



The *Bartoccio* is typical, local carnival mask. It is the local farmer from the area of Pian del Tevere, near Perugia: uncouth, but shrewd, jovial and wise and who, as early as 1600, appears in local traditional literature.

His vivacious, colourful family life (starring his wife, Rosa, his daughter Suintina and his cronies, including Mencarone) are intertwined with the history of the town and are an opportunity to launch scathing, irreverent attacks on our political class.

This is the origin of the custom whereby satire of costume and social commentary was composed in dialect, at carnival time, and written on anonymous scrolls. In honour of their pungent source of inspiration, these were called *bartocciate* .

The sheets of paper, thrown into the masked crowd, were an opportunity to expose the games of power played at the expense of citizens. Censorship hit the Bartoccio so hard, that at the end of 1700, the Papal domination declared it a forbidden character. With the Risorgimento, the mask regained vigour, to such an extent that it became a true emblem of the city.

