



- Main cities: **BOLOGNA**, Ferrara, Reggio Emilia, Modena, Piacenza, Forlì
- Historical overview: Before the Romans took control of present-day Emilia-Romagna, it had been part of the Etruscan world and then that of the Gauls. In the 16th century, the territories of Parma, Piacenza, and Modena remained independent from the seigniories (such as Este, Popes of Rome, Malatesta) until Emilia-Romagna became **part of the Italian kingdom between 1859 and 1861**.
- Spoken languages: Italian, **Emilian and Romagnol dialects**. They are Romance languages spoken almost exclusively in the region and in San Marino, also considered minority languages, structurally separated from Italian by the Ethnologue and by the *Red Book of Endangered Languages* of UNESCO.
- Climate: typically continental in the center and get milder towards the coast.

« Unlike the other cities I photographed, Bologna took me by the throat ... shrouding, sensual, gloomy, roundish and plentiful as its dialect and its women. » – A. De Luca





The Mourning over the dead Christ,
Niccolò Dell'Arca (detail)

Giovanni Pascoli was born into a well-to-do family. He was the fourth of ten children. His father was administrator of an estate of farm land. On the evening his **father** was returning home from the market in a carriage drawn by a black and white mare (*una cavalla storna*), he was **shot and killed** by an assassin hiding in a ditch by the road. The mare continued slowly on her way and brought home the body of her slain master. The murderer was never apprehended. The early deaths of his mother, sister and two brothers, and the subsequent financial decline of the family made his childhood tormented and affected his poetry.

Pascoli mayor works "Myricae" and "Canti di Castelvecchio". Myricae is the first collection of poems and the title already explains part of the content: Myricae in Latin means tumeric, a humble plant that grows on the ground level and usually not considered by anybody. They are the symbol of the humble poem Pascoli intends to compose, a poem made of **small things** observed with the **child's wonder**.

