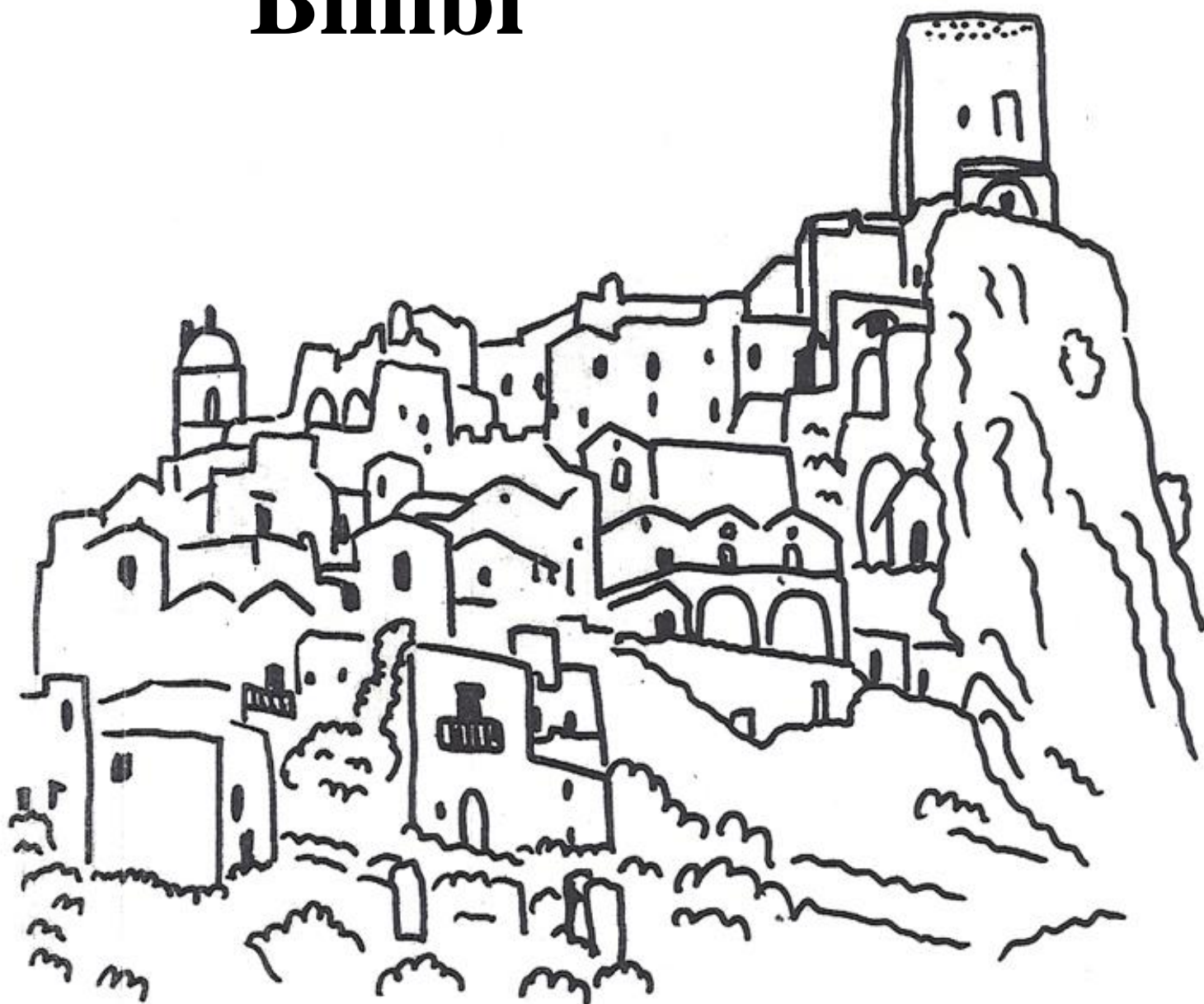


# Craco per Bimbi



Rinaldi Vincenzo

## Acknowledgement

*Craco per bimbi (Craco for Children)* was originally drafted by Vincenzo Rinaldi in 2007 with the intention of creating a children's book with the history of Craco. He was kind enough to pass it to The Craco Society with wishes that it be produced. We are indebted to Vincenzo for his kindness in sharing this work with us and our children. His unique sketches make the story lively and interesting and have been reproduced as provided. The Italian text was also preserved and an English translation was added. These required formatting changes but every effort was made to keep the integrity of Enzo's original content for future generations.

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Craco per Bimbi  
by  
Vincenzo Rinaldi

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## Il Paese - La Storia

Il paese di Craco Vecchia sorge in cima ad una collina argillosa che é andata sempre piú li sbriciolandosi in seguito a paurose frane, trascinando a valle le abitazioni.

Il nome del paese deriva da "grachium" cioé campo arato, con riferimento al lavoro contadino.

Altri sostengono invece che il nome derivi dal verso dei corvi, da sempre presenti nel vecchio borgo.

Il paese fu fondato attorno al 1200 e successivamente furono costruiti il Convento e il Castello.

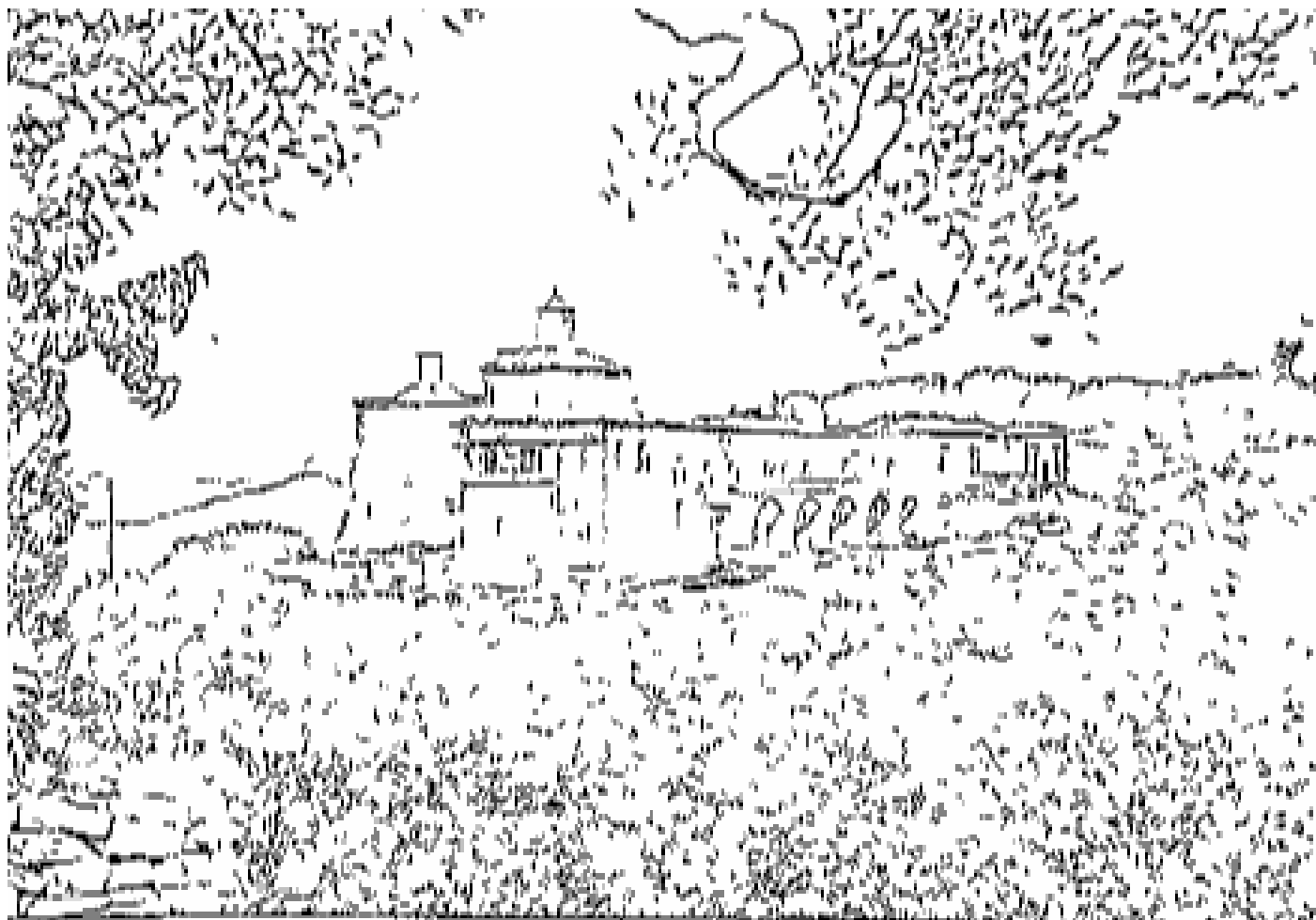
## The Town – History

The village of Craco Vecchia is situated on top of a clay hill that is crumbling more and more as a result of landslides that are dragging the homes down the hill.

The town's name derives from "grachium" which means in Latin, "plowed field" referring to the farming that took place there.

Others claim that the name comes from the call of the crows that have always been present in the old village.

It was founded around the year 1200 and later a Monastery and castle were built.

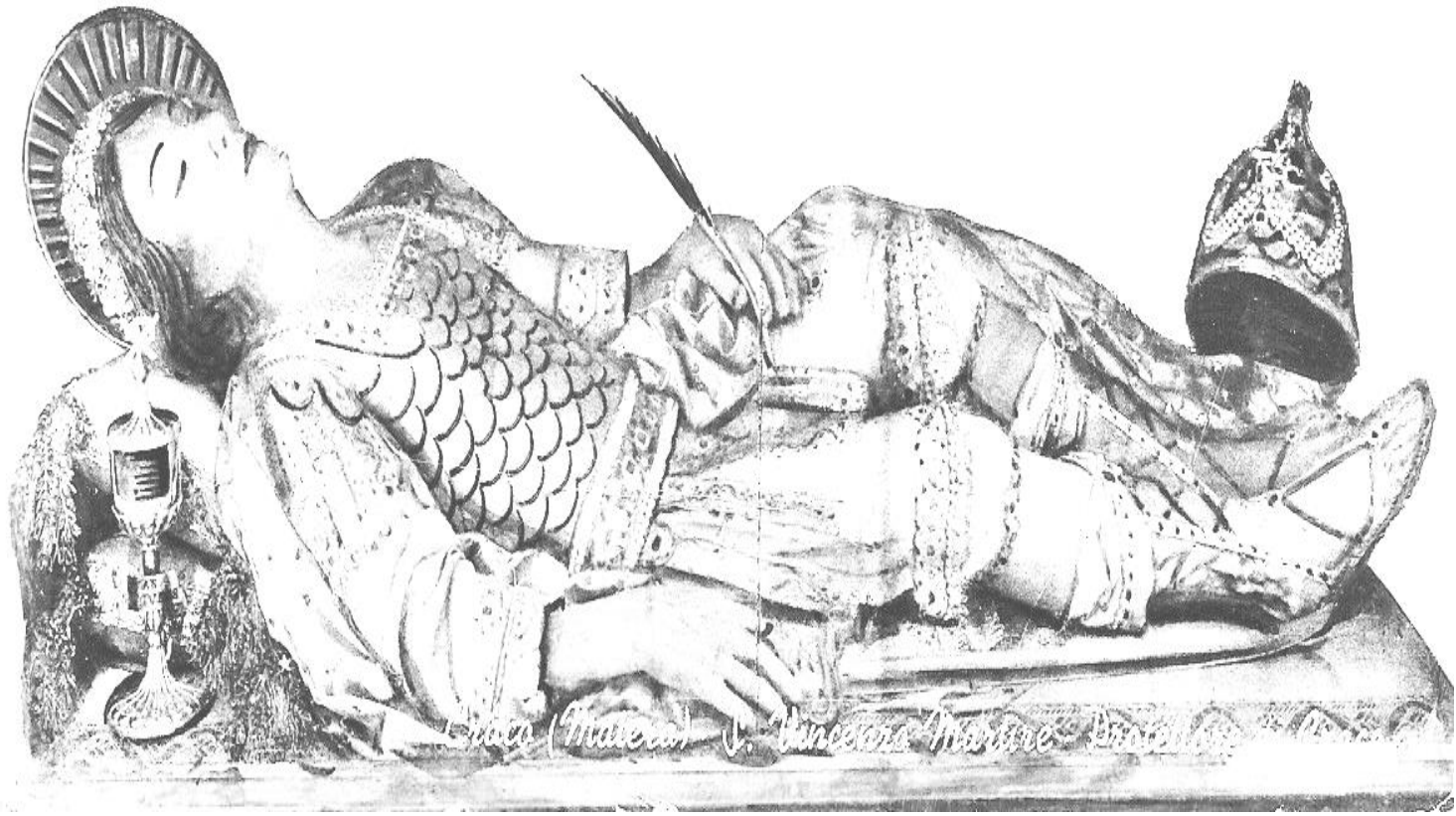


## Il Convento

Il Convento é stato costruito ad opera di Frati appartenenti all' ordine religioso dei Minori Padri Osservanti, che lo dedicarono a San Pietro. La popolazione però lo ha rinominato Convento di San Vincenzo, perche ha custodito, dalla fine del 1700, il corpo di San Vincenzo martire.

## The Monastery

The monastery was built by the Friars belonging to the religious order of the Minor Observant Fathers, who dedicated it to St. Peter. The people however have renamed it the Convent of San Vincenzo, as it has been used to keep the body of San Vincenzo Martyr there since the end of the 1700s.

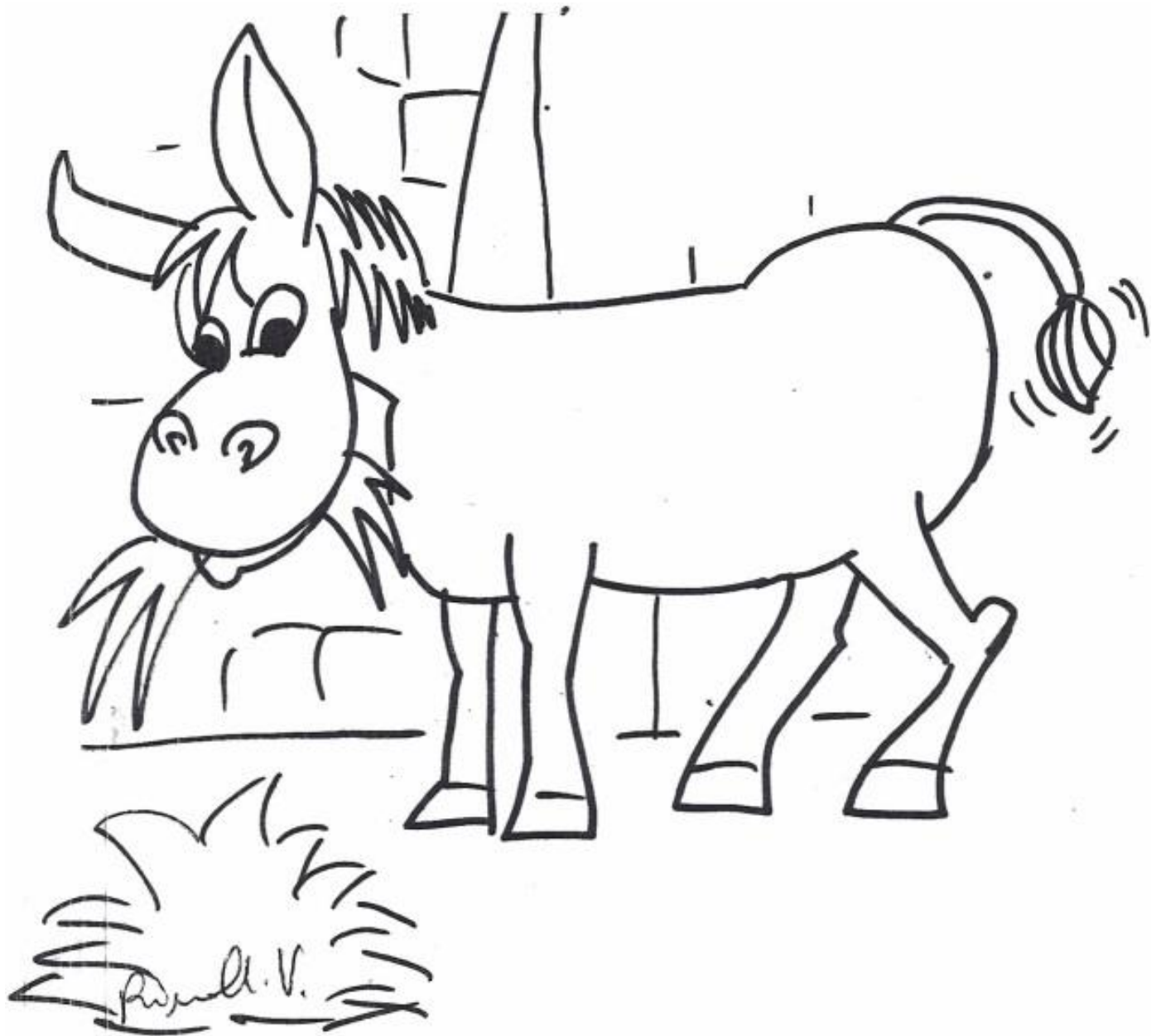


## La Festa di San Vincenzo

La festa dedicata a San Vincenzo ricade ogni quarta domenica di Ottobre. Essa é preceduta il sabato da una fiera, evento che in tempi passati attirava molta piu gente. Si vendevano animali di ogni tipo e generi alimentari (fagioli secchi, peperoni secchi, ecc- ) utili per passare il lungo inverno.

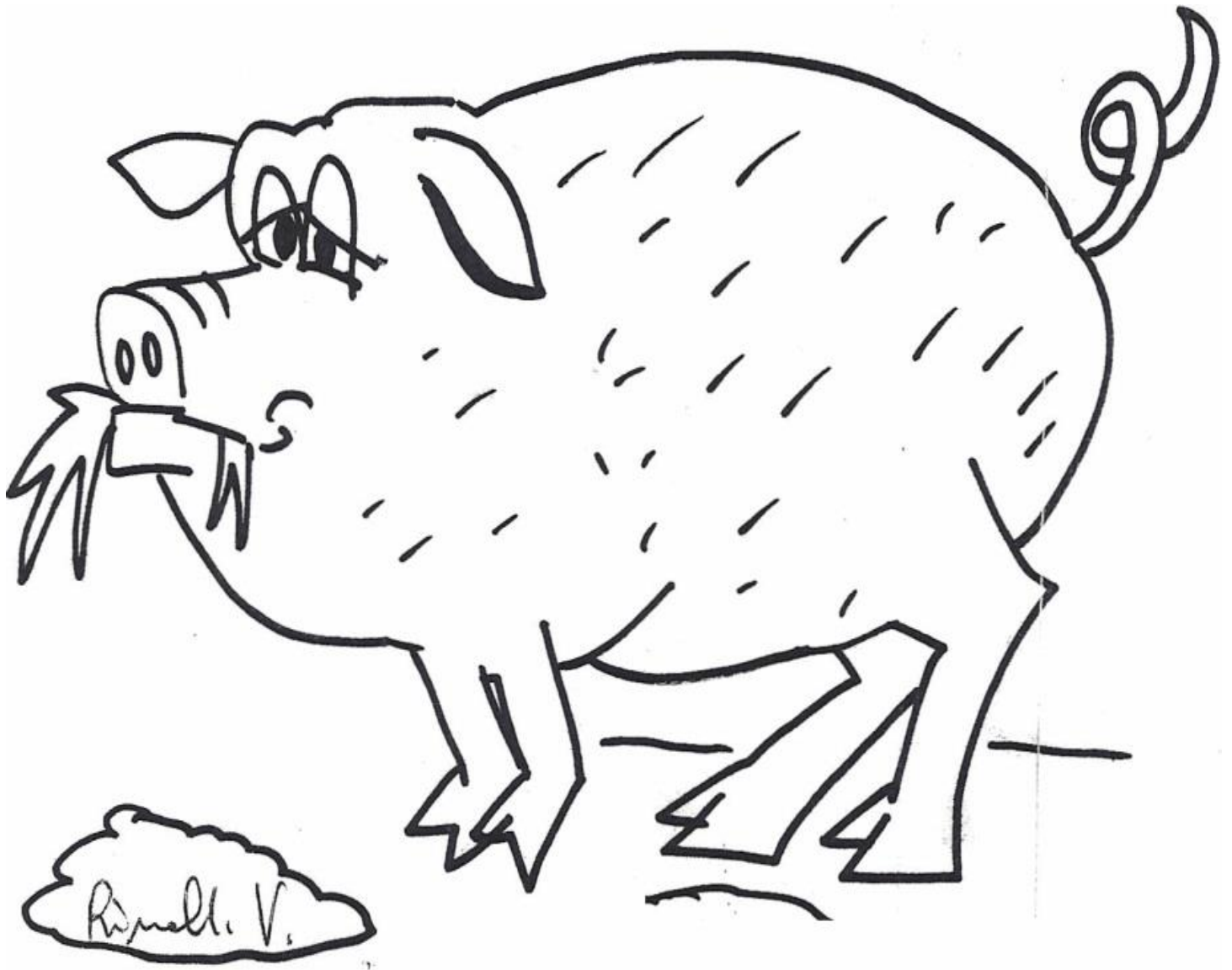
## The Feast of San Vincenzo

The feast dedicated to San Vincenzo falls on the fourth Sunday of every October. It is preceded by a fair on the Saturday, an event that in the past attracted a lot more people. They sold all kinds of animals and food (dried beans, dried peppers, etc.) to be used during the long winter.



Alla fiera, l'animale piú richiesto, era l'ASINO dato che veniva usato come mezzo di trasporto e lavoro nei campi. La sua stalla, spesso era la casa stessa del padrone!

At the fair, the most requested animal was the DONKEY because it was used as a means of transportation and for work in the fields. His barn was often in the house of the master!



Altro animale ad avere un buon mercato era il MAILE, destinato a finire sulle tavole come cibo sottoforma di saporita salsiccia.

Another animal to have a good market was the PIG, destined to end up on tables as food in the form of tasty sausage.





Stessa sorte toccava al CONIGLIO e alla GALLINA, sicuramente meno ingombranti ma ugualmente saporiti.

The RABBIT and the CHICKEN had the same fate, certainly less bulky but equally tasty.



## Il Castello

Situato su una rupe vi é il castello. Esso, con la sua antica torre, domina sulle vallati circostanti continuando ad emanare un fascino particolare che attira il visitore al pari dei suoi vecchi abitanti.

## The Castle

Situated on a cliff is the castle. With its ancient tower, it dominates the surrounding valley providing a special charm that attracts visitors just like its old inhabitants.

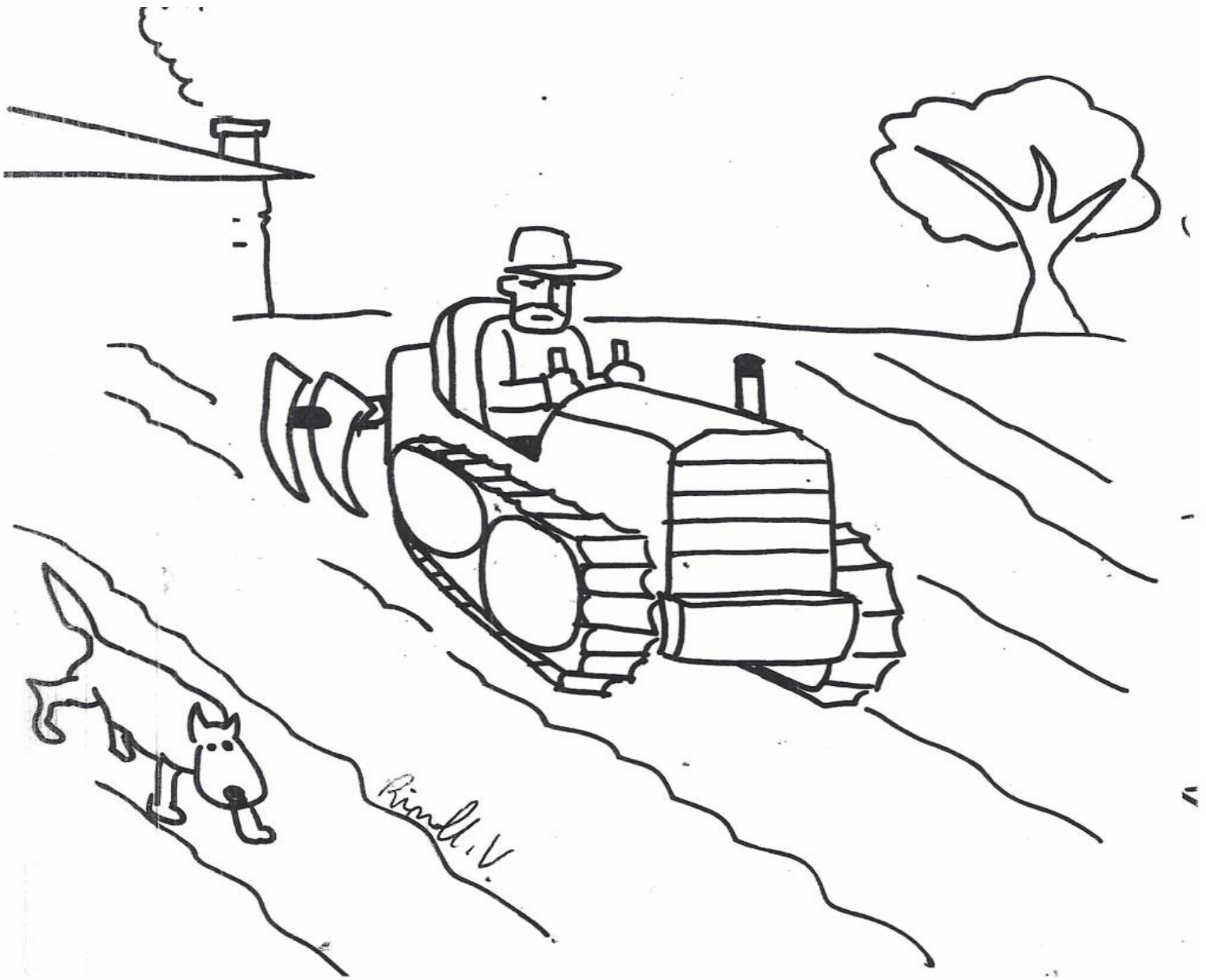


## La Madonna della Stella

Come viene narrato in una canzone popolare, la statua della Madonna della Stella pare sia stata trovata in un pozzo di acqua sorgiva. Nei pressi del luogo del ritrovamento è sorta la cappella. I festeggiamenti in onore della Madonna (a cui i Crachesi sono molto legati) risalgono dal 1700 e vengono fatti la prima domenica di Maggio e la seconda domenica di Agosto (per gli emigranti).

## The Madonna Della Stella

As recounted in a popular song, the statue of the Madonna della Stella seems to have been found in a well of spring water, a chapel is near the place it was found. The festivities in honor of Our Lady (who the Crachesi hold very dear) date from the 1700s and take place on the first Sunday of May and the second Sunday of August (for immigrants who come back to the town).



Lavoro nei campi - Working in the fields

## L'Economia del paese

Come la maggioranza dei paesi della Basilicata, la vita economica di Craco si basava sul lavoro agricolo. Tuttora si coltivano principalmente grano e olive (da cui ricavare olio).

## Economy of the Town

Like most towns in Basilicata, the economic life of Craco was based on agriculture. Currently they cultivate wheat and olives (to make olive oil).



Raccolta delle olive – Harvesting olives



## Leggende

Per intrattenere o spaventare i bambini (ma anche adulti) nella Craco Vecchia non mancavano certo di raccontare strane storie: quella del lupo mannaro che girovagava nei vicoli bui la vigilia di Natale, con tanto di luna piena. Gli si poteva sfuggire solamente rifugiandosi in cima ad una scala, dato che l'uomo-lupo non poteva salire pili di tre gradini.

## Legends

To entertain or frighten children (but also adults) in Craco Vecchia people would tell strange stories: like that of the werewolf who wandered in the dark alleys on Christmas Eve, complete with a full moon. People could only escape by taking refuge in the top of a staircase, since the werewolf could not climb more than three steps.



Altra storia era quella di "Zi Munachicc", una specie di gnomo che appariva durante il sonno e rendeva ricco chi riusciva rapidamente a toglierli il cappuccio.

Another story was that of "Zi Munachicc", a sort of gnome that appeared during sleep and made rich whoever could quickly remove his cap.



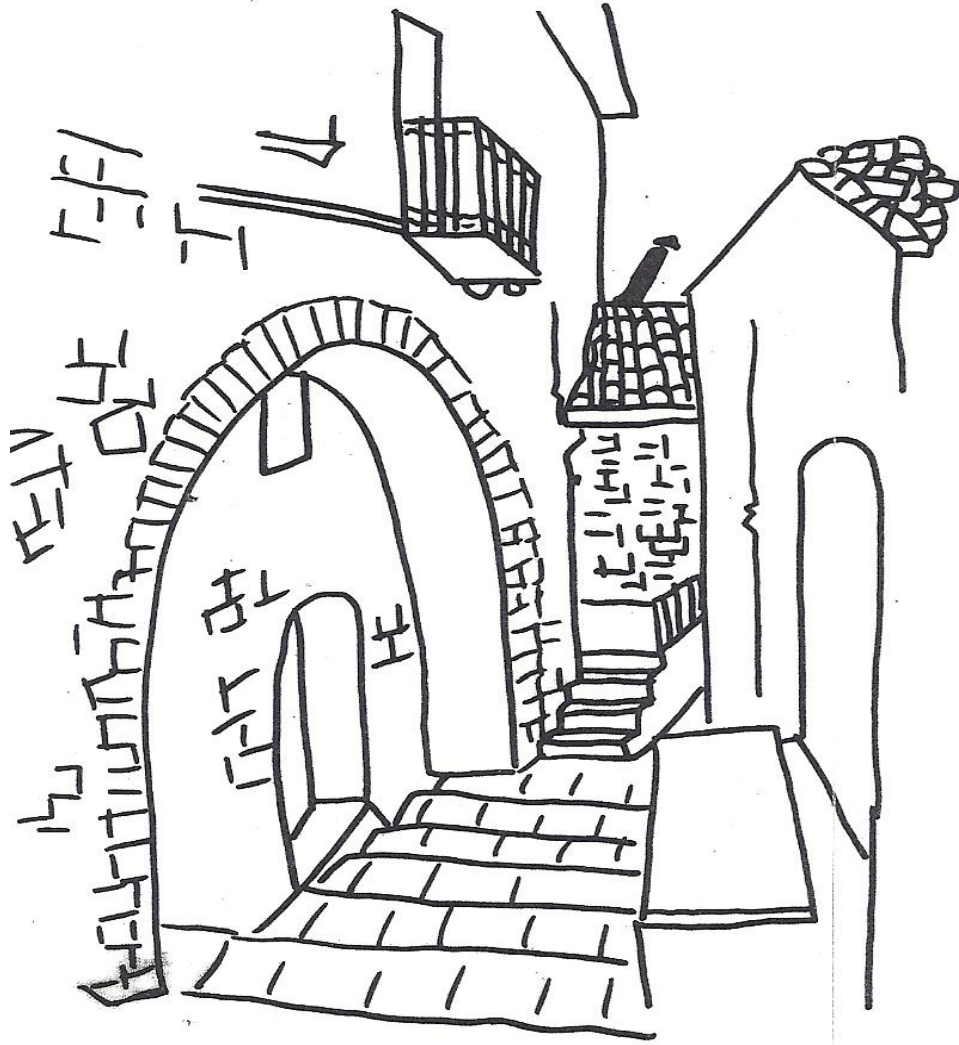
## Situazione attuale

A causa degli eventi franosi sviluppatosi tra la fine degli anni '60 e gli inizi degli anni '70, la popolazione si é trasferita a fondovalle in localitá Peschiera. Il paese vecchio rimane comunque abitato da poche persone che vivono in edifici costruiti su una zona periferica indenne a spostamenti franosi.

## Current Situation

Due to landslides that happened between the late '60s and early '70s, the population was transferred to the Peschiera area in the valley below. The old town is still inhabited by a few people who live in buildings built in an area on the outskirts, unharmed by the landslides.





## Antico paese

L'ombra del passato turba la mente di quello che fu il bianco paese. La semplice gente riempiva le strade, le voci dei piccoli risuonavano ovunque. Il fato crudele ha rotto l'incanto e del bianco paese ne resta il ricordo. (Anonimo)

## Ancient Town

The shadow of the past troubles the mind with what was once a whitewashed town. The simple people filled the streets, the voices of the children resounded everywhere. The cruel fate broke the spell and the whitewashed town is now just a memory. (Anonymous)