



THE ROOM OF THE LOGGIAS

In this room the 17th Century frieze was deeply modified and redesigned in the 1800s, while the fresco at the centre of the vaulted ceiling remains much as it was, despite the coat of arms of Paul V having been replaced by that of Pius IX. On the sides of the vaulted ceiling you can admire the beautiful 19th Century decoration, in which the painter and scenographer Annibale Angelini set out a faux loggia perspective in which Swiss Guards move about or lazily lean out of.

Along the walls of the room hang five frescoes which were stripped from a corridor of the Quirinale Palace demolished in 1940. They feature five views of buildings and cities painted in 1635 and connected to the papacy of Urban VIII, born Maffeo Barberini. In particular, two frescoes depict the Castel Sant'Angelo, protected by the new fortifications ordered by the Pope, and the Pantheon, also featuring its so-called "ears", i.e. the two bell-towers which were demolished in the 1800s. The other frescoes show views of Orvieto, Civitavecchia and San Caio, a church located near the Quirinale Palace that is no longer standing.

Like the rooms preceding and following it, the Room of the Loggias hosts four large and precious oriental porcelain vases. Their gilt bases, despite their having been later etched with the Savoy coat of arms, were carved in the 18th Century for Pope Benedict XIV.