

“TREVIGLIO”

THE BELL-TOWER

Taken from “**Treviglio: storia, arte e cultura**” by Barbara Oggioni - *ed. Clessidra 2002*

The Bell-tower or Civic Tower is certainly the most representative architectural work of the city: it is approximately 65 metres high and visible from every one of the radial roads coming into Treviglio from surroundings district, marking the town centre even from distance.

It was probably built during the 11th century, was originally shorter than now, having been heightened during the 13th or 14th century, but was certainly completed during the 15th century, as testified by written documents and paintings.

It must have had a representative role, but also have been an observation point and platform for proclamations and calls to work, to prayer and to arms.

Despite the damage inflicted on it during the sacking by the Venetians in 1509, the tower's Gothic form has remained intact – its height and the painted arch forms of the mouldings around the mullion windows with two lights. Typical Lombardy-style ornamentation can be seen in the series of small crossed suspended arches which create the horizontal features of the tower, starting from just above the four-openings in the belfry and becoming more numerous and closer-set towards the top of the tower.

On the northern side of the tower there are traces of two lions rampant, between which was probably the City Crest, painted in the still visible niche.

The clock which can be seen today, that since 1980 has been electronic, was installed in 1950, replacing a previous one, and documentary sources confirm that the tower has had a clock since 16th century.