

Italy - The Curse of Ca' Dario



Ca' Dario is a Venetian palace located on the Grand Canal in Venice, Italy. Built in the late 15th century, the building is renowned not only for its Renaissance-style architecture but also for the series of mysterious deaths and misfortunes that have befallen its owners over the centuries. This succession of tragic events has given rise to the legend of the "Curse of Ca' Dario."

The palace was commissioned by Giovanni Dario, a Venetian noble, in 1487. The architect responsible for its design remains unknown, though some attribute the work to Pietro Lombardo. The facade of the palace, facing the Grand Canal, is adorned with Istrian stone and polychrome marble motifs, characteristic of Venetian Gothic style with

Renaissance influences.

After Giovanni Dario's death in 1494, the palace passed to his daughter Marietta and her husband Vincenzo Barbaro. Shortly thereafter, Barbaro died under suspicious circumstances, followed by Marietta, who committed suicide. Their son, also named Vincenzo, died in a duel soon after.

The Curse

Over the centuries, a series of tragic events has struck the owners and residents of Ca' Dario. Among them:

- **John Ruskin:** The famous British writer and art critic stayed briefly at Ca' Dario, and shortly afterward, his career and personal life were marred by scandals and depression.
- **Rawdon Brown:** An English historian who bought the palace in the 19th century, committed suicide.
- **Charles Briggs:** A wealthy American who acquired the palace in the early 20th century, faced financial ruin and eventually left Italy in disgrace.
- **Raul Gardini:** An Italian businessman who committed suicide in 1993 after a series of professional setbacks, shortly after being associated with Ca' Dario.

Hypotheses and Theories

The causes of this alleged curse are subject to various speculations. Some attribute the misfortunes to supernatural forces or bad energy associated with the palace. Others cite unfortunate coincidences or environmental factors, such as the building's structural instability, which might cause stress or mental health issues among its inhabitants.

Legend and Popular Culture

The curse of Ca' Dario has fueled numerous urban legends and attracted the attention of media and tourists. The palace remains a fascinating subject for mystery enthusiasts and ghost story fans.

Influence in the Arts

Ca' Dario's sinister reputation has inspired several literary and cinematic works. Writers and filmmakers have used the palace as a setting for stories of suspense and the paranormal.

Conclusion

Ca' Dario, with its history intertwined with architectural beauty and human tragedy, remains one of the most enigmatic palaces in Venice. Whether one believes in the curse or not, the events associated with its owners continue to fascinate and captivate the public's imagination.

Sources

- fr.wikipedia.org