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THE INVENTORY OF MATTEO PRIULI
IN THE YEAR 1700

Reading inventories is one of the most boring activities which a frequenter of Venetian archives can pursue. The goods kept in ordinary houses is quite negligible and all palaces were furnished in the same way: a *portego*, a main hall, decorated by *cuori d'oro*, gilt leathers, but generally rather empty (sometimes there is a fountain to wash one's hands or a *renfrescadora con brocca e scudelin*, that's a cooler with jug and bowl, then a lantern with its glasses, or a *cesendello di laton*, that's a brass hanging lamp) and the other rooms of the mansion decorated by *cuori d'oro* too, by usual furnishings and sometimes by a mirror.

Before the XVIII century no glass chandelier (rooms were lit by brass candlesticks, as a rule kept in the kitchen and used jug only when a little light was required) and some mirrors. Pewter and *latesin* (very light blue pottery) vessels and seldom glass vessels in the kitchen. Indeed if one looks for glass items in old inventories, he finds very few of them, also in glassblowers' homes, save in Murano workshops. There are some exceptions, nevertheless, as the palace in Padua, inhabited by a Venetian nobleman. On 3 August 1700 there were a lot of paintings (but few books), many silver and ivory items, musical instruments, plaster and alabaster animals, but above all many glass items, *la maggior parte bagatelle e cose di pochissimo prezzo*, the majority bagatelles and very cheap things. The owner of such things was the noble abbé Matteo Priuli of the Priulis, called Scarponi, from S. Felice quarter in Venice. In the Museo del Vetro at Murano there are samples of glass types which could be the same as *volti interi, sive mascare di cristallo* (complete crystal faces, or masks), a flacon similar to flacons generally attributed to Perrotto.

As to the glass musket, in the Museo del Vetro there is a glass pistol.

The Murano Museum keeps also some table wares similar to some pieces in the Rosenberg castle. To the glass collection of Frederick IV of Denmark are related also the candlesticks and the *canevete* of our inventory, estimated incredibly much less than the pieces of the same years quoted by Gudmund Boesen in his catalogue of the Rosemborg castle glass collection.

Inventario de mobili et altro ritrovati al tempo della morte del quondam N. H. Abbate Matteo Priuli nella casa dal med.o abitata in Padova
(Archivio di Stato di Venezia, Giudici di Petizion. Inventari, b. 397)

In the house the most interesting items, listed and estimated, were:

- <i>Specchi tra grandi e piccoli</i> (large and small mirrors)	n. 5	L. 80:-
- <i>Quoridoro in diversi pezzi pelle</i> (many pieces of gilt leather)	509	360:-
- <i>Careghe grande di bulgato</i> (large leather chairs)	14	200:-
- <i>Armari di pezzo con veri</i> (fir-wood cupboards with glass pieces)	5	80:-
- <i>Candelieri d'argento a sonde</i> (ribbed silver candlesticks)	4	m. v.
- <i>Agnus papale legato in argento, pietra stellaria legata in argento</i> (Agnus Dei medal with silver mounting, aventurine stone with silver mounting...)	2	3:2
- <i>Piati de peltre</i> (pewter dishes) [unusually no majolica or lattesin dish]	28	97:-
- <i>Possade d'argento e di ferro</i> (silver and iron cutlery)		
- <i>Comodità di nogara</i> (walnut close-stools)	8	16:-
- <i>Canevete grande in diverse misure con bozze</i> (large containers of different sizes with bottles)	3	20:-
- <i>Canevetta coperta in corame con 4 bozze con bocchini d'argento</i> (container with leather cover and 4 bottles with silver mouth and cap)	1	36:-

Glass items were kept "*in una camera col titolo di galleria*", in a room called gallery:

- <i>Balle di cristallo con i suoi piedistalli</i> (crystal glass globes with their stands)	2	1:-
- <i>Candellieri di cristallo a filigrana con sopra due balle di cristallo</i> (filigree crystal glass candlesticks with two crystal glass globes on them)	2	2:-
- <i>Chioche una di cristallo di montagna l'altra di cristallo ordinario</i> (chandeliers one made of rock crystal and another of crystal glass)	2	36:-
- <i>Graduario de tempo caldo e freddo con vetro</i> (measure for warm and cold weather with its glass)	1	m. v.
- <i>Lucerna perpetua di cristallo</i> (perpetual crystal glass lamp)	1	:2

- <i>Piati imperiali di cristallo uno con arma Priuli</i> (Imperial crystal glass platters, one of them with Priuli arms)	3	9:-
- <i>Specchio grande ad horologio con soaza d'intaglio dorata</i> (large mirror with clock, with engraved and gilt frame)	1	200:-
- <i>Scrigno grande di pero negro a rimessi d'avorio con sei collone di cristallo</i> (large casket made of ivory veneered black pear wood with six crystal columns)	1	310:-
- <i>Vasi da fiori di cristallo a filigrana</i> (filigree crystal bouquetière)	2	2:-
- <i>Crocifisso d'avorio in vetro con fiori</i> (ivory crucifix in glass with flowers)	1	2:-
- <i>Microscopio rotondo di cristallo</i> (round crystal microscope)	1	:4
- <i>Tazza di cristallo figurata</i> (figured crystal cup)		
- <i>Tazze di cristallo a fiori tre e una di diaspro</i> (three crystal cups with flowers and one jasper cup)	4	5:-
- <i>Calamaro di vetro con pennarolo</i> (glass ink-stand with pen-holder)	1	:6
- <i>Ampoline di cristallo da messa 2, altre simili su un piatto di legno 2, bastone di cristallo</i> (crystal mass-cruets 2, other similar ones on a wood dish 2, crystal stick)	5	1:10
- <i>Carafine per acqua della Regina 4 vuote e una con acqua separata (?) con bocchino</i> (small flacons for Acqua della Regina, 4 empty ones and one full of water with spout or small mouth)	5	4:-
- <i>Carafine per acque rinfrescative 1, campanello di cristallo dipinto 1, fontana di cristallo che butta acqua 1, goti varij di cristallo 3, luci da oglio di cristallo 2</i> (small flacons for refreshing waters 1, small bell made of painted crystal 1, crystal fountain which pours water 1, different crystal beakers 3, crystal oil-lamps 2)	8	2:14
- <i>Mandolini di cristallo 1, rinfrescatoria di cristallo rotta 1, stoco simile 1, scetro Simile 1, sciaboletti simili 3, tazza con dentro altre 8, tazzette simili 1, tazze simili 9</i> (small crystal mandola 1, broken crystal wine cooler 1, crystal rapier 1, crystal sceptre 1, small crystal sabres 3, eight small cups inside another cup, small similar cup 1, similar cups 9)	26	9:10
- <i>Tabachiera di cristallo 1, altre simili una in forma di gallo e una in figura curva</i> (crystal snuff-bottle 1, a cock-shaped crystal one and a bent figure-shaped crystal one)	3	:14
- <i>Tartane piccolo di cristallo</i> (small crystal boats)	2	:12
- <i>Volti intieri, sive mascare di cristallo</i> (complete crystal faces or masks)	5	1:-
- <i>Armelino animale di vetro 1</i> (glass ermine, animal)		:6
- <i>Caneveta di cristallo a filigrana</i> (filigree crystal bottle container)	1	1:10
- <i>Capello di cristallo a filigrana</i> (filigree crystal hat)	1	1:-
- <i>Candellieri di girasole 2, altri di cristallo a filigrana (girasol candlesticks 2, other crystal ones) [Fig. 1]</i>	5	7:-

- <i>Campanello di girasole 1, carafine simili 2</i> (small <i>girasol</i> bell 1, small <i>girasol</i> flacons 2)	3	2:-
- <i>Carafine di cristallo a filigrana</i> (Small filigree crystal flacons)	2	1:-
- <i>Altre caraffe sive tazzette violete</i> (other small purple flacons or small cups)	3	1:-
- <i>Cervo di cristallo 1, cocumero simile 1, cedro simile 1</i> (crystal deer 1, similar water-melon 1, similar citron 1)	3	:18
- <i>Goto di cristallo a filigrana</i> (filigree crystal beaker)	1	:16
- <i>Grapolo d'uva vetro giallo</i> (a bunch of grapes made of yellow glass)	1	1:-
- <i>Piati da capon de cristallo</i> (crystal capon platters)	4	6:-
- <i>Piati di cristallo</i> (crystal dishes)	2	2:-
- <i>Porcbeto marino di cristallo</i> (crystal sea pork)	1	:6
- <i>Sottocope di cristallo</i> (crystal bowl stands)	6	6:-
- <i>Altre con caraffine</i> (others with small bottles)	2	2:-
- <i>Saliera di cristallo</i> (crystal salt - cellar)	1	2:-
- <i>Tondi lavorati di cristallo</i> (worked crystal dishes)	4	2:-
- <i>Tabacchiere di cristallo diverse</i> (different crystal snuff-bottles)	3	:12
- <i>Vasi di cristallo finti latesin</i> (fake latesin crystal vases, looking like very light blue pottery)	2	1:-
- <i>Vasi di cristallo con manichi</i> (crystal vases with handles)	2	2:-
- <i>Botte di cristallo aggiaciato</i> (ice-crystal barrel)	1	1:-
- <i>Broche di cristallo una un poco rota</i> (crystal ewers, one a little broken)	2	:10
- <i>Carafine con bocchini 2, altre in forme di tabachiera</i> (small flacons with spouts 2, other flacons shaped like snuff-bottles)	4	1:-
- <i>Capriolo di cristallo, drago di cristallo</i> (crystal roe, crystal dragon) [Fig. 2]	2	:14
- <i>Cortelli, pironi, chochiari di cristallo</i> (crystal knives, forks, spoons)	8	1:10
- <i>Goti diversi di cristallo</i> (different crystal beakers)	6	1:-
- <i>Grapo d'uva di vetro turchino</i> (a bunch of grapes made of deep blue glass)	1	:10
- <i>Mondi di cristallo 3; medaglia con l'effigie di S. Carlo</i> (crystal worlds 3; medal with the portrait of S. Charles)	4	1:-
- <i>Piati mezi reali di cristallo</i> (half royal crystal platters)	6	6:-
- <i>Pavone di vetro tabacchiera, secchia di cristallo con sua cassa, tondo di cristallo, tazza di cristallo a fontana, triangolo di cristallo</i> (peacock-shaped glass snuff-bottle, crystal bucket with its box, crystal dish, fountain-shaped crystal cup, crystal triangle)	5	3:8
- <i>Tazza di cristallo di montagna a filigrana</i> (filigree rock crystal cup ?)	1	1:-
- <i>Vaseti da fiori di cristallo</i> (small crystal bouquetières)	2	:16
- <i>Vaseto lavorato di cristallo con manichi fato a saliera</i> (small worked crystal vase with handles, shaped like a salt-cellar)	1	1:-

- <i>Allabarda grande di cristallo</i> (long crystal halberd)	1	1:-
- <i>Canna d'India di cristallo</i> (crystal rattan cane)	1	1:-
- <i>Schioppo grande di cristallo</i> (long crystal musket) [Fig. 3]	1	1:-

NOTES FOR A GLOSSARY

The *Candellieri di cristallo a filigrana con sopra due balle di cristallo*, filigree crystal glass candlesticks with two crystal glass globes on them, could be two candlesticks, which hold a globular oil reservoir, instead of a candle¹ (Fig. 4).

The *Balle di cristallo con suoi piedestalli*, crystal glass globes with their stands, should be simpler lamps².

The *chioche*, chandeliers, are the most interesting items. This is the first time – I believe – in which we find a *chioca*, that's a Venetian chandelier with glass decoration. Here glass is called *cristallo ordinario*, to distinguish it from rock crystal (*cristallo di montagna*). Venetians began to replace rock crystal ornaments and pendants, which decorated bronze and brass chandeliers, by glass ones; the oldest (1709) known Venetian chandelier decorated by glass is kept in the Rosenborg castle in Copenhagen³.

The bunches of grapes (one made of yellow glass and the other made of deep blue glass), the water-melon, the citron were mould blown. The inventory, written on 9 April 1694, of the goods kept in the Croce d'Oro glassworks of late Ettore Bigaglia lists a *raspo*

¹ They could be similar to the lamp reproduced at the page 227 of the *Dizionario del vetro* by H. Newman (1993) or the lamp (formerly in the Florio collection) reproduced at the page 53 of: Molmenti 1929.

² Perhaps as the lamp kept in the Veste Coburg collection (Theuerkauff-Liederwald 1994: 496).

³ Boesen 1960: 138.

In the Priuli gallery there was also a *Chioca piccola d'avorio*, a small ivory chandelier. I think that ivory was not much used for such items unlike wood. In the Lippomano Donà Giovannelli palace in S. Fosca quarter (Venice) there were *tre chioche d'intaglio con cordonzin d'oro con 4 lumi per una*, three carved chandeliers with gilt cord with four lights each, in 1700 (Archivio di Stato di Venezia [ASV], *Notarile Atti*, b. 13905, in Rössler 2010). I believe they were made of wood.

d'uva in bronzo (a bronze bunch of grapes) and *stampi di cedro e naranza e cocumero e melon* (citrus and orange and water-melon and melon moulds)⁴.

Were the several animals (deer, dragon, roe, sea pork) oil lamps?

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⁴ ASV, *Podestà di Murano*, b. 206.



Fig. 1 - *Girasol* candlesticks, Venice, 1700 circa. Brescia, Civici Musei di Arte e Storia, inv. VT 176; VT 177.



Fig. 2 - Small crystal glass dragon, Murano, 1700 circa. Murano, Museo del Vetro, Classe VI, inv. 1266.

Fig. 3 - Crystal glass musket, Murano, 1700 circa. Murano, Museo del Vetro, Classe VI, inv. 0031



Fig. 4 - Crystal glass oil lamps, Murano, 1700 circa. Murano Museo del Vetro, Classe VI, inv. 1922; Classe VI, inv. 2214.

