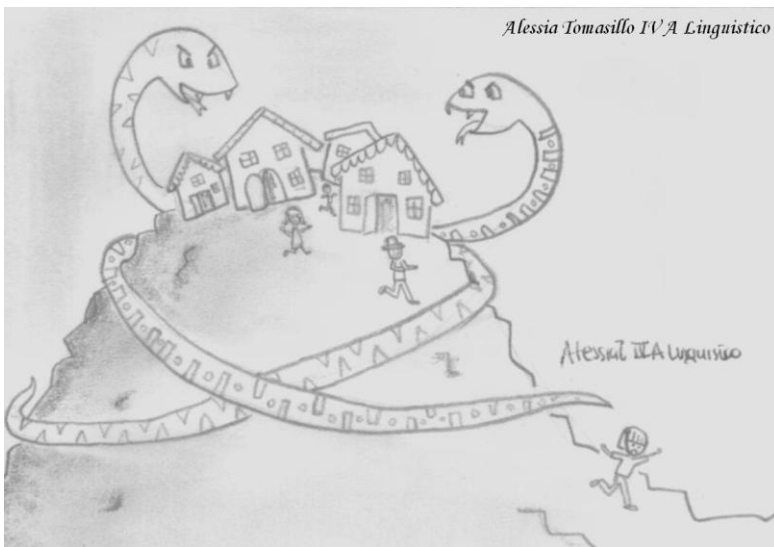
MARSICO NUOVO

Classe III A BRIENZA

On 24th August there is a medieval performance in order to commemorate Saint Tommaso D'Aquino's historic visit to Marsico Nuovo. In 1273 Count Ruggiero II Sanseverino became the viceroy of Jerusalem and Marsico lived a period of great splendour. So St. Thomas visited his sister Teodora who was the count's wife and spent two months in Marsico. The medieval performance celebrates the visit of the great philosopher and Doctor of the church with archers' tournaments, one for every quarter of the town, flag-waving, musicians, acrobats and swordsmen.

SASSO DI CASTALDA

Classe III A BRIENZA



In Sasso di Castalda there is a legend: once upon a time all the inhabitants lived on a big stone (*sasso* in Italian) which still dominates the little town. One day a lot of snakes arrived and all the people ran away and moved to the current site.

CARACCILO CASTLE

Classe III A BRIENZA

The Castle of Caracciolo family dominates the Melandro valley. It was an Angevin fortress. According to legend, a woman named Bianca lived in the castle towards the middle of 12th century. She used to have big parties and she loved wearing her valuable jewels. Her treasure was in one of the 365 rooms of the castle. Bianca was kidnapped by some pirates and died. Since then none has ever found out her treasure. So legend says that the person who will find the treasure will be the owner of the castle .

BRIENZA

Classe III A BRIENZA

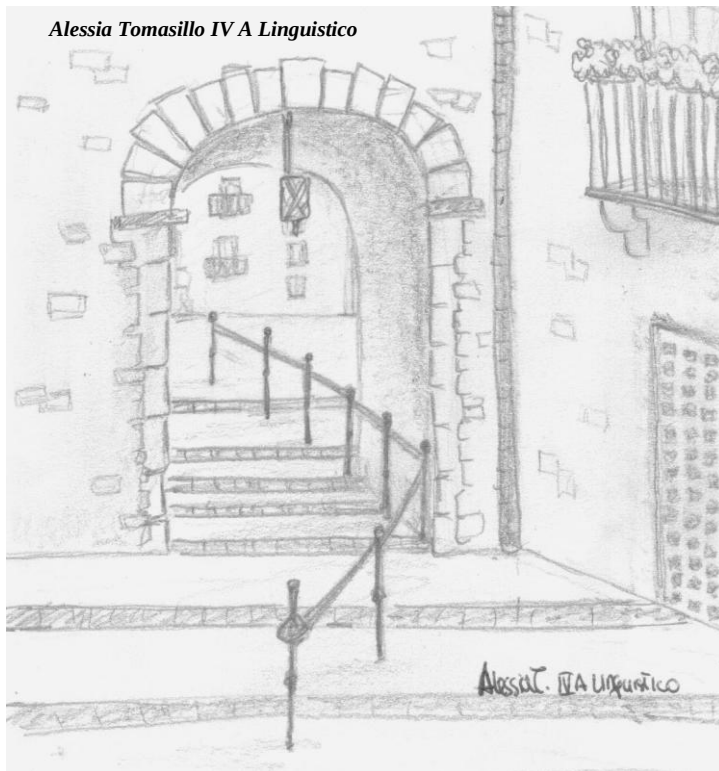
In Brienza there is an important festival which dates back to seven centuries ago. At the beginning of September, in the main square of the town, Jesus meets the Virgin Mary and an angel (a baby) flies for seven times towards them, bringing some presents: a sword, a candle, a cup, a cross and a lance. These are symbols of purity, courage, strength and honour. The symbols of the town.

POTENZA GATES

Vanessa Telesca, IV C Linguistico

Potenza gates represent the ancient entrances to the old city, all around there used to be walls to defend the city from enemy attacks. Currently the "visible" ones are only three, and they are: Porta San Giovanni, Porta San Luca and Porta San Gerardo.

The other gates were pulled down during the centuries, for the modernization of the urban core of the city. They were: Porta Salza, Porta Amendola and Porta Trinità.



Porta San Giovanni dates back to XI – XII centuries. It was originally between two towers, it was rebuilt after the serious damages caused by the earthquake on 23 November 1980.

Porta San Luca is named after a convent. Building extended over a long period of time; it was restored and rebuilt during the centuries in addition to the convent and the church. It included a garden with a wall in the lower part of the building. It is currently the premises of the Provincial Headquarters of Carabinieri. Around 1925 the ancient monastery was decorated by the construction of arcades.

Porta San Gerardo is named after the cathedral that is situated nearby. The gate was the direct access to the Bishop's possessions inside the walls.