

## **A history of man and water**

The Padusa, an obscure ancient name of the territory that includes the marshes in the Po delta and those formed near the Rhine, historically refers to a picture of large areas of stagnant water, where the life of man is particularly hard.

Agricultural land available is scarce, the fight against water is arduous, it is characterized by difficulties due to frequent flooding and requires constant commitment.

In this environmental situation, the men and women of Argenta are constantly refining their "know-how", aimed at drawing as much as possible from the natural resources offered by the environment.

The natural landscape, which characterized the territory until the beginning of the modern age, was only at times visibly marked by human presence, and the waters reached the moats and city walls, flanking the fences of houses and vegetable gardens.

A valley economy prevailed, i.e. a water civilization, based on natural resources: fishing, hunting, common reed and marsh herbs, materials used in domestic life, handicrafts and the construction of huts and fences.

This gave rise to particular trades which consequently led to a

specific language, made up of dialectal terms designed to indicate materials, tools and work systems.

The environmental factor did not only influence the material aspects of life, it fed images and fantasies, dreams and fears that became fairy tales for children and stories of life in the valleys.