

Carnival of Venice

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History of the Venetian Carnival

- Takes place in Venice, Italy
- The Venetian Carnival began in 1162 to celebrate the victory of the Republic over Ulrico.
- 1268-1st time masquerade masks were used at the carnival.



History of the Venetian Carnival

Venetian Carnival was outlawed in the 1930s and revived in the 1980s

- Outlawed because the government didn't want the people to hide their identity by covering their faces with masks
- Revived in 1980 by Venetian locals

Carnival & Masquerade Balls

- Carnival-celebrates days of dancing before the Christian season of Lent
 - Lent-40 days before Easter & falls on the 1st Sunday after the 1st full moon after the vernal equinox
 - Periods of forgiveness, fasting, prayer
- Louis XV of France held masquerade balls in Paris to conceal the identity of the upper-class at Carnival.
 - Louis XV started masquerade balls as a way of hiding the identity of his commoner mistress from the royal court.

Venetian Carnival Today

- Starts two weeks before Ash Wednesday on a Tuesday & ends the day before (Mardi Gras)
 - Shrove “Fat” Tuesday-day before Ash Wednesday where Catholics eat lots of food before fasting begins during Lent
 - Ash Wednesday can happen as early as February 4 & as late as March 10
- Carnival comes from Latin, meaning “Farewell, meat” to symbolize fasting during Lent.
 - Catholic bishops decided for Catholics to give up meat as a form of repentance & turning away from sin

Masks of the Venetian Carnival

- The following slides show pictures of the most common masks used in the Venetian Carnival
 - Today, these masks are full of more variety and colors, and more detailed than what they were in the past

The Bauta



- White mask that covers the whole face & worn with a black cloak & tricorne hat
- Worn by ladies & gentlemen
- Hid the identity of the person who was wearing it

The Moretta

- Black velvet, oval shaped mask that covered all but the outer area of the face
- Worn by women visiting convents
- Attached to face by a button held in place by the woman's teeth



The Volto-Larva



- Like the bauta
- White mask that covers the whole face, worn with cloak & tricorn
- Allowed for wearer to breathe easier out of & drink from without having to remove mask, therefore keeping identity a secret

Videos

- http://www.onetruemedia.com/otm_site/view_shared?p=82ddeao179db39e9dfoca3&source=category&category_id=17
- <http://myspacetv.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=vids.individual&videoid=53600595>
- http://www.metacafe.com/watch/2527554/venice_carnival_2009_venice_st_mark_square_carnival_mas/

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