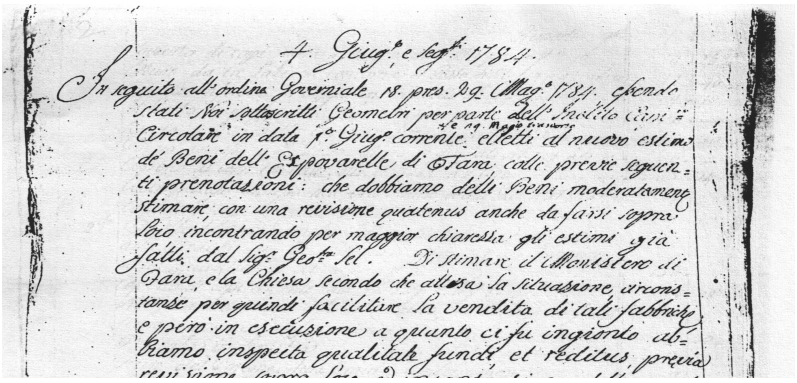
House in Bruma

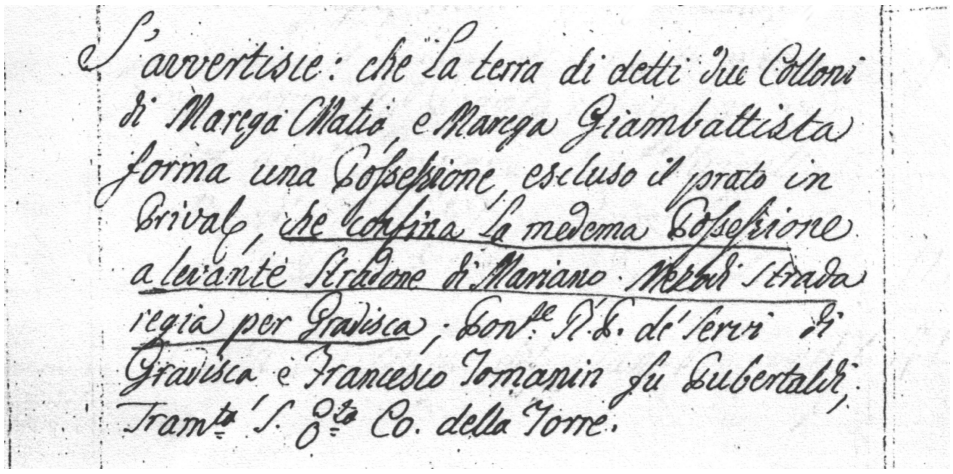
"I started my researches on the house belonging to my husband Giovanni Blason in 2002.
The elegant finishing of the building, the garden architecture with the flowerbeds and bushes arranged in the style of a classical Italian garden, stirred my curiosity.
I thought my researches would bring be back to the beginning of the 900s but actually I soon discovered that the main building and the annexes had a more complex and interesting history.
Going through the State archives of Gorizia – the richest source of information on the ancient county of Gorizia and Gradisca – I found the oldest piece of information on the existence of the house.
The house was on the maps already in 1784 and was owned by the "Cesarea Cassa di Religione".
It was a colonial house and was identified as Casa in Bruma n. 23 (at that time Bruma was the village that surrounded the fortress of Gradisca).
It was part of the belongings of the Poverelle di Farra religious order, whose convent was closely connected to that of the Domenican convent in Farra di'Isonzo.
Under the empire of Josef II (1741-1790), son of the Empress Maria Theresia of Austria, some very important reforms were introduced. The "Toleranzpatent" in which liberty of religion was sanctioned and the obligations of the feudal serfs were abolished. After the enforcement of these reforms and further on of the codex by Jozef, the church changed its policy and the convents were closed down (the only exception was the one of the Order of the Jesuits) as well as the seminars and all the properties of the various religious orders which all converged to the "Cesarea Cassa di Religione".
I then continued my investigation at the State archives of Trieste where all the acts and documents regarding the Contea of Gorizia between 1783 and 1791 are sill kept. After examining all the documents, many of which in German, I found the liquidation of the properties of the religious order in question.



4. Giug.o e Segg.ti 1784.

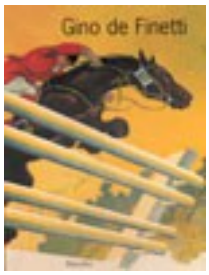
In seguito all'ordine Governiale 18 pros. Dg. Magg.o 1784. spedito
stati Nri Subalterni Geometri per parte dalla Facoltà Civi-
Circolare in data 1.o Giug.o corrente eletti al nuovo estimo
de' Beni delli Espovarelle di Farra colle prescritte seguen-
ti prenotazione: che dobbiamo delli Beni moderatamente
stimare, con una revisione quatenus anche da farsi sopra-
loro incontrando per maggior chiarezza gli estimi già
fatti dal Sig.r Geo.tra Sel. Di stimare d'ordine del Governo di
Farra, e la Chiesa secondo che attessa la situazione, circos-
tanze per quindi facilitare la vendita di tali fabbriche
e però in esecuzione a quanto ci fu ingionto ab-
biamo inspecta qualitate fundi et reditus previa

Particular of the document in which the properties of the "Poverelle di Farra", among which the "house" is evidenced, are liquidated.


S'avvertisce: che la terra di detti due Colloni di Marega Mattia e Marega Giambattista forma una Possessione, escluso il prato in Brival, che confina la medema Possessione a levante Strada di Mariano Mezzo Strada regia per Gradisca, Sons.ri N.N. de' Heredi di Gradisca e Francesco Tomasin fu Gubertalli; Tram.te S. Os.to Co. della Torre.

The colonial house indicated as "Possessione" (possession) was run by the framers: Mattia Marega and Giambattista Marega.

In 1784 the main building and annexes were bought by Dr. Seatti, an obstetrician of Gorizia, at his death the property was left to his three sisters; Caterina, Anna and Paolina.
In 1840 the entire property is then left to Paolina's son, Franz, the only hair of the family. Franz Seatti in turn sold the land and the colonial house to Gio Battisti De Finetti.
The colonial house undergoes a thorough renewal. The De Finetti family was a very important family originally from Pisa that moved to our region in 1700. It was annexed to the Habsburg nobility thank to military recognitions. The most representative figures of the family were Giovanni Giuseppe De Finetti, military engineer and general of the Austrian army, who built the fortifications of Belgrade and Graz. Germano Federico De Finetti, a domenican friar who went by the name of Bonifacio, a particularly vivid figure of the religious culture of 1700s. His studies of the Orient were recognised throughout Europe and were even purchased by the Empress Catherine II of Russia and are still kept in St.-Petersburg.
A more recent figure is Gino, painter, poster designer, and cartoonist, (Pisino d'Istria 1877 – Gorizia 1955). He spent his youth between Munich, Paris and Berlin and his works appeared on prestigious magazines ("Simplicissimus", "Jugend", "Berliner illustrierte Zeitung", "Lustige Blätter", "Dame"). He made various stage-designs and posters for a German filmmaker; and a decoration for some theatres in Berlin. He returned to Gorizia in 1934 and worked up to his death. He participated in the Biennale of Venice and the Quadriennale of Rome. His works can be admired in the museums of Gorizia, Trieste and in the modern art gallery in Gradisca d'Isonzo. There is also a very interesting Via Crucis exhibited in the Parish church in Corona. The still living family reside in Trieste.



Revoltella Museum Trieste

Getting back to my researches. In 1840 the manor becomes property of the De Finetti family, and in the same year Gio Battista sells his part to his brother Francesco who would transform the colonial house into a summer residence conferring it with an elegant style so very fashionable at that time. The garden is set and organised in an Italian garden style; Atlantic cedars were planted and still today maintain their magnificence and imposingness.

At his death the manor was inherited by his daughter Caterina who in 1904 sold the whole property.
The manor then had a number of different owners, mainly families from Trieste that kept it as a summer residence. For a very short period, during the second world war the residence became the site of a German military command.
In 1954 the entire property was purchased by Mr. Cossar a businessman from Ruda and finally in 1970 it was sold to my father in law Augusto Blason form Villesse. He maintained the original form of the building and the garden making just a few changes.
In the main building one can still admire the ancient pavement in "Seminato Veneziano" (Venician random mosaic), the elegant wooden staircase, the built-in kitchen called "spargher", the stone sink and the original pavement made of red and black bricks. All these features recall the ancient tradition of the house, which still today, after 300 years is maintained by Giovanni. Winemaking.

Valentina Vecchi