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Thousands of tourists come to Venice to see and take part in its magnificent Carnival; walking round in fancy dress in this city's magical scenery means taking part in a truly exceptional happening. Those mysterious, disturbing Venetian masks, eyeing you from the city's alleyways are part of what we imagine the Venetian world would have been like 300 years ago. They are an irresistible attraction for what is undoubtedly one of the world's most unique experiences: the re-living of 18th century Venice. Wearing masks has always been more than just simple fun for the Venetians; it is still a strongly felt tradition with deep cultural roots. Venetians were famous for being libertines and for transgression - they didn't just use masks during the official Carnival. Putting on a mask in Venice meant taking forbidden liberties: you could jibe at the powerful, gamble without being seen. A numbers of restrictive laws passed on dressing up prove how widespread the habit was. In 1608, the Council of the Ten issued a decree, forbidding any citizen to wear masks except during the Carnival and official banquets. Masks were permitted during all important events, banquets and the main Serenissima celebrations such as Ascension day, or when the Doge climbed on the Bucintoro, or, for the flight of the Colombine when a wooden bird would shower flowers on the crowd. Impoverished nobles used masks to beg in the street and married women were forced to wear them when they went to the theatre. The Carnival itself, meant letting-go and abandoning oneself to play; freedom, transgression and good-willed madness. Palaces opened their courtyards to celebrations and there was music and dancing all day and all night in the alleyways, small squares and even on the water. Venice was alive with sound and colour. The most widely used mask, for which Venetians would spend absolute fortunes, was the 'bauta': it was an ample full-cut black mantle which dropped over the shoulders down to the waist. On their heads they wore the typical black, three-cornered hat (the tricorno), and on their faces a white mask called 'larva', with a widened, protruding lip that altered their voices. The bauta was used by both men and women who wore it in black in winter and white in summer. There was also a series of masks for different special occasions: one of these was the 'moretta': a black velvet oval, normally worn by women, especially when they visited convents. This was a "mute" mask: it was placed over the face and had a small button that went into the mouth to prevent speech. The craftsmen who made masks were called 'mascareri' and had the status of painters. They were assisted by the 'targheri', who painted faces of all different kinds on the plastered surface. Even today, while walking round Venice you come across craft shops renewing this ancient tradition. Reaching its maximum splendour in the 18th century, the Carnival returned to new life in the 1980s and nowadays lasts a month with shows, balls, music and plays organized all over the city. The event attracts up to a million visitors a year, all competing to show off their magnificent and often very expensive costumes. Amidst the Carnival's fairy atmosphere, Venice goes back to becoming a magic 18th century city where, as if dreaming, you could meet Giacomo Casanova, take a gondola with Carlo Goldoni, or surprise a noblewomen meeting her lover. And Venice could even reserve us yet another honour: we could see the Doge in person walking along just a few steps away from us... More infos about the Venice is a dazzling festival that transforms the city into a vibrant, colorful spectacle. Held annually, this event is famous for its elaborate masks, stunning costumes, and lively parades. Originating in the 12th century, it was a time for Venetians to indulge in festivities before Lent. Today, it attracts visitors from all over the globe, eager to experience its unique blend of history, art, and culture. From masquerade balls to street performances, the Carnival offers something for everyone. Ready to dive into the magic of Venice? Let's uncover 25 fascinating facts about this iconic celebration! The Carnival offers something for everyone. Ready to dive into the magic of Venice? Let's uncover 25 fascinating facts about this iconic celebration! The Carnival offers something for everyone. and cultural significance. The Carnival of Venice began in 1162 to celebrate a military victory. It was officially recognized by the Venetian Senate in 1296. The word "carnival" comes from the Latin "carne vale," meaning "farewell to meat," meaning "fare century. Masks and Costumes Masks and elaborate costumes are the heart and soul of the Carnival of Venice. They add an air of mystery and excitement to the festivities. Masks were originally worn to hide the wearer's identity and social status. The "Moretta" mask is a black velvet oval mask worn by women. The "Volto" mask, also known as the "Larva," is a white mask that covers the entire face. Costumes often reflect the fashion of the 18th century, with elaborate gowns and suits. Events and Activities The Carnival of Venice is packed with events and activities that attract visitors from all over the world. From parades to balls, there's something for everyone. The "Flight of the Angel" is a traditional event where a performer descends from the bell tower of St. Mark's Basilica. The "Gran Ballo delle Maschere" is a grand masquerade ball held in historic palaces. Street performances and live music are common throughout the city during the carnival. The "Best Masked Costume Contest" is a popular event where participants compete for the best costume. art, literature, and even politics. The carnival has inspired numerous works of art, including paintings by Canaletto and Guardi. It has been featured in literature, such as in the works of Casanova and Goethe. The carnival played a role in Venetian politics, allowing citizens to criticize the government anonymously. It has influenced other carnivals around the world, including those in Rio de Janeiro and New Orleans. Modern-Day Carnival Today, the Carnival of Venice continues to be a major attraction, drawing tourists and locals alike to experience its magic. The carnival lasts for about two weeks, ending on Shrove Tuesday. It attracts over three million visitors each year. Modern technology has enhanced the experience, with live streams and social media coverage. The carnival has a significant economic impact on Venice, boosting tourism and local businesses. Environmental concerns have led to efforts to make the carnival more sustainable. Venice is a UNESCO-recognized intangible cultural heritage. Venice's Carnival isn't just a festival; it's a vibrant celebration of history, culture, and artistry. With its roots tracing back to the elaborate costumes, every detail reflects the city's rich heritage. The Grand Canal comes alive with parades, music, and performances, creating an atmosphere that's both enchanting for a unique experience, Venice's Carnival offers something for everyone. It's a reminder of the city's enduring spirit and its ability to bring people together in celebration. So, next time you think of Venice, remember the magic of its Carnival and the timeless traditions that continue to captivate the world. Our commitment to delivering trustworthy and engaging content is at the heart of what we do. Each fact on our site is contributed by real users like you, bringing a wealth of diverse insights and information. To ensure the highest standards of accuracy and reliability, our dedicated editors meticulously review each submission. This process guarantees that the facts we share are not only fascinating but also credible. Trust in our commitment to quality and authenticity as you explore and learn with us. Venice is one of the most beautiful cities in Italy and impresses with its art treasures, palaces, canals and waterways. The historic city center was built on 150 flat islands that are arranged in a lagoon. A romantic atmosphere arises when the gondoliers strike up their wistful songs and deftly bend under many a bridge. Each gondola is handcrafted and is as much a part of the tradition as the famous Venetian Carnival. This fantastic open-air spectacle takes place from: February 15 to March 4, 2025 This is the time if you don't want to miss the top events. You can also arrive a few days earlier, as there are already countless events, parades, and a lively carnival atmosphere on the streets. The spectacle can begin with a Venetian-style carnival bar crawl and one of the evening events listed below. What do I need to know before travelling? The Carnival in Venice is of ancient origin and still embodies the deep symbolic meaning of the Greek Dionysian culture and the Latin Saturnalia, the popular festivities that also took place in winter in ancient Rome in favour of the god Saturn, in the costumes and masks. © Pixabay With its magical and dazzling atmosphere, Il Carnevale di Venezia is one of the city's most important landmarks. It gets very crowded in Venice now. It's not the time for a romantic city break in the lagoon city, but the time to marvel at the elegant costumes and masks. Very important: plan your visit well in advance. You can find cheap flights to Venice at booking.com/flights. All information about transfers from Marco Polo Airport can be found in the airport transfer article. You can find suggestions for accommodation in the Accommodation in the Accommodation section. Drivers should make sure they book a parking space at a good time. The various booking options are listed in Parking in Venice. Of course, the classic sights such as St Mark's Basilica and the Doge's Palace are also overcrowded. So, here too, book your tickets in good time. From 2025, admission to the historic centre of Venice will be charged for day visitors. All information and the option to book this ticket in advance can be found at entrance to Venice. Tickets and events for Carnival 2025 The annual carnival festival always begins on the Sunday 10 days before Ash Wednesday with the so-called Volo dell'Angelo, the Flight of the Angels. During the carnival season, there are numerous performances by artists, acrobats and performers on many small stages. Here you can join in the socialising and hustle and bustle in the alleyways free of charge. Demand is high for closed events, but supply is often limited. This is especially true for events such as the sensational carnival balls and the many mask workshops. A gondola ride with a mask is certainly the best way to get in the mood for Carnival in Venice. You will find many more booking options for getting to know the carnival in Venice in the rest of this article. This also applies to the official events and parades. The highlights of the carnival in Venice © Pixabay The Venetian Carnival is organised according to traditional values. As already mentioned, it starts on the Grand Canal with the angels' flight to St Mark's Square and ends with the award ceremony for the most beautiful Venetian woman, the lion theft and the choice of the most beautiful costume and surprises with imaginative events and offers that enrich the traditional rituals. Events you shouldn't miss: DateHighlightPlaceTime of day Sunday, 16 FebruaryWater festivalArsenale10:30 to 11:30 Saturday, 22 FebruaryFeast of the MarySt Mark's Square09:00 to 17:00 Tuesday, 23 FebruaryFlight of the AngelCampanile12:00 Monday, 24 FebruaryFlight of the MarySt Mark's Square09:00 to 17:00 Tuesday, 25 FebruaryFlight of the AngelCampanile12:00 Monday, 24 FebruaryFlight of the AngelCampanile12:00 Monday, 24 FebruaryFlight of the MarySt Mark's Square09:00 to 17:00 Tuesday, 25 FebruaryFlight of the MarySt Mark's Square09:00 to 17:00 Tuesday, 26 FebruaryFlight of the MarySt Mark's Square09:00 to 17:00 Tuesday, 26 FebruaryFlight of the MarySt Mark's Square09:00 to 17:00 Tuesday, 26 FebruaryFlight of the MarySt Mark's Square09:00 to 17:00 Tuesday, 26 FebruaryFlight of the MarySt Mark's Square09:00 to 17:00 Tuesday, 26 FebruaryFlight of the MarySt Mark's Square09:00 to 17:00 Tuesday, 26 FebruaryFlight of the MarySt Mark's Square09:00 to 17:00 Tuesday, 26 FebruaryFlight of the MarySt Mark's Square09:00 to 17:00 Tuesday, 26 FebruaryFlight of the MarySt Mark's Square09:00 to 17:00 Tuesday, 26 FebruaryFlight of the MarySt Mark's Square09:00 to 17:00 Tuesday, 26 FebruaryFlight of the MarySt Mark's Square09:00 to 17:00 Tuesday, 26 FebruaryFlight of the MarySt Mark's Square09:00 to 17:00 Tuesday, 26 FebruaryFlight of the MarySt Mark's Square09:00 to 17:00 Tuesday, 26 FebruaryFlight of the MarySt Mark's Square09:00 to 17:00 Tuesday, 26 FebruaryFlight of the MarySt Mark's Square09:00 to 17:00 Tuesday, 26 FebruaryFlight of the MarySt Mark's Square09:00 to 17:00 Tuesday, 26 FebruaryFlight of the Mark's Square09:00 to 17:00 Tuesday, 26 FebruaryFlight of the Mark's Square09:00 to 17:00 Tuesday, 26 FebruaryFlight of the Mark's Square09:00 to 17:00 Tuesday, 26 FebruaryFlight of the Mark's Square09:00 to 17:00 Tuesday, 26 FebruaryFlight of the Mark's Square ShowSt Mark's Square09:00 to 17:00 Sunday, 2 MarchFlight of the EagleCampanile12:00 You can find all the information about these and many other colorful events, including dates and times, here in the program calendar for the Venice Carnival. La Festa Veneziana sull'Acqua - The water parade Sunday begins with the water festival on the Rio di Cannaregio. This is where the famous regatta on the canals takes place, which is one of the most popular events. It consists of typical Venetian boats and is led by the Pantegana boat, which has the suspicious shape of a rat. Water has always played an important role for the lagoon city of Venice, so the rowing parade with hundreds of masked athletes thrills spectators every year. There are also the popular water shows at the Arsenale during carnival. All the important information, such as times and how to get there, can be found on the provider's website. Please note that tickets cannot be purchased on site, but must always be booked online in advance. Sunday 16 February 2025 - 10:30 The boats will assemble at the Dogana da Mar next to the Salute church: departure at 11:00 - explosion of the "Pantegana" in front of the Rialto. La Festa delle Marie - The feast of the Virgin Mary, which has been celebrated in Venice since the 9th century and is one of the most important events, is similarly spectacular. Back then, the day was used to bless young couples before their marriage. The famous abduction of the twelve brides by the pirates from Istria, an event that took place in 943, is re-enacted. Brave Venetians pursued the pirates and were able to free the women and escort them safely back to the city. The pirates were executed and their lifeless bodies thrown into the sea. In honour of the brides, the harbour was named after them and is still called Porto delle Donzelle today. Franco Ricciardiello, Festa delle Marie, CC BY 4.0 In the modern carnival version, which has been a tradition again since 1999, the Feast of the Virgin Mary is the sensational highlight. The most beautiful Venetian woman is chosen here, as well as the most successful costume and the best mask. The raffle is accompanied by the parade moves from San Pietro di Castello to St Mark's Square. The most beautiful is then awarded the title of Maria of the Year and is the representative for the following year. Saturday 22 February 2025 - The parade starts at 14:30 at the Traghetto in Santa Sofia. Volo dell'Angelo - The flight of the angel fotogoocom, Volo dell'Angelo - The flight of the angel fotogooco official start of carnival 10 days before Ash Wednesday. The flight of the angels dates back to the 16th century and begins with a shower of confetti on St Mark's Square. An Acrobat floats like an angel on a rope from the Campanile to the Doge's Palace. Until the 18th century, the Volo dell'Angelo was performed by an acrobat who actually balanced freely and unsecured on a rope until a tragic fall occurred. For a while, the angel was then replaced by a wooden dove until 2001, when a real person once again took on the role of the angel, this time of course secured and without too much risk. On Sunday 23 February 2025 - At 12:00 noon at the Campanile. Volo dell'Aquila - The Eagle's flight Since 2012, the Flight of the Angel has been supplemented by the spectacular Eagle Flight, which takes place one week after the Angel Flight. This is performed by a well-known international athlete who always appears as a surprise guest. The carnival ends with the flight of the lion, which is the official symbol of the city. A huge canvas flag with the lion's emblem is hoisted on the bell tower of St Mark's Square, followed by an unforgettable fireworks display. On Sunday 2 March 2025 - At 12:00 noon at the evening © Pixabay It gets dark early in Venice in winter. After the traditional carnival events, visitors are drawn to the numerous dinner shows in the evening. If you want to take part, you should book a place early, Venice also has a lot to offer in winter, all about it in Venice in winter, all about it in Venice in winter. How did the Venetian carnival originate? The history of Carnival in Venice dates back to ancient times and was closely linked to the customs of Lent at the time. The Doge Vitale Falier referred to the festival for the first time in 1094, and the first mention of a mask dates back to the 13th century. In the late Middle Ages, the festivities took on increasingly lavish forms and were mainly held at princely courts. The 18th century brought about a further change, when customs became increasingly relaxed and the brief moment of freedom arose between the poor and the nobility due to the anonymity of the masks. The carnival provided an opportunity for the lower classes to have fun, forget the hard times and overcome social differences. Unofeld781, Carnevale di Venezia Masks 2010, CC BY-SA 3.0 One of the most famous personalities of this period was Giacomo Casanova, who recorded many impressions of this debauched century in his memoirs. The carnival even gave the poor the opportunity to mock the aristocracy. Criminal activities also increased, as the anonymity favoured theft, robberies and excesses, which some naturally exploited unscrupulously. Under Napoleon Bonaparte, the heyday came to a temporary end, partly due to economic difficulties. The carnival lost prestige and even masks were banned for a time. During other periods of Italian history, the population itself also put up resistance and boycotted public events of this kind. Nevertheless, the carnival could not be completely eradicated, even though it only became a tradition again in 1967. Fellini's film Casanova in particular revived it in 1976. The return to the traditional event also led to a revival of the Commedia dell'arte theatre, where original masks and costumes are still elaborately recreated and performed today. You can also learn a lot about the history of Carnival in Venice on the following guided tours: Guided tours revival of the Commedia dell'arte theatre, where original masks and costumes are still elaborately recreated and performed today. course near St. Mark's Square69.00 €Book Online The Walking Theatre Show33.00 €Book Online How was Carnival in Venice? © Pixabay The historical carnival historical carnival historical carnival in Venice? © Pixabay The historical carnival historical historical historical carnival historical historical historica Doge Vitale Michiel II over the Patriarch of Aquileia Ulrich II of Treffen. He himself took part in the celebrations with his senate and followed the dancers and acrobatic performances on the Grand Canal, which were slaughtered in the public squares. On St Mark's Square, people were entertained by the puppet theatre and the presentation of wild and exotic animals in cages and kennels. The colourful hustle was complemented by tightrope walkers and acrobats, while quacks sold their remedies or predicted the future. The magnificent buildings of Venice were the setting for lavish costume parties and people paraded through the streets and alleyways wearing elaborate, home-made masks. Bloody dog fights were just as popular as the burning of the famous figure wearing a Pantalone mask in front of St Mark's Square at the end of the famous figure wearing a Pantalone mask in front of St Mark's Square at the end of the famous figure wearing a Pantalone mask in front of St Mark's Square at the end of the famous figure wearing a Pantalone mask in front of St Mark's Square at the end of the famous figure wearing a Pantalone mask in front of St Mark's Square at the end of the famous figure wearing a Pantalone mask in front of St Mark's Square at the end of the famous figure wearing a heralded the start of the next Lent. How is Carnival celebrated in Venice today? Today, the festival is primarily a world-famous tourist attraction, with many people flocking to the city to experience the colourful variety of costumes and masks up close. For ten days and ten nights between Ash Wednesday and Carnival Tuesday, thousands of costumed people parade through the streets, creating an unforgettable magical world. © Pixabay Stages are dotted all over the city of Venice, where free artistic performances and concerts take place. Masked and costumed people in Venetian boats and gondolas also appear on the water, while the streets and squares offer a variety of food and drink, including the famous sweet-tasting frittelle, or Italian fried doughnuts. There are also public and private events and firework displays. Everyone has the opportunity to stroll through the streets in fancy dress and a mask and get caught up in the atmosphere. against the backdrop of the impressive Venetian architecture. If you want to get to know the carnival in Venetian style, you should join a pub crawl. The beauty of costumes: colourful, eye-catching and elegant The Venetian style, you should join a pub crawl. symbolises the decadence and extravagance of the past, which are shown to their best advantage in the costumes. Typical are the baroque versions and the impressive Renaissance dresses made of fine materials, but there are also modern and imagination here. © Pixabay In the 18th century, people sometimes dressed up in guilds and professions. They took to the streets as lawyers, doctors, astrologers, butchers and hunters, but also as devils, jesters and seducers. The versions of the masks that are still worn today, from the cunning Colombina to the jester Pulcinella and the vain performed in splendid costumes. The original costume is the black cloak with hood and tricorn hat, which is combined with the Bauta mask. This disguise is very old, actually provided complete anonymity at the time and was also sometimes permitted outside of carnival. A spectacular photo taken at one of the many photo shoots on offer is certainly a fitting memento of the Carnival in Venice. Photo ShootingPrice*Voucher Private photo shootfrom 195.00 €Book Online Photo shoot experiencefrom 39.00 €Book Online Photo shoot experiencefrom 39.00 €Book Online Photo shoot experience from 39.00 €Book Online Photo around half of the face and were once used as theatre and speech masks, are mainly worn. Half masks are very popular in modern carnival as they make eating and drinking easier. There are also famous full masks, such as the typical Pantalone or Bauta, the latter with a bulging chin, which was seen in Stanley Kubrick's film Eyes Wide Shut, based on the novel Dream Story by Arthur Schnitzler. Pantalone @ Pixabay One of the least altered masks of carnival and commedia dell'arte is the pantalone mask. In times gone by, it served to usher in the end of the carnival and often deceived fashionista. The mask is still made by hand from papier-mâché today and is one of the typical authentic original products of Venice. Bauta The elegant version is the Bauta as a classic overall mask. It symbolises anonymity and is particularly expressive. It is beautifully decorated and is available in many colours. The white version is often worn in combination with a black cloak, complemented by a tricorn hat on the head. The open and forward-facing chin section allows for eating and drinking. fotogoocom, Karneval in Venedig - panoramio (18), CC BY 3.0 Zanni A common model in the colourful carnival crowd is the Zanni, a half mask with a long, pointed nose. The variants are elaborately painted in bright colours, often monochrome with a large cut-out for the eyes. The model is also very popular with the locals because it looks dark and mysterious. Rumour has it that the Zanni mask was worn by the Grim Reaper when he roamed Venice during the plague. © Pixabay Dottore Della Peste Venice experienced terrible times of plague. during which many people died. The Dottore Della Peste, which was worn by the notorious plague doctor himself in the 17th century in the hope of avoiding infection, is a reminder of this. Norbert Nagel, Mörfelden-Walldorf, Germany, Venetian carnival costume Venice 1, CC BY-SA 3.0 The model is characterised by a long beak that symbolises the distance between doctor and patient. As soon as people saw the plaque doctor, they fled. Accordingly, this mask is one of the darker ones, which is also historically valuable and tells a whole story. Volto Volto means face in Italian, and the popular mask actually covers the face completely. The rigid expression allows for perfect anonymity and is particularly skilful and versatile in its handcrafted design. The mask is available in a wide variety of expressions, including a laughing, sad, angry or neutral mask. Frank Kovalchek from Anchorage, Alaska, USA, Venice Carnival - Masked Lovers (2010), CC BY 2.0 Colombina The Colombina The Colombina is a chic and playful half mask. It is wing-shaped and mainly covers the eyes and the forehead and nose area. It is often worn by women as the design is sensually feminine. The mask is available in many colours and is also decorated with semi-precious stones and glitter. © Pixabay Moretta A discreet black half-mask is the moretta, which dates back to the 17th century and is covered in velvet. This was also often worn by women and had to be held in the mouth so that speaking was not possible. © Pixabay Those who wanted to conceal their identity had to practise silence. Today's versions have a more modern design and can simply be worn over the eyes. All the courses and workshops that focus on making the various masks are very popular. This is an extraordinary and varied experience, especially for travellers with children in Venice. Biser Todorov, Venice Paper Mache Mask shop, CC BY-SA 4.0 Today, the typical masks are above all a fashion accessory and, of course, together with the magnificent costumes, a fantastic photo motif. Of course, the traditional gondola ride with mask, should not be missed. Programme tips and miscellaneous The weather in Venice is quite mild at the end of February, but rain and wind cannot be ruled out, so remember to wear suitable clothing. © Pixabay The range of events of all kinds at carnival time in Venice is of course overwhelming. Here are a few more event ideas: The city is a huge open-air festival where there is always something to see or experience everywhere. At events on the water, restaurant visitors or individual hotel guests usually have the best view. Otherwise, you can also try to get a standing place near the Rialto Bridge. Further information can also be found on the official website for the Venice Public transport Detailed information on public transport in Venice can also be found in the article on the famous vaporetto, the typical water buss that run on the city's canals. At carnival time, the streets get crowded and the water buss that run on the city's canals. cases. A private water taxi is quicker, but unfortunately also much more expensive. Safety during the carnival season There are now lots of people out and about in the narrow streets. Pickpocketing is now the order of the day, which unfortunately also applies to Venice. So take extra care when strolling around! My tip: Take as little cash with you as possible, only take copies of ID cards - the originals should remain in your accommodation. Hide your smartphone safely in the front pockets. Please also read my article on safety in Venice! Visit the carnival time. Many people take part in the numerous events and dress up in the most beautiful costumes. This is where the imagination comes to life and makes for a fascinating journey through time. All this can be combined with romantic gondola rides and a visit to the city's most beautiful sights. At the carnival in Venice, people dance under the confetti rain, marvel at the spectacular fireworks and show their joy and happiness. Although dressing up is not absolutely necessary, it makes the whole thing an exciting pleasure. After all, when do you ever have the opportunity to wear sumptuous dresses, crazy costumes and mysterious masks that liven up the game of anonymity in a unique way? For ten days, Venice offers a glittering feast for the senses and is unique in this form. Bildquellen: Bild 4:fotogoocom (Volo dell'angelo Venezia - panoramio.jpg), "Festa delle Marie", Bild 7: Unofeld781 (Carnevale di Venezia Masks 2010.jpg), "Carnevale di Venezia Masks 2010", Bild 12: fotogoocom (Karneval in Venedig - panoramio (18).jpg), "Karneval in Venedig - panoramio (18)", Bild 14: Norbert Nagel, Mörfelden-Walldorf, Germany (Venetian carnival costume Venice 1.jpg), "Kerneval in Venedig - panoramio (18)", Bild 14: Norbert Nagel, Mörfelden-Walldorf, Germany (Venetian carnival costume Venice 1.jpg), "Kerneval in Venedig - panoramio (18)", Bild 14: Norbert Nagel, Mörfelden-Walldorf, Germany (Venetian carnival costume Venice 1.jpg), "Kerneval in Venedig - panoramio (18)", Bild 14: Norbert Nagel, Mörfelden-Walldorf, Germany (Venetian carnival costume Venice 1.jpg), "Kerneval in Venedig - panoramio (18)", Bild 14: Norbert Nagel, Mörfelden-Walldorf, Germany (Venetian carnival costume "", Wenice Carnival - Masked Lovers (2010)", Bild 18: Biser Todorov (Venice Paper Mache Mask shop), "Venice Paper Mache Mask shop", PIXABAY: Bild 1, 2, 3, 6, 8, 9, 11, 13, 16, 17, 18 Map updates are paused. Zoom in to see updated info. Updating Map... Return to Map Let's face it, Carnival is one of the most famous "monuments" in Venice. Oh yes, because this time of the year that sees transgression, amusement and carefree lightness as its connotative elements, reaches its maximum virtuosity in the lagoon city, with a great resonance all over the world. Once upon a time, when Carnival took up most of the year, about six weeks, people indulged in fun in a goliardic spirit that united all, people and aristocracy, prelates and authorities, giving an unusual and permissive social leveling, unrepeatable on other days . Yes, because the Carnival in Venice was also set up to grant the lower classes of the social scale a period dedicated exclusively to leisure, indulging in dances and celebrations rare for them. A gesture of generosity on the part of the Republic? Absolutely not! It was simply a placebo against the bad moods and tensions that were often generated within the poorer classes towards the system. But how did this particular social leveling take place? With the disguise, true essence of the Carnival. It was enough a weird dress but above all a mask to hide one's identity, hide one's being and have fun impersonating a new identity. No one was recognizable, a mask concealed social belonging and religious belief, sex and social status. The unknown also favored a certain courtesy: the greeting was due to everyone because behind that anonymity anyone could hide, and therefore a simple "good morning lady mask" was enough to clear the differences. It is Carnival, and everything is allowed, also that a rich nobleman bestows his greeting to a poor man. Incognito though. To experience the festivities at their best, choose the Venetians hide their being? Let's start by saying that the masks were completely handmade, mixing clay, papier-mâché and plaster. On this white and neutral base, creativity was unleashed, creating rich and sumptuous decorations, made of colors, embroidery, precious stones and high and light feathers. It became real job: the mascareri, a bit of craftsmen, a bit of craftsmen, a bit of colors, embroidery, precious stones and high and light feathers. It became real job: the mascareri, a bit of craftsmen, a bit of craftsmen, a bit of craftsmen, a bit of craftsmen, a bit of colors, embroidery, precious stones and high and light feathers. It became real job: the mascareri, a bit of craftsmen, a bit artists who worked all year to the creation of carnival masks. Even today the tradition of the mascareri is very much in demand. The most famous mask was undoubtedly that of the bauta, which included an entire disguise. The mask was white, with the particular shape of the pointed and protruding chin that gave the possibility of drinking and eating without having to take it off the face: this was the most widespread, both for men and women. And it was worn with the tricorn, the famous three-pointed black headdress, and a wide black cloak. Women, instead, loved to wear the moretta, a dark-colored velvet mask with a round shape that was supported on the face: thanks to a button held in the mouth and that made it impossible to speak. Today little used since it is not comfortable to wear. Around the city one of the plague patients: it is a mask made with a long aquiline beak that allowed to contain within it a filter made with salts and aromatic herbs, which "isolated" the doctor's sense of smell from the unpleasant odour that surrounded him. Today this mask is linked to the carnival festivities because over time it has acquired a superstitious and exorcistic value with regard to diseases. It seems that the Venetian Carnival, as we know it today, dates back to 1296, when the Senate of the Serenissima proclaimed the day before Lent a holiday with an edict. From that time the days dedicated to the feasts were the social equalization and the disguise with the use of masks. Therefore, actually the Carnival of Venice brought back the traditions of ancient religious festivals, inspired by the Roman Saturnalia during which slaves and free men gathered in unbridled entertainment that subverted the social order, and the Greek Dionysian cults, religious festivals that included the use of masks and costumes to preserve anonymity. Traditionally the modern Carnival opens with the Flight of the Angel, an ancient tradition known as the Flight of the Columbine, in which a young girl dressed in a sumptuous vintage dress launches herself from the top of the Columbine, in which a young girl dressed in a sumptuous vintage dress launches herself from the top of the Columbine, in which a young girl dressed in a sumptuous vintage dress launches herself from the top of the Columbine, in which a young girl dressed in a sumptuous vintage dress launches herself from the top of the Columbine, in which a young girl dressed in a sumptuous vintage dress launches herself from the top of the Columbine, in which a young girl dressed in a sumptuous vintage dress launches herself from the top of the Columbine, in which a young girl dressed in a sumptuous vintage dress launches herself from the top of the Columbine, in which a young girl dressed in a sumptuous vintage dress launches herself from the top of the Columbine, in which a young girl dressed in a sumptuous vintage dress launches herself from the top of the Columbine, in which a young girl dressed in a sumptuous vintage dress launches herself from the top of the Columbine, in which a young girl dressed in a sumptuous vintage dress launches herself from the top of the Columbine, in which a young girl dressed in a sumptuous vintage dress launches herself from the top of the Columbine, in which a young girl dressed in a sumptuous vintage dressed in the task of opening the Carnival belongs to the most beautiful Maria elected during the Carnival of the previous year. This tradition has its roots in an ancient and popular Venetian festival, perhaps dating back as far as 943: this is the Festa delle Marie. On the afternoon of the first Saturday of the holiday period, 12 Venetian girls parade in period costumes to Piazza San Marco, where the next day a jury chooses the most beautiful, which, bearing the title of Mary of the Eagle, which takes place in the same way the following week. The Carnival is instead dismissed with the symbolic Svolo del Leon: on the last day the flag of Venice with the winged lion, symbol of the city, is raised from the Piazza to the Campanile, while the orchestra of La Fenice intones the hymn of San Marco, after having crowned the most beautiful Mary. A sumptuous goodbye for the following year. Over the centuries the days dedicated to the Carnival were not only an opportunity for freedom and fun, but soon turned into a tasty opportunity for freedom the commission of crimes of every kind. It is the fourteenth century when the Senate decreed the absolute prohibition of wandering at night hidden behind a mask: that was only the beginning of a series of limitations that led to the disappearance of the Carnival. The ban was then added to go masked in churches, following barbarism perpetrated in places of worship to the detriment of pious women, to the point of being unable to wear cloaks and tabarri under which criminals hid dangerous objects. The prohibitions slowly weakened the true, joyful and festive spirit of the Carnival, which seemed to have to deal more with prohibitions than with celebrations of the festival. From there the great Carnival disappeared, also thanks to the French and Austrian dominations first. We are in the nineteenth century and we will have to wait more than a century to see the secular traditional feast restored: it is 1979 when the associations of citizens, together with the Biennale and the Teatro La Fenice, brought the Carnival back to life, now more alive than ever. It took only a few years and returned to being the most beautiful in the world. Venice. Since then the Carnival has not changed much, even if the period of the festivities is reduced to only 10 days. What has remained unchanged over time is the spirit, that sense of freedom and fun that pervades the whole city, in a sense of belonging and acceptance, of union between citizens and tourists. At Carnival Venice embraces us with a natural madness and joyful transgression, making us participants and protagonists of an unusual and dreamy, surreal and engaging show, which for a few days or a few hours takes us away from the tight and schematic rhythms of everyday life. At the traditional Feast of the Marie and the Flight of the Angel, which maintain a strong bond with the glorious past, the modern Carnival combines the technology of magnificent special effects to give us a wonderful show that can only exist in Venice: the Venetian Festival on the Rio of Cannaregio. On the first Saturday of the long festive period the celebrations are inaugurated with a parade of acrobats, dancers and stage machines in a show of lights and sounds, of water and aerial dance that uses the reflection of the water and the darkness of the evening to give incredible effects: an unmissable show! The following morning the party continues in the Grand Canal with the parade of allegorical water carts and festively dressed boats. The sumptuous and exclusive masked balls of the sumptuous and exclusive maske scattered in streets and fields: an atmosphere of unrestrained joy, a letting go of the inhibitory brakes surrounded by surreal and curious costumes that is worth worth living at least once in a lifetime. The celebrations is intense. It becomes difficult to choose in which days to stay, but it would be wonderful to experience this at 360°. And nothing more comfortable than staying in a typical Venetian apartment to feel completely immersed in the joyful atmosphere of the party. A comfortable than staying in a typical Venetian apartment to feel completely immersed in the joyful atmosphere of the party. complete freedom. If you want to feel like a Venetian for a few days I recommend booking an apartments of Venice Heavens Apartments all located in the heart of the city, which will allow you to experience the real Venice, the authentic one choosing between the most famous and the most peaceful areas. The apartments San Marco 1 and 2 are just behind the famous square, the Cà Giulia with a splendid terrace on the red roofs of the city is in the heart of the area once inhabited by the Greeks, close to the elegant Riva degli Schiavoni, the Cà Matilde is located in the young part of the city, close to Campo San Stefano, a stone's throw from the Accademia Bridge, while the Biennale 1 and 2 are immersed in the quieter Sestiere Castello, a few meters from the Arsenale, far from the hustle and bustle of the center. The apartments are all freshly restored, tastefully furnished, in a modern language that leaves significant traces of the typical Venetian style: an original and authentic accommodation. Large and spacious, can accommodate a minimum of 2 people, for young couples, up to a maximum of 8 for those located on the same landing, for larger families. The Venice Heaven apartments are equipped with all the comforts to make your stay welcoming: from satellite TV and smart TV to follow your favorite TV series of the most popular online platforms, a free wifi service; from the most varied kitchen appliances like microwave, dishwasher, coffee machine for all tastes, espresso and american, fridge and kettles to prepare tea and herbal teas, induction hobs to prepare quiet breakfasts and dinners. The bathroom and the bedrooms are equipped with all the linens you need for your stay, and useful courtesy sets. While on the ground floors you will find a laundry equipped with washing machines and dryers, iron and ironing board, to be impeccable even during the holiday. Climate well-being is assured thanks to the presence of a heating system for winter periods, such as those of the Carnival, and air conditioning for the summer months. Venice Heaven, the right way to spend a weekend for Venice Carnival is like stepping into another world! The costumes and masks were absolutely stunning—so detailed and colorful. Everywhere I looked, there were people dressed in incredible outfits, walking around the canals like they were from another time. I attended one of the masked balls, and it was such a magical experience, with music, dancing, and the most elegant atmosphere. If you're in Venice during Carnival, it's a must-do! Just be prepared for the crowds, but it's all part of the fun. Italian annual festival For other uses, see Carnival of Venice (disambiguation). Carnival of VeniceCarnevale di Venezia Carneval de VenèsiaThe Venetian Carnival tradition is most famous for its distinctive masks.StatusActiveGenreCarnivalFrequencyAnnuallyLocation(s)VeniceCountryItalyInaugurated1979 (1979) (modern event)FounderCity of VeniceAttendanceUp to 3 million The Carnevale di Venezia; Venetian: Carnevale di Venezia; Ven costumes and masks. The Carnival ends on Shrove Tuesday (Marted) Grasso or Mardi Gras), which is the day before the start of Lent on Ash Wednesday. The tradition was revived in 1979,[1] and the modern event now attracts approximately and the modern event now attracts approximately (Marted) Grasso or Mardi Gras), which is the day before the start of Lent on Ash Wednesday. The tradition was revived in 1979,[1] and the modern event now attracts approximately (Marted) Grasso or Mardi Gras), which is the day before the start of Lent on Ash Wednesday. 3 million visitors annually.[2] Carnival in Venice, by Giovanni Domenico Tiepolo, 1750 According to legend, the Carnival of Venice began after the military victory of the Venetian Republic over the patriarch of Aquileia, Ulrich II, in the year 1162. In honour of this, the people started to dance and gather in St Mark's Square. Apparently, this festival started in that period and became official during the Renaissance.[3] In the 17th century, the Baroque Carnival preserved the prestigious image of Venice in the world.[4] It was very famous during the 18th century.[5] It encouraged licence and pleasure, but it was also used to protect Venetians from present and future anguish.[6] However, under the rule of Emperor Francis II, the festival was outlawed entirely in 1797 and the use of masks became strictly forbidden. It reappeared gradually in the 19th century, but only for short periods and above all for private feasts, where it became an occasion for artistic creations.[7] After a long absence, the Carnival returned in 1979.[1] The Italian government decided to bring back the history and culture of Venice and sought to use the traditional Carnival as the centrepiece of its efforts. The redevelopment of the masks began as the pursuit of some Venetian college students for the tourist trade. Carnival.[2] One of the most important events is the contest for la maschera più bella ("the most beautiful mask"), which is judged by a panel of international costume and fashion designers. Since 2007 the winners have been: 2007: La Montgolfiera by Tanja Schulz-Hess. 2008: Luna park by Tanja Schulz-Hess. 2009: The voyages of Marco Polo by Horst Raack and Tanja Schulz-Hess. 2010: Pantegane from England. 2011: La famille Fabergé by Horst Raack, and Ommagio a Venezia by Paolo and Cinzia Pagliasso and Anna Rotonaia, best costume for the official theme 19th century by Lea Luongsoredju and Roudi Verbaanderd. 2012: Il servizio da thè del settecento (teatime) by Horst Raack, most creative costume Oceano by Jacqueline Spieweg. 2013: Alla Ricerca del Tempo Perduto by Anna Marconi, most colourful costume Luna Park. 2014: Una giornata in campagna by Horst Raack, best costume for the official theme La regina della cucina veneziana by Tanja Schulz-Hess, most creative costume Monsieur Sofa et Madame Coco by Lorenzo Marconi. 2016: I bagnanti di Senigallia by Anna and Lorenzo Marconi. 2016: I bagnanti di Senigallia by Anna and Lorenzo Marconi. 2018: L'amore al tempo del campari by Paolo II bagnanti di Senigallia by Anna and Lorenzo Marconi. Brando. 2019: I bambini della luce by Horst Raack, best traditional costume matrimonio all'italiana by Borboni si Nasce, most original costume Paguri by Nicola Pignoli and Ilaria Cavalli. In February 2020, the Governor of Veneto Luca Zaia announced the decision to call off the Carnival celebrations in an attempt to contain the spread of the coronavirus disease.[8] 2022: Dragon Baby by Cinzia Mandrelli from Rimini and her brother Piersante.[9] 2023: Astrostar by Karen Duthoit. Second was 4 elements: fire, air, earth, water by Alissa Karaeva from Pesaro, and third was Processione a San Marco by Simone Fracca from Bologna.[10] Typical masks worn at the Venice Carnival, which portray the satirical and exaggerated appearances often used Masks have always been an important feature of the Venetian Carnival. Traditionally people were allowed to wear them between the festival of Santo Stefano (Saint Stephen's Day, December 26) and the end of the Carnival season at midnight of Shrove Tuesday (movable, but during February or early March). As masks were also allowed on Ascension and from October 5 to Christmas, people could spend a large portion of the year in disguise. Maskmakers (mascherari) enjoyed a special position in society, with their own guild, with their own statute dated 10 April 1436. Mascherari belonged to the fringe of painters and were helped in their task by sign-painters who drew faces onto plaster in a range of different shapes and paying extreme attention to detail. Venetian masks were rather simple in design, decoration, and often had a symbolic and practical function. Nowadays, most Italian masks are made with the application of gesso and gold leaf and are hand-painted, using natural feathers and gems to decorate. However, this makes them rather expensive when compared to the widespread, low-quality masks produced abroad.[11] This competition accelerates the decline of this historical craftsmanship particular to the city of Venice.[citation needed] Several distinct styles of mask are worn in the Venice Carnival, some with identifying names.[12] People with different masks.[13] There is less evidence explaining the motive for the earliest mask being worn in Venice. One scholar argues that covering the face in public was a uniquely Venetian response to one of the most rigid class hierarchies in European history.[14] During Carnival, the sumptuary laws were suspended, and people could dress as they liked, instead of according to the rules that were set down in law for their profession and social class.[15] Masked men threw eggshells filled with perfume during carnival. The first documented sources mentioning the use of masks in Venice can be found as far back as the 13th century.[16] These ovi odoriferi were eggshells that were usually filled with rose water perfume, and tossed by young men at their friends or at young women they admired.[15] However, in some cases, the eggs were filled with ink or other damaging substances.[15] Gambling in public was normally illegal, except during Carnival;[15] the Great Council document decrees that masked persons were forbidden to gamble.[18] Another law in 1339 forbade Venetians from wearing vulgar disguises and visiting convents while masked. The law also prohibited painting one's face, or wearing false beards or wigs.[16] Near the end of the Republic, the wearing of the masks in daily life was severely restricted. By the 18th century, it was limited only to about three months from December 26. The masks were traditionally worn with decorative beads matching in colour.[citation needed] Simple bauta mask with black zendale and tricorne; in background, Zanni or Pantalone maskWoman of the Bautta, by Alessandro Longhi, detail. A man and a woman, both wearing bauta: bauta masks, black tricorn hats, grey tabarros, and black zendales. A man and a woman in bauta masks. The women's mouth is just visible under the beak of the mask. The bauta (sometimes referred as baùtta) is a mask, today often heavily gilded, although originally simple stark white, which is designed to comfortably cover the entire face; this traditional grotesque piece of art was characterized by the inclusion of an over-prominent nose, a thick supraorbital ridge, a projecting "chin line", and no mouth. The mask's beak-like chin is designed to enable the wearer to talk, eat, and drink without having to remove it, thereby preserving the wearer's anonymity. The bauta was often accompanied by a red or black cape and a tricorn. In the 18th century, together with a black circular or semicircular clasped cape[19][20] called a tabarro (and zendale hood[21]), the bauta had become a standardized society mask and disguise regulated by the Venetian government.[22] It was obligatory to wear it at certain political decision-making events when all citizens were required to act anonymously as peers. Only citizens (i.e., men) had the right to use the bauta. Its role was similar to the anonymizing processes invented to guarantee general, direct, free, equal and secret ballots in modern democracies. Also, the bearing of weapons along with the mask was specifically prohibited by the Venetian police by the Venetian p Given this history and its grotesque design elements, the bauta was usually worn by men, but many paintings done in the 18th century also depict women wearing this mask and tricorn hat. The Ridotto and The Perfume Seller by Pietro Longhi are two examples of this from the 1750s. The Colombina (also known as Columbine) is a half-mask, only covering the wearer's eyes, nose, and upper cheeks. It is often highly decorated with gold, silver, crystals, and feathers. It is held up to the face by a baton or is tied with ribbon as with most other Venetian masks. The Colombina mask is named after a stock character in the commedia dell'arte: Colombina was a maidservant and soubrette who was an adored part of the Italian theatre for generations. It is said it was designed for an actress because she did not wish to have her beautiful face covered completely.[citation needed] In fact, the Colombina is entirely a modern creation. There are no historic paintings depicting its use on the stage or in social life.[citation needed] While both men and women now wear this mask, it began as a woman's analog to the bauta.[citation needed] Main article: Gnaga During the 16th century in the Republic of Venice, homosexuality was illegal and punishable by death by hanging and burning in Piazza San Marco. However, Venetian law stipulated that people could not be punished for crimes committed while performing as a masked character during the Carnival.[23][24] In order to practice prostitution without fear of punishment, male homosexual prostitutes often wore dresses and carried baskets of kittens with them.[25] The gnaga mask continues to be worn at the Carnival of Venice by men dressed as women.[26] Wearers of the mask typically behave like female commoners, meowing mockingly at passers-by.[27][28] People that wear the gnaga are known as gnaghe.[29][30] Main article: Plague doctor costume A Medico della Peste ("The Plague Doctor" in English), with its long beak, is one of the most bizarre and recognizable of the Venetian masks, although it did not start out as Carnival mask at all but as a method of preventing the spread of disease. The striking design originates from 17th-century French physician Charles de Lorme who adopted the mask together with other sanitary precautions while treating plaque victims.[31] The mask is often white, consisting of a hollow beak and round eyeholes covered with crystal discs, creating a bespectacled effect. Its use as a Carnival mask is entirely a modern convention, and today these masks are often much more decorative. Although the mask and costume is worn almost exclusively by males, the enhancement in decoration also suggests that women are now more probably to wear the mask and costume than in previous years at the Carnival. The plague doctors who followed De Lorme's example wore the usual black hat and long black cloak as well as the mask, white gloves and a staff (so as to be able to move patients without having to come into physical contact with them). They hoped these precautions would prevent them contracting the disease. The mask was originally beaked with a purpose in congruence with the miasmatic theory of disease practiced at that time: the hollow beak allowed for the containment of flowers and other sweet-smelling substances designed to keep away the foul odors that were thought to spread infection. These who wear the plague doctor mask often also wear the plague doctor. The popularity of the Medico della peste among carnival celebrants can be seen as a memento mori.[citation needed] Woman wearing a moretta, and another holding one, in Pietro Longhi's The RhinocerosCloser view, in a 1745 portrait The moretta ("dark one" in English) or servetta muta ("mute servant woman" in English) was a small strapless black velvet oval mask invented in France in the 16th century, but differed in not having a hole to speak through. The mask was only just large enough to conceal a woman's identity and was held in place by the wearer biting on a button or bit (the women wearing this mask in use in 1751. It fell into disuse about 1760. The volto ("face" in English) or larva ("ghost" in English) is the iconic modern Venetian mask: it is often made of stark white porcelain or thick plastic, although also frequently gilded and decorated, and is commonly worn with a tricorn and cloak. The volto is also quite heavier than a typical mask and has a much tighter fit; many people who experience claustrophobia do not wear the volto at the modern festival, it is typically worn with a headdress, scarf, veil, another mask, or a combination of all four. It is secured in the back with a ribbon. Unlike the moretta muta, the volto covers the entire face of the wearer, including the whole of the chin. Unlike a typical mask, it also extends farther back to just before the ears and upwards to the top of the forehead; also unlike the moretta muta, it depicts the nose and lips in simple facial expressions. Unlike the bauta, the volto cannot be worn while eating and drinking because the coverage of the chin and cheeks is too complete and tight (although the jaw on some original commedia masks was hinged, this is not a commedia mask and so is never hinged—the lips are always sealed). Another classic character from the Italian stage, Pantalone, possibly stemming from the Italian stage, Pantalone, possible stemming from the Italian stage, possible stemming from the Italian stage, Pantalone, possible stemming from the Italian stage, possible stemming fro this character, is usually represented as a sad old man with an oversized nose like the beak of a crow with high brows and slanted eyes (meant to signify intelligence on the stage). Like other commedia masks, Pantalone is also a half mask. This mask is almost exclusively worn by men, although its popularity at the modern festival has declined.[32] Arlecchino's half-mask is painted black with an ape-like nose and a "bump" to signify a devil's horn. Arlecchino ("Harlequin" in English) is a Zanni character of the commedia. He is meant to be a type of "noble savage", devoid of reason and full of emotion, a peasant, a servant, even a slave. His originally wooden and later leather half-mask painted black depicts him as having a short, wide nose, a set of wide, round, arching eyebrows, a rounded beard, and always a "bump" upon his forehead meant to signify a devil's horn. He is a theatrical counterpoint to and often servant of Pantalone, and the two characters often appeared together on the stage.[32] Main article: Zanni A leather version of a Zanni mask, profile view The Zanni class of characters is another classic of the stage. Theirs is a half mask in leather, presenting themselves with low forehead, bulging eyebrows and a long nose with a reverse curve towards the end. It is said that the longer the nose, the more stupid the character. The low forehead is also seen as a sign of stupidity. [32] The Zanni are often the supporting characters in a commedia performance, often fulfilling similar societal roles as Arlecchino, although with smaller parts. The short story The Cask of Amontillado, written by Edgar Allan Poe, is set in Venice during the carnival. Venetian masks feature prominently in the films Eyes Wide Shut and Marco Bellocchio's The Witches' Sabbath. Stores that supplied the masks include both Ca' Macana[33] and Il Canovaccio[34] in Venice in the year of 1486. The song Carnival of Venice is popularized by violinist and composer Niccolò Paganini, who wrote twenty variations on the original tune. 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A "Venice Carnival's Most Typical Masks". Carnival in Venice Carnival in Venice. Retrieved 2025-01-31. Insider Guide. 2023-01-14. Retrieved 2025-01-31. ^ Christine M. Boeckl, Images of plague and pestilence: iconography and iconology (Truman State University Press, 2000), p. 27. ^ a b c Wiles, David (2004). The Masks of Menander: Sign and Meaning in Greek and Roman Performance. Cambridge University. p. 126. ISBN 9780521543521. Retrieved 27 April 2013. ^ See Pauline Frommer's Italy by Keith Bain, Reid Bramblett, Pippa de Bruyn, William Fink, Barbie Latza Nadeau p. 333 ^ Frommer's Northern Italy: Including Venice, Milan & the Lakes by John Moretti p. 168 Wikimedia Commons has media related to Carnival of Venice. Official website Carnivalofvenice.com: History, photos and videos since 1998 Carnival of Venice Retrieved from "It's not surprising then that visiting the Carnival of Venice is a beautiful experience indeed. With its theatrical location at the heart of the Venetian Lagoon, Venice is the perfect stage set. Groups of people dressed in lavish imaginative costumes and with faces concealed behind traditional Venetian masks perch at Venice's most iconic spots. Standing still and communicating just with gestures they add a fairytale quality to the city which in itself is already out of this world. All throughout the Carnival of Venice, public parades and historic events take place. At the centre of it all is the iconic St. Mark's Square. The large stage erected there reflects the specially selected Carnival theme which changes every year. It's on this stage that the culmination of all public Carnevale celebrations is achieved. This is where the Twelve Maries stand on after walking all across Venice just as they did back in the 10th century. And this is where the Angel of the Venetian Carnival steps on after her exhilarating flight down from the top of the 99 meters high St. Mark's Bell Tower. I had long wanted to experience the Carnival of Venice for myself. The idea of all this visual beauty and deep historic roots was indeed very appealing to me. The first chance that I got, I headed there. It was a drizzly February in 2011 and since then I have returned as often as possible so as to experience il Carnevale di Venezia again and again. So, in this blog post today, I want to share with you some curious facts about the Carnival of Venice. Delving deep into the history and the traditions of this large-scale event, I will also cover topics such as: What is the purpose of the Carnival in Venice? What happens at Venice Carnival? and Why do they wear masks in Venice during Carnevale? I hope that you will find the information provided both interesting and useful. Now, put a Venetian mask on (an imaginary one if you don't have the real thing) and have a look! 1. The Carnival of Venice Is Almost One Thousand Years Old Getting together in the cold months of winter to let loose and have raucous fun is a tradition as old as the world. The ancient Greek and Roman civilisations had their own winter festivals when people sort of lost control and indulged in the pleasures of the flesh. Bacchanalia, and Lupercalia are some of the names of these ancient wild celebrations. Their practices dripped through the centuries and influenced in one way or another the medieval cultures on the Old Continent, eventually crystalising in what we nowadays know as the Carnival. Great banquets and amusements have been organised in Venice in the last days before Lent since at least the end of the 10th century. Still, the documented story of the Carnival of Venice starts in 1094. This is when the Venetian Doge Vitale Falier signed the first document that has reached us where the precursor of the word Carnival - laxatio carnis - is mentioned. By the mid-13th century, Carnival had become a staple in Venetian life. Originally, it lasted from St. Stephen's Day on 26th December to Shrove Tuesday. It was a period when everyone could conceal his identity behind a mask and give himself with wild abandon to the task of having fun. More than a celebration, Carnival in Venice was a state of mind. In disguise, everyone was equal and everyone could be anyone. With a mask on, the nobility could avoid scrutiny while the populace - traditionally deprived of participation in the Venetian Republic's political life - could enjoy the illusion of being empowered. In the centuries that followed, the Carnival of Venice grew in popularity and the Carnival of Venice grew in popularit Europe and people started to travel to the city of water to see this wondrous festival for themselves. It all came to an end in 1797 when Napoleon Bonaparte conquered the Serenissima Republic of Venice. He abolished the public celebration of Carnival and forbade the wearing of masks outside. While private masquerade balls kept being organised with some regularity, the Venetian Carnival as a city-wide community event had reached the end of its life. 2. The Carnival of Venice, many attempts were made to revive the traditions and the public events of the Historic Venetian Carnival. They didn't succeed but here are two of the most curious efforts: In 1867, a Carnival celebration took place at St. Mark's Square and at La Fenice Opera House. It was organised by a group of locals dreaming to reclaim the glory of Venice. So, there was a Carnival parade culminating with the burning at the stake of a large effigy of King Carnival. A host of illustrious guests attended the event. Among them were the Italian patriot and revolutionary Giuseppe Garibaldi and Prince Amedeo - the son of the Italian King Vittorio Emmanuele II and future King of Spain. In 1933, the National Recreation Club - the fascist organisation controlling the leisure activities of Italian adults - made another effort to revive the Venetian Carnival. Although the wearing of masks had been forbidden after the First World War, masks were temporarily allowed for the event. It was only in 1979 and 1980 that the Carnival of Venice once again became a firm fixture on the Venetian calendar. Spurred by repeated efforts to revive it in the 1960's and the 1970's, the Venetians took it upon themselves to give it a new lease of life. For the 1979 edition, for example, there was a rowing competition, a theatrical performance, and a grand ball on St. Mark's Square. The highlight was the burning on the stake of an effigy of Pantalone - the Venetian character in Commedia dell'Arte who is known as Pantaloon in English. Pantalone's name is a corruption of the phrase pianta leone - literally 'lion-placing'. It refers to the practice of erecting a statue of the Venetian winged lion on top of a tall pillar on the main piazza of all towns that were annexed to the Republic of Venice by means of force or diplomacy. The practice was made fun of by the other Italian states and soon a new character was introduced in the Italian improvisational theatre - Commedia dell'Arte - representing an old miser. Dressed in red, with a black cloak and a crocked nose Pantalone was a merchant and a caricature of the Venetians. Nowadays, the Carnival of Venice is one of the world's most well-known and splendid events. Every year, it attracts more than a million people to the city of water. On the days with the main Carnival events, there could easily be more than 150,000 visitors in the historic centre of Venice – about three times the number of permanent residents. The narrow streets easily become bottlenecks and the crowds can be stuck there for hours. All in all, it's the blight of an otherwise splendid experience. There is quite a clear distinction between the 18th centuries is traditionally referred to as the Historic Carnival of the Republic of Venice. The modern-day one is known as Carnevale Moderno which is self-explanatory. 3. They Call It Carnival Because... Carnival is the large exuberant festival that precedes the straight-laced period of Lent. Lent requires people to give up meat and all other pleasures of the flesh albeit it culinary or carnal. In the past, when Lent was strictly observed by all, Carnival in a way served as a period of mental and physical preparation for the deprivations ahead. One last hurrah or getting it out of your system before you had to pray, fast, and repent over forty days. There are many different opinions about the etymology of the word Carnival. The most widely accepted ones rely on this juxtaposition of excess and restraint. As a linguist myself, I found it very interesting to trace the different potential explanations. Here is a summary: Carnival as a contraption of carnis laxatio and carnem levare - Both phrases are Latin in origin and mean 'to leave meat' and 'to put meat away'. Carnival that has reached us, this seems to be the most likely etymology. Carnis laxatio originally contracted to carnelevaria, carnilevaria, carnilevaria, carnilevaria, carnilevaria, carnilevaria, carnilevaria, carnilevaria, carnival in the Italian language. side note, some prefer to interpret carnem as 'flesh' (as in the body) rather than 'meat' (as in the food) and levare as 'raise' or 'lift up'. As such, carnem levare may imply the carnal pleasures that were very much the order of the day during the Carnival period. For example, the great Italian poet and scholar Giovanni Bocaccio - famous above all for writing the Decameron - apparently, often used the word carnelevare to refer to the male erection. Carnival as a contraption of carrus navalis - from an ancient Roman religious festival honouring the Egyptian goddess Isis. It was held on 5th March and included a procession (which some see as a precursor to Carnival parades). An integral part of it

was to carry a model of a ship called carrus navalis from the local Isis temple to the sea or a nearby river. A contracted carrus navalis forms Carnavale quite neatly, so this is an interesting theory to know and consider about the provenance of the term. 4. The Carnival of Venice Used to Last Months The Modern Carnival of Venice lasts on average two and a half weeks. The main public events are spread throughout this period with the most important ones being: Opening night of the Venetian Carnival. This is when a large water parade takes place on Rio di Cannaregio - one of the main canals in Venice. It is a beautiful spectacle with lavishly decorated barges and boats on which acrobats perform gravity-defying acts. The event attracts incredibly large crowds to the point of being difficult to move around. Festa delle Marie - usually on the Saturday before Shrove Thursday; Flight of the Lion - on the last day of Carnival; and Silent Regatta - on the last night of the Venetian Carnival. This is when the electricity along the Grand Canal is switched off and the last night of the madness of Carnival and the return to the daily grind. All throughout the duration of the Carnival of Venice, there are also masked balls, opera performances, treasure hunts, best mask competitions, a children's carnival, and many other public and private events. Phew! That's a lot! It's not surprising that they need on average 18 days to do it all. In the past though, the Carnival of Venice used to be even longer! For example, in 1989 it lasted a month. And back in the 11th-12th centuries, it would start on the Day of St. Stephen on 26th December and go on until Shrove Tuesday. In the centuries that followed, Carnival grew and grew opened their doors in October, then broke off for Christmas and resumed after Epiphany to last until Shrove Tuesday. Then, again, masks could be worn at several other times during the year. Not just for reasons of fun but to also provide discretion and anonymity. 5. Masks Are At the Heart of the Venetian Carnival For many centuries, the Historic Carnival of Venice provided easy access to liberty and equality which were guaranteed by the wearing of masks. Behind the mask, everyone could be a man or a mask as he could be anyone and everyone could be a man or a woman, a pauper or a prince. As the great social equaliser, the mask gave freedom and helped avoid scrutiny. The Modern Carnival of Venice upholds the custom of wearing a mask. Nowadays, Venetian masks are predominantly a symbol of beauty and mystery. Handmade and sumptuously decorated, you will find them in artisan shops all around town. A big portion of the experience of being at the Venetian Carnival is the visual delight of seeing all the masked people standing at different iconic spots. From St. Mark's Square to the Church of San Zaccaria, from Cafe' Florian to numerous small squares, beautiful maschere - as these people are known - pose for endless photos hidden completely behind elaborate costumes and full-face masks. They don't accept payment for posing in public places and come from all over the world. Usually, there are many French, German, and Italian people between them. Many return year after year, each time with an even more splendid costume than the previous Carnival. Often, it has taken them the better part of a year to come up with the idea for it and to make it themselves. Personally, for me, these maschere are the true spirit of the Modern Venetian Carnival. I admire the dream that they hold of a beautiful, fairytale Venice. I marvel at the extremes to which they go to design and make a unique costume. I am always astounded by their patience to stand still while surrounded by thousands of people clamouring for a picture with them. Seeing them makes you want to have a Venetian mask for yourself. Something sumptuous and totally impractical to take home from Venice with you. that the ancient craft of mask making has been revived in Venice over the last four decades. Nowadays, there are several artisan mask makers in the city of water. Visiting their shops is like finding yourself in a magical world. If you want to buy your own Venetian mask either to wear or to decorate your home with, then, have a look at this extensive blog post. It gives you all the practical information you need to make the perfect choice: Venetian Masks - 10 Things to Know Before You Buy 6. Nothing Stops the Carnival of Venice Cannot be interrupted no matter what. In the past, the Venetians went to extremes in order not to interfere in any way with the progress of Carnival, his passing was made public news only on the 2nd March after the celebrations had come to an end. Unfortunately, when in 1797 Napoleon Bonaparte conquered Venice he didn't hesitate to commit the greatest transgression - he actually cancelled all public Carnival of hesitate to commit the greatest transgression - he actually cancelled all public Carnival of hesitate to commit the greatest transgression - he actually cancelled all public Carnival of hesitate to commit the greatest transgression - he actually cancelled all public Carnival of hesitate to commit the greatest transgression - he actually cancelled all public Carnival of hesitate to commit the greatest transgression - he actually cancelled all public Carnival of hesitate to commit the greatest transgression - he actually cancelled all public Carnival of hesitate to commit the greatest transgression - he actually cancelled all public Carnival of hesitate to commit the greatest transgression - he actually cancelled all public Carnival of hesitate to commit the greatest transgression - he actually cancelled all public Carnival of hesitate to commit the greatest transgression - he actually cancelled all public Carnival of hesitate to commit the greatest transgression - he actually cancelled all public Carnival of hesitate to commit the greatest transgression - he actually cancelled all public Carnival of hesitate to commit the greatest transgression - hesitate to commit transgression - hesitate to Venice was cancelled because of the Gulf War. In 2013, the public events of the Carnival of Venice were suspended for a day due to the heavy snowfall that had befallen Venice that February. The snow was followed by an exceptionally high acqua alta, too. In 2020, the Carnival of Venice were suspended for a day due to the escalating Covid-19. It remains to be seen what is going to happen now in 2021. In principle, the Carnival's public events should start on 31st of January and last until the 16th of February. At the time of writing this blog post, there is a website which has already announced the Carnival's public events should start on 31st of January and last until the 16th of February. stated that the programme will be defined on the basis of the Covid-19 emergency trend. In any case, it would be completely understandable if the Carnival's public events don't go ahead this year. 7. Before Confetti They Used to Throw Perfume-Filled Eggshells at the Venetian Carnival Throwing confetti with wild abandon is one of the great delights of celebrating the Carnival in Italy in general and Venice in particular. You simply haven't lived until you have thrown handfuls of colourful tiny pieces of paper at strangers around you while they are doing the same to you. It unlocks something very primaeval. It removes the fear of being silly in public and it makes you join full-heartedly in the fun. Nowadays, big bags of confetti in different sizes are sold everywhere for the duration of the Carnival in Italy. At some Carnival events, they even employ confetti in your own bag and throw them thus spreading joy and cheer around. Well, many centuries before confetti were invented, the Venetians used to throw something else at their Carnival. Namely, perfume-filled eggshells! Apparently, this was a great flirting technique. For example, if you fancied a certain lady, you could throw rosewater-filled eggshell at her! However, some Venetian miscreants hidden behind a mask decided that they could throw eggshells filled with ink instead. Not at the ladies of their heart, I hope! This soon became a public hazard and the Venetian Senate had to intervene. So, a new law was voted in expressly forbidding anyone wearing a mask to throw eggshells! This happened in 1268, by the way! A long, long time ago but the lesson stuck! In 1979, when the Carnival of Venice was revived, a special ordinance was passed in advance to prevent history from repeating itself. The ordinance forbade the throwing of flour, eggs, and other projectiles by the Carnival celebrants. Instead, paper confetti (called coriandoli in Italian) took off and to this day they are the most popular and cheapest way to celebrate during the days of Carnival in Venice. 8. The Carnival of Venice Used to Revel in Some Rather Bloodthirsty Entertainment Eccentric events and historical reenactments have been the staple of the Carnival of Venice since its inception. Here is a short overview! In the past, while Carnival lasted between six weeks and several months, traditionally, the main Carnival celebrations took place on Fat Thursday. The focus of all events and performances was Piazzetta San Marco. This is the small but splendid extension that juts out of the majestic St. Mark's Square. Nowadays, Piazzetta San Marco is flanked by the pink and white Doge's Palace on one side and the solemn Sansovino Library on the other. At the start of the Historic Venetian Carnival, they would clear out the square. The Doge would position himself on the small balcony which you can still see on the facade of the Doge's Palace. The dignitaries and nobility of Venice would stand in a specially erected tribune. Among the main acts stood out: The slaughtering of twelve pigs and a bull - This was done year after year and reenacted an important for Venice historic event. In 1162 the city of water had fought against the patriarchal city of Aquileia (nowadays a town with lots of Roman and early Christian ruins in the northeastern Italian region of Friuli Venezia Giulia). Venetians were victorious and captured the city's patriarch and his twelve cannons. They brought them to send back twelve pigs and one bull in their place. The animals were tried in the Ducal court, sentenced to death and slaughtered. Then the dignitaries of Venice entertained themselves by destroying wooden models of the castles and fortifications that were allies to Aquileia. The practice of beheading the animals with one clean strike in the midst of the Carnival celebrations survived more or less until the middle of the 16th century. This is when the Venetian society started favouring more refined forms of entertainment. A military dance called moresca - it was performed with daggers or wooden sticks by the workers in Venice's shipyard Arsenale. Forze d'Ercole (in English, Hercules' Labours) - these were acrobats forming human pyramids which seemingly defied the laws of gravity and were very popular. Many other balance games were performed, too. Some would require that a person stood with his feet on two gondolas and then held up to three people on his shoulders and his head. In addition, at different spots around the city, you could also see fistfights. These were held on bridges with no railings so that the losing party of the city of would end in the cold waters of the canals. Especially popular were the fights between the warring family clans of the Castellani and the tensions between them started even before their ancestors had moved to the islands in the Venetian Lagoon to escape the Barbarian Invasions on the mainland. The Ponte dei Pugni (literally, Bridge of Fists) in the Venetian sestiere of Dorsoduro is where some of the most ferocious battles took place. Nowadays, you can see on the bridge the marks where the warring men had to place their feet while waiting for the signal to start the fistfight. Ox hunts held at different spots around Venice were another popular Carnival event. The oxen were incited and dangerously agitated. Then a pack of dogs was set upon them. The aim was for the bulls. The bloodshed would excite the spectators and be presented to the maidens of Venice. It was a reference to their future weddings with the hope that they would produce the male heirs to upheld and increase the glory of the Serenissima Republic of Venice. 9. The Carnival of Venice Sends an Angel Flying Down a Steel Rope The Volo dell'Angelo (in English, Flight of the Angel) is without a doubt the absolute highlight of the Modern Carnival of Venice. This is when a beautiful girl is suspended from a steel line and then slides slowly and graciously between the top of the 99 metres high St. Mark's Bell Tower to the main Carnival stage at St. Mark's Bell Tower to the main Carnival stage at St. becomes a huge sea of faces looking upwards. This daredevil performance has its origins in the Volo del Turco - a tightrope act performed at the Historic Carnival of Venice since 1558. In it, an acrobat walked from the top of the same bell tower to a boat anchored in the water lapping the Piazzetta San Marco. The act owes its name to the fact that the first tightrope walker to attempt it was Turkish. Historic sources also state that sometimes, the Volo was performed by a child sitting in a basket. The balcony of the Doge's Palace. Once safely arrived, the child would present the Doge with a poem and flowers. They say that the acrobat performing the Volo del Turco was secured by rings to the cord. At some point, he started wearing a pair of wings, too, However, in 1759, the acrobat tragically fell to his death. From then onwards and until the end of the Historic Carnival in 1797. Venetians resorted to using a wooden dove to glide down the rope while releasing flowers and candy over the crowd below. With the start of the Modern Carnival of Venice, the tradition was revived. Nowadays, it is performed by a beautiful girl safely attached to the steel rope. The Flight of the Angel quickly became such a popular event that a second flight was introduced in recent years. It's known as the Flight of the Eagle and it's performed by a famous Italian personality on the last Sunday before the end of Carnevale. There is also a third flight performed down the steel rope. Called the Flight of the Lion it takes place on the last day of the Carnival. This is when a huge Venetian flag is slowly lowered from the top of St. Mark's bell tower to the Carnival stage thus symbolising the end of yet another Carnival. 10. The Carnival of Venice Gave Us the Word for Marionettes! If you look at the programme of the Modern Carnival, you will notice that the Festa delle Marie is one of the central events on it. This is when twelve of the most beautiful girls from the islands in the Venetian Lagoon walk from the sestiere of Castello all the way to St. Mark's Square. It's a big and splendid parade. Along the way, the girls are carried on large wooden boards supported on the shoulders of young and strapping Venetian men. The event's historic roots pre-date those of the Venetian pirates. The girls were from the poorest families in Venice and the Doge had gifted them lavish dowries and jewels to make it possible for them to marry. Accompanied by their families and the Venetian nobility, the girls were at the Basilica of San Pietro to take part in a mass in celebration of the Virgin Mary. When the pirates grabbed the girls and their dowries, the Venetians pursued them releated the pirates near the small town of Caorle on the Adriatic coast, killed them and threw their bodies in the sea. Then, they returned victorious to Venice bringing back the twelve girls and the stolen riches. Since then, they returned victorious to Venice bringing back the twelve girls and the stolen riches. February which coincided with the Day of the Purification of the Virgin Mary. With the advent of the Venetian Carnival, the Feast of the Twelve poor girls were chosen to be gifted dowry and jewels by the Doge. Afterwards, they took part in a parade through the streets of Venice and feasted at the Doge's Palace. In 1349, a decision was taken to replace the girls with wooden dolls. Apparently, it was felt that the Feast of the Maries had become more of an occasion to meet the girls with wooden dolls. Venetians, outraged by the change, soon took it upon themselves to throw eggs, rotten fruit and vegetables onto the wooden dolls. The event soon lost its veneer of respectability and was suppressed in the second half of the 14th century. Although the feast stopped being celebrated, it left us a linguistic reference. They say that the word marionetted is a linguistic reference. was inspired by the wooden dolls that stood in for the Twelve Maries. With the re-birth of the Modern Carnival of Venice, the Feast of the Twelve Maries then spent the Carnival period taking part in many different events and masked balls. At the end of Carnevale, one of them is coronated a winner. Her biggest prize is that she becomes the Angel who flies down from the top of St. Mark's Bell Tower during the following year's edition of the Carnival of Venice. 11. The Carnival of Venice Has A Sweet Tooth You cannot come to the Carnival of Venice and not taste its traditional sweets. Just like Carnevale they also have a long and illustrious history that spanns several centuries back in time. You will find the Carnival sweets sold in every self-respecting patisserie and cafe in Venice. their fried and sugary glory, the traditional sweets of the Venetian Carnival: Frittella - imagine a ball of perfectly fried chewy dough that is beautifully dusted with juicy raisins the traditional Venetian frittella - imagine a ball of perfectly fried chewy dough that is beautifully dusted with juicy raisins the traditional Venetian frittella - imagine a ball of perfectly fried chewy dough that is beautifully dusted with juicy raisins the traditional Venetian frittella - imagine a ball of perfectly fried chewy dough that is beautifully dusted with juicy raisins the traditional Venetian frittella - imagine a ball of perfectly fried chewy dough that is beautifully dusted with juicy raisins the traditional Venetian frittella - imagine a ball of perfectly fried chewy dough that is beautifully dusted with juicy raisins the traditional Venetian frittella - imagine a ball of perfectly fried chewy dough that is beautifully dusted with juicy raisins the traditional Venetian frittella - imagine a ball of perfectly fried chewy dough that is beautifully dusted with juicy raisins the traditional Venetian frittella - imagine a ball of perfectly fried chewy dough that is beautifully dusted with juicy raisins the traditional Venetian frittella - imagine a ball of perfectly fried chewy dough that is beautifully dusted with juicy raisins the traditional Venetian frittella - imagine a ball of perfectly fried chewy dough that is beautifully dusted with juicy raisins the traditional Venetian frittella - imagine a ball of perfectly fried chewy dough that is beautifully dusted with juicy raisins the traditional Venetian frittella - imagine a ball of perfectly fried chewy dough that is beautifully dusted with juicy raisins the traditional Venetian frittella - imagine a ball of perfectly fried chewy dough that is beautifully dusted with juicy raisins the traditional Venetian frittella - imagine a ball of perfectly fried chewy dough that is beautifully dusted with juicy raisins the traditional Venetian frittella - imagine a ball of pe and crumbly pinenuts. Or stuffed with thick creme patisserie, lavish chocolate spread, sinful zabaione or a very popular in Venice creme chantilly. Not to be missed! Galani (also known as Crostoli) - these are thin and fragile strips of dough that have been deep-fried in very hot oil and then dusted with icing sugar. They have a very delicate taste and tend to crumble lots but are strangely addictive. Favette (also known as Castagnole) - these are small fried balls made of butter, sugar, and eggs. They can be either plain or stuffed with creme patisserie. They are all gone. 12. The Carnival of Venice is Not the Only One in the Venetian Lagoon Carnival is a big celebration all over Italy. And while the Carnival of Venice is not the only place with a Carnival in the venetian Lagoon. For a smaller and some would say more authentic celebration head to the islands of Lido, Murano, and Burano. The locals there stage their own events with masquerades and parades with paper-mache figures. In fact, the Carnival of Venice, all the way through the 1970's Burano celebrated its own Carnival and even inspired the resurgence of a Carnival on the island of Murano. In Conclusion The Carnival of Venice is one of the world's most famous Carnival celebrations. With a thousand-year-old history behind its back, it is a lavish festival with many public events inspired by ancient traditions. The above blog post lifts the veil over the history and the traditions of the Carnival of Venice. It also provides you with an outline of the most important public events that take place during the Modern Carnival of Venice apart from being a long-life admirer of the event, my interest in history and traditions and my memories of spending time at the public Carnival events spurred me to write this blog post. My hope is that the more people know about the past, the better they are prepared to enjoy the present and to make use of every opportunity that presents itself to them. possible again. At present and with everything that happened in 2020, we don't know exactly how the Carnival in Venice is going to progress. Yet, it's always interesting to look back on what happened in the past. As if there is a lesson to be learned from it is that everything eventually passes but traditions that have developed over many centuries always find a way to resurface in people's minds and intentions for the future. Here is looking forward to many future editions of the Carnival of Venice one way or another! More Helpful Links Thank you for reading! Please, leave me a comment, pin the image below or use the buttons right at the top and at the end of this blog post to share it on social media. For more useful information like this, please, like my blog's page on Facebook and subscribe to my strictly no-spam newsletter