

Nothing is more profound and deeply-rooted than what man owes to trees and wood.

On July 27th, 1270, the representatives of the Magnifica Comunità, gathered under the portico of Fiemme parish church in Cavalese town park, declared that the valley forests were a common property meant for the exclusive use of Vicini to build churches and houses and satisfy domestic needs. Such a resource, the local timber, was soon to be required by people who were not, in fact, Vicini.

Thanks to the very hard work of Fiemme woodsmen and to the resourcefulness of rich traders, the valley became an important timber reservoir, into which bigger Veneto valley towns came to tap, at least until the 19th century. Wood, metal and minerals went down to the valleys; cereals, oil, wine and fabrics came up to the mountains.

Over the course of time, the sale of timber brought a vast richness, which allowed the Community to develop important measures for the benefit of its people.

Among the most significant initiatives deserving to be mentioned: fixture of a doctor and a veterinary surgeon for the whole valley; construction of Fiemme main road in the first half of the 19th century; purchase of wagon loads of corn and flour to be distributed to families during the Great War; building of Cavalese public hospital in 1955 and financial support to schools, churches, local associations and single individuals in need.

Today the Magnifica Comunità di Fiemme still extracts the finest timber from its forests – mainly spruce trees – for the construction industry and the production of precious musical instruments. Thanks to its millenary experience in forestry and to its experts' commitment, woods belonging to the Fiemme community were awarded some important environment certifications, also due to the many benefits they offer to the local community: protection of inhabited areas, clean waters, biodiversity, fertile soil.



The museum is open to the public during the summer and winter seasons. Guided tours of the historical building can be organised by sending an e-mail to: info@palazzomagnifica.eu

www.palazzomagnifica.eu



Palazzo della Magnifica Comunità di Fiemme
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Palazzo della Magnifica Comunità di Fiemme

The museum of a community

Welcome to the "Palazzo della Magnifica Comunità di Fiemme"

You are inside the Palazzo della Magnifica Comunità di Fiemme, the most significant historical building in the valley. From 1398 to 1800 it belonged to the Prince Bishops of Trento, the territorial lords of the region that was part of the Holy Roman Empire until 1803! The palace was the seat of the local courthouse, the episcopal judge's home as well as one of the summer residences of the Prince Bishops.

Since 1850 the Palace belongs to the Magnifica Comunità di Fiemme, an institution representing the identity of the local territory. Way back in 1314, Prince Bishop Henry of Metz wrote: «Fiemme Community people claim they have, along with their predecessors, pacifically owned these mountains for over 200 years». A precious privilege which the inhabitants and the representatives of the Magnifica Comunità di Fiemme – the so called Scario and Regolani – have managed to preserve until today...

This building is therefore the keeper of a centuries-long history. After a seven years restoration campaign, in 2012 the palace of the Magnifica Comunità was opened to the public as a museum and a location of special events meant to preserve and enhance the value of history and art in the valley, but not only...

For us living in the valley, this place has become the emblem of the great autonomy granted to the Fiemme community since 1111.

Some information about this historical community

"Fiemme Community people claim they have, along with their predecessors, pacifically owned these mountains for over 200 years..."

...Of all mountains listed above, including timber, woods and forests, routes and paths, meadows and pastures, hunting and fishing of all earth and sky animals, present and future, to you all and to each one of you, as it's been so far, we confirm the perpetual property... and we assign their material possession..."

These are the solemn words pronounced on April 2nd 1314 by Prince Bishop Henry of Metz, through which he ensures the property of the land to the Fiemme Community. A privilege already confirmed 200 hundred years before, in 1111, by another document, called patti gebardini. Through these ancient words, coming all the way from the distant past, we can actually comprehend the real essence of the Magnifica Comunità di Fiemme.

Thanks to its self-regulation capacity by means of specific statutes and to the tradition of taking collective decisions, the Fiemme Community, more precisely the Vicini ("neighbours"), owns today a heritage including nearly 20000 hectares of land, mainly consisting in forests but which also include pastures and mountain huts.

But who are these so-called Vicini?

The Vicini include men, women and children and all people born, or living since at least 25 years, in one of the 11 little towns called Regole, which constitute the Magnifica Comunità di Fiemme's territory, stretching from Trodena to Moena.



And what does it imply, being Vicini within the community?

Enjoying the benefits which derive from land use rights: taking cattle to the pastures, cutting wood, fishing, hunting and accessing to any revenues deriving from the heritage collective management.

But most of all, it implies taking an active part in the administration of this great and complex institution through the election of the decision-making bodies. Today, once every 4 years, the heads of families, called "capo fuoco", elect the Regolani, the representatives of the 11 Regole, among which the Scario is chosen: the President of the Magnifica Comunità di Fiemme.