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THE BONCOMPAGNI LUDOVISI MUSEUM

FOR THE DECORATIVE ARTS, TRADITION AND FASHION
OF THE 19th AND 20th CENTURIES



THE BONCOMPAGNI LUDOVISI MUSEUM

Via Boncompagni, 18
00187 Roma

Opening hours:
Tuesday to Sunday
9.00 am to 7.30 pm (last entrance at 7.00 pm)

Closed on Mondays
free entrance

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 Museo Boncompagni Ludovisi

 [museoboncompagniludovisi](https://www.instagram.com/museoboncompagniludovisi)



The Boncompagni Ludovisi House, designed in 1901 by the engineer Giovanni Battista Giovenale (1849-1934), is a particular example of eclectic architecture,

expressing the taste of the first 20th century known as “barocchetto romano” mixed with Art Nouveau elements. The building is located, between Porta Pinciana and Porta Salaria, where the *Villa Ludovisia* used to stand in the 17th century, constituting with the close by Villa Medici and several other villas and noble gardens the large green enclosure surrounding the historical center of Rome since ancient times. From the 1st century BCE a rich residence property of Caesar extended in this area during the Roman period, later purchased by the historian Gaius Sallustius Crispus and turned into the famous *Horti Sallustiani*. After a long period of abandonment following the Barbarian invasions, the area was converted into different vineyards by noble families. In 1620 cardinal Ludovico Ludovisi purchased one of these properties to create his own residence, *Villa Ludovisia*. Because of its peculiar beauty, the villa became a destination of the *Grand Tour* itinerary and many scholars praised its panoramic and artistic qualities. By the end of the 19th century the Boncompagni Ludovisi family decided to sacrifice the villa to create a new neighborhood; in 1886 the family signed the Agreement with the mayor of Rome Leopoldo Torlonia and the Società Generale Immobiliare di Torino, which ordered the demolition of the historic villa in order to leave space for a neighborhood of single family villas, luxury hotels and religious architectural complexes.

The Boncompagni House, built in 1901 under Prince Luigi Boncompagni Ludovisi, became the abode of a branch of the noble family. The building distributes on four levels: a basement, with the kitchen, laundry room and service rooms; a raised groundfloor, or piano nobile for official

occasions; a mezzanine used as a wardrobe, ironing room and extra service space. Finally a second floor used as a sleeping area by the family.

In 1932, upon commission of Prince Andrea Boncompagni Ludovisi, the layout and pavement of the piano nobile were changed and an elevator still in function today was added.

The residence was inhabited by Prince Andrea and his wife, Alice Blanceflor de Bildt, noble woman of Swedish origin, who remained in the villa also after her husband's death and during her second marriage to the lawyer Adolfo Gancia. In 1970 Blanceflor devised the building and the furniture of the piano nobile to the Italian government, so that its use could benefit the community through art and culture. At her death (1972) the House was acquired and restored by the Ministero per i Beni Culturali e Ambientali and in 1995 the Boncompagni Ludovisi Museum for the Decorative Arts, Tradition and Fashion of the 19th and 20th centuries was opened, to execute the princess' last will.



The museum displays permanently the original furniture (armchairs, chairs, console tables in *rocaille* style, writing desks, vases and furnishings) and in rotation the objects of decorative art, gowns and fashion accessories donated and acquired by the museum.

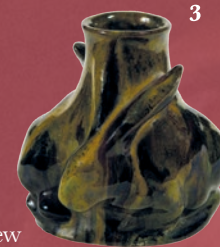
The visitable floors are two: the piano nobile and the second floor. The piano nobile includes the Galleria degli Arazzi decorated by tapestries of the “a verzure” type of Flemish production (half of the 17th century), the Salotto (Salon) decorated by wallpaper of oriental taste, the Salone delle Vedute with a *trompe l'oeil* fresco recalling the lost *Villa Ludovisia*, where a juvenile

portrait of Alice Blanceflor de Bildt is displayed, and finally a Dining Room dedicated to the figure of pope Gregory XIII Boncompagni, where is on display the sketch by Pietro Gagliardi for the decoration of the new section of the Casino dell'Aurora, representing life episodes from the said pope's pontificate.

Artworks by Galileo Chini, Duilio Cambellotti, Alfredo Biagini, Ernesto Basile, Vittorio Grassi and other artists renovating the aesthetics of our country in the past century, by anticipating the evolution of taste in decorative arts, are shown on the second floor, where it is still possible to admire the *salle de bain* from the 1930s covered by precious marbles.

Great relevance is given to the history of traditions and fashion through the display of numerous gowns of famous stylists and important tailor boutiques, showing the evolution of Italian fashion from the end of the 19th century to the last decades of the 20th century. The High Fashion collection started to form in 1996, when some distinguished Roman *maisons-*

Fausto Sarli, Fernanda Gattinoni, Angelo Litrico- donated a series of gowns to the Boncompagni Ludovisi museum. Thanks to the first generous donations of these designers and of others such as Valentino, Raffaella Curiel, Marella Ferrera, Lorenzo Riva and Renato Balestra, an interesting nucleus of gowns representing the history of Italian haute couture was created. Significant were



CAPTIONS

1. Unknown artisan, hand-printed wallpaper, end of the 18th century
2. Meissen production, Statuette with salt shaker in porcelain, half of the 18th century
3. Duilio Cambellotti, Vase with rabbits in polychrome maiolica, 1921
4. Duilio Cambellotti, Vase with swallows in monochrome maiolica, 1898 – 1920
5. Angelo Litrico, Tuxedo in Silk Damask fabric, 1962 / Lorenzo Seva, formal evening gown in silk, satin, sequins and beads, 1990 circa
6. Botti sisters, formal evening outfit in satin and silk brocade, 1957

Cover:
Philip de László,
Portrait of Princess
Alice Blanceflor
Boncompagni Ludovisi
de Bildt, 1925 circa,
oil on canvas