

## The Haute Coste neighbourhood

We are here in the oldest part of the city to evoke its origins.

The name **Puget Théniers**, according to the archives, comes from **podium** (hill or high ground) and **ectinesium or teneorum**. The latter form a double reference to **the Ligurian tribe of the Ectini** and the plateau of the **two Tinées** (a name which was given to the river more to the east and the mid section of the Var) which they occupied certainly before the arrival of the Romans.

As with other tribes from the Maritime Alps, the Ectini were pacified by the Romans in the second part of the first century BC. **Their name figures on the Trophée de la Turbie** erected to celebrate the victory of the Emperor Augustus in 7 BC.

In 1252, **the Lords of Puget** of the Glandèves of the Saint-Auban branch **share the power of justice and feudal rights with the Count of Provence who establishes a new village at the foot of the castle**. However, Charles 1st of Anjou, Count of Provence does not fully exercise his authority over the town and eastern Provence until 1278 after the defeat of Guillaume of St-Auban who valued his independence greatly.

In 1388, Puget Théniers chooses the protection of Count Amédée VIIth

of Savoy (see no.4, p.10). **Having become a border town with Provence , the town takes on a major strategic importance**. As from this date the castle is enlarged and linked to the village by an enclosure.

### Ancient inscriptions

Abbot Papon mentions two fragments of inscriptions in his work “ A literary voyage in Provence” attesting to the presence of the Romans in the city. The first declares “ the inhabitants wished to raise a monument to the honour of their protector M. Julius Nigronius and that he was pleased with their zeal but did not want to put them to the expense” ; in the other, we can read that they awarded “as a mark of honour to C.Atilius of the Faleria tribe, prefect of the 7<sup>th</sup> legion of Liguriens, a place to build, we are not sure of what, a house, a temple or a monument”.