

“TREVIGLIO”

FROM PIAZZA MANARA TO PIAZZA DEL POPOLO

Taken from “**Treviglio: storia, arte e cultura**” by Barbara Oggioni - *ed. Clessidra 2002*

Some of the town's most important buildings are to be found here, the heart of the city, the intersection of all roads leading through the four gates to Treviglio from the countryside and witness to its most ancient history: the *castrum vetus*, St. Martin's Basilica, the Civic Tower, the Town Hall and Casa della Piazza.

Via Galliari, formerly known as Strada di Porta Torre until a century ago because it lead to the gate of that name, is named after three brothers, Bernardino, Fabrizio and Giovanni Antonio Galliari who were painters of international fame. They were born in Piedmont and later chose Treviglio as their adoptive town. They painted numerous works which can be found in many churches and important buildings in Piedmont and Lombardy, including the Visconti Castel in Brignano Gera D'Adda, and painted scenery for the most prestigious theatres in Europe. In Treviglio their work is visible in St. Martin's Basilica, St. Charles Church of All Souls, in the Sanctuary of the Weeping Madonna, in ex-St. Peter's Monastery and in the Mansion known as Casa Bacchetta in Via Galliari itself.

Other important buildings along this street are Palazzo Silva, Casa Semenza, Casa Bacchetta, Palazzo Galliari and Casa Mazza. Via Galliari also boasts the building which is one of the dearest to the hearts of the people of Treviglio, the Sanctuary of the Weeping Madonna. Via Galliari ends in Piazza del Popolo, formerly known as Piazza Rivellino where the ravelin (a covered fortified structure) annexed to Porta Torre was placed. There was once a mill. There is a commemorative column raised in honour of Cardinale Pozzobonelli who visited the town in 1744. The other prominent building, now the Police Headquarters, was once known as Palazzo Compagnoni, and at one stage was the local offices of the Provincial Superintendent, later Casa del Fascio, and in the recent past the site of the Classical High School. It was built at the beginning of the 19th century with an internal neoclassic style “cortile”, a portico ornamented with doric style columns, and a colonnade with ionic capitals.