

Dear Guadagni Family and friends,

We are starting here the translation of a new document from the Guadagni Archives, dating from the year 1595, handwritten in the Italian language of 419 years ago. It concerns the “Proofs of the Nobility of the Guadagni Family” who were not Marchesi of San Leolino yet (they were made Marchesi of San Leolino by the Grand-Duke of Tuscany in 1634, 39 years after the above document).

However they were already “patricians (nobles)” of Florence. In 1434, through Cosimo de Medici’s intercession (Cosimo had just returned from the exile inflicted on him by Gonfalonier Bernardo Guadagni), Francesco Guadagni, his brothers and all their descendants were numbered among the magnates i.e. “nobles”, which meant they were excluded forever from public life in the Republic of Florence. Furthermore, Francesco was jailed in the Stinche prison, in the “magnate sector”, for ten years, under harsh conditions.

As we will see below, the King of France, Henry IV, wanted to give Guillaume de Gadagne (French translation of Guglielmo Guadagni) the highest knightly order of the Kingdom of France, the Cross of the Holy Spirit, as an award for all the precious services to the Country and to the King. The Order included only 100 knights in all of France. One of the three conditions necessary to become a Knight of the Order of the Cross of the Holy Spirit was to be Noble for at least 3 generations. In 1595 the King of France asked the Senate of Florence for proof of the nobility of the Guadagni Family. He received this proof in October of the same year.

The Italian document we are translating below is the answer of the Senate of Florence to the King of France on the Nobility of the Guadagni Family with proofs of it. **It is 194 pages long, in over 4 centuries old handwritten Italian!** I will do my best to translate it exactly as it was written, with the “charm” of old history literary style and mentality (it was written at the time of Shakespeare), however it will not always be possible to understand the “handwriting” of the year 1595.

In case any relative or friend finds a mistake in my translation, please communicate it to me and I will gratefully correct my text immediately. Thank you.

I love this: reading History in its original documents, as I am doing now.

Section of the Guadagni Archives, from which the document comes.

45_[33]

1411 - 1748 ₅₂

“E.9” Proofs of the Nobility of the Guadagni Family

4 files in envelope; numbered (1-5)

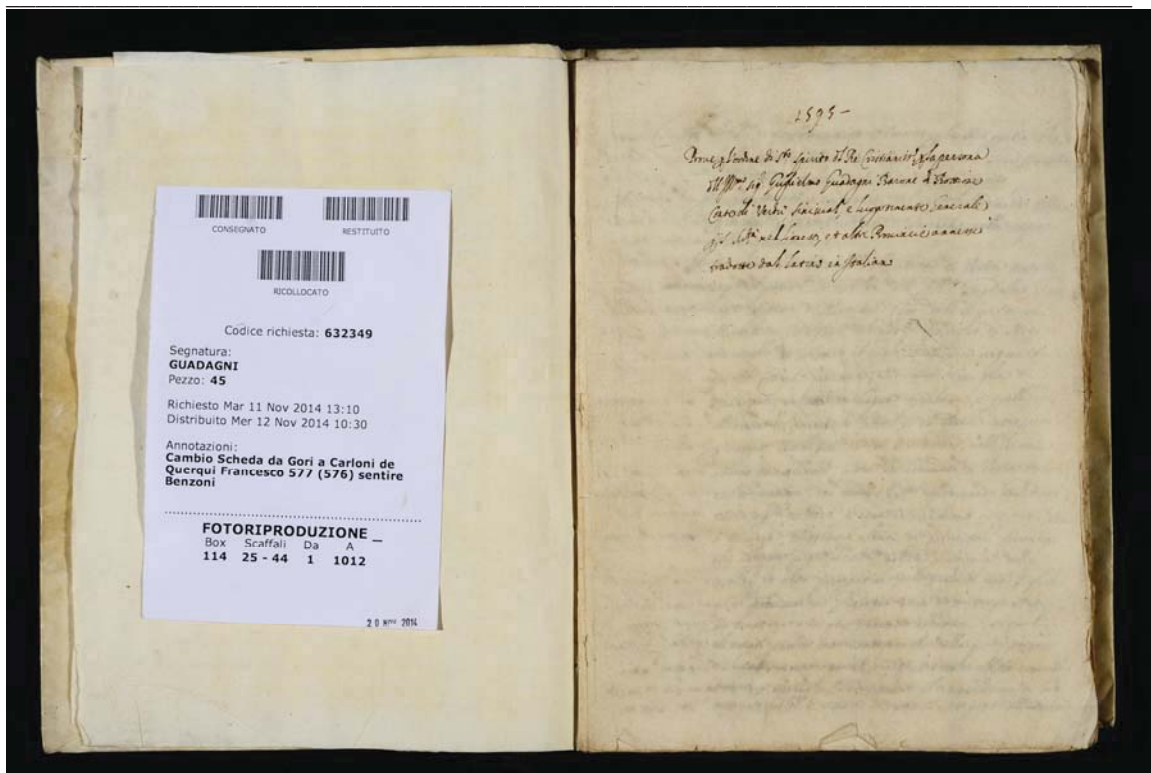
With stack repertory (inserted in opening)

Folder # 4 is missing. Folder # 1 is a stack of “Original letters written to members of the Guadagni Family and written from the Guadagni themselves concerning the Family’s business and the citizens of Florence from the year 1411 to the year 1433. Enclosed are

also the copies of these letters made by Marchese Pierantonio Guadagni, son of Marchese Ottavio Guadagni, on the year 1748, with index of the letters.

File # 3 is a register with a copy translated from Latin into Italian of the “Proofs for the order of the Holy Spirit of the Very Christian King (this is the “Title” of the King of France) for the very eminent Guillaume de Gadagne, Baron of Boutheon, Count of Verdun, Seneschal and Lieutenant General of His Majesty in the Province of Lyon and other annexed provinces in 1595.”

Folder # 5 is a register with the copies of the memoirs assembled by Francesco Rondinelli on the Guadagni Family in 1640, with a dedicatory letter to Tommaso Guadagni.



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Requested Code: **632349**

Shelf mark:

GUADAGNI

Piece: **45**

Requested on Tuesday November 11, 2014 at 1:10 PM
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Annotations:

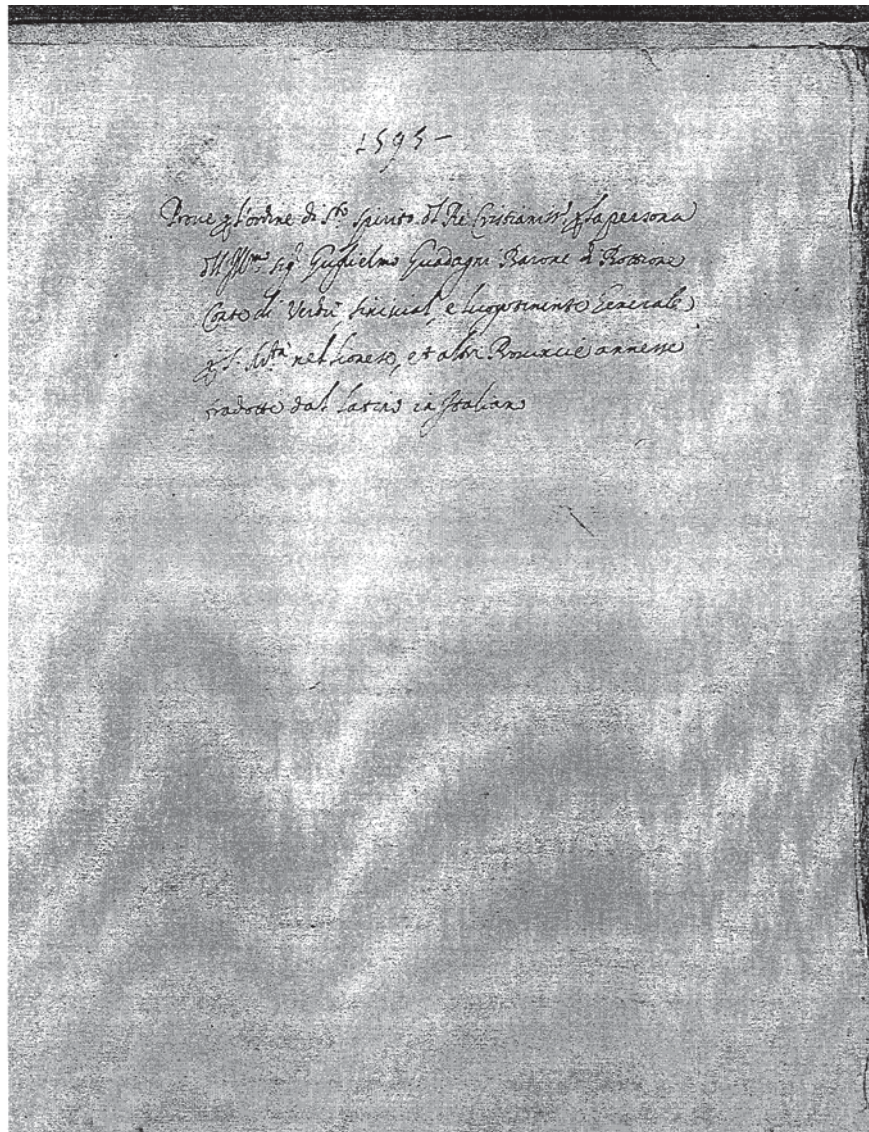
Change the Card from Gori to Carloni de Querqui Francesco 577 (576) ask Benzoni

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PHOTOREPRODUCTION

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Photoreproduction of File # 3 , section 45 of the Guadagni Archives: File # 3 is a register with a copy translated from Latin into Italian of the

1595 – (Year)

“Proofs for the order of the Holy Spirit *(the highest and most important order of nobility of the Kingdom of France)* **to the Very Christian King** *(this is the “title” of the King of France)* **for the very eminent person Guillaume de Gadagne, Baron of Boutheon, Count of Verdun, Seneschal and Lieutenant General of His Majesty of the cities in the Province of Lyon** *(the richest city in the Kingdom of France at that time)* **and other annexed provinces, translated from Latin into Italian.”**

[On January 5, 1597, in the Abbey of Saint-Ouen in the city of Rouen, King Henry IV gave Guillaume de Gadagne the highest knightly order of the Kingdom of France, the Cross of the Holy Spirit, as an award for all the precious services to the Country and to the King. The Order includes only 100 knights in all of France. Nowadays it is only conferred to the members of the Royal Families of France and Spain. To become a Knight of the Order of the Holy Spirit you have to be:

- a) Catholic
- b) At least 35 years old
- c) Noble for at least 3 generations.

The King asked the Senate of Florence for proof of the nobility of the Guadagni Family. He receives this proof in October of the same year.]

1
Allex^{mo} e Reverendissimo Henrico 2^{do} Dio grata Re
di Francia e Navarra, Capo e supremo Gran Maestro
dell'ordine militare del Benedicte Santo Spirito
gli fuoggeranti e consiglieri del Serenissimo Ferdinando Medice
gran duca di Toscana, nella repub-
blica Fiorentina.

Reverendissimo Re Franch^{mo} Le lettere di Vostra Maestà
per le quali si porta la nobiltà dell'ill^{mo} Guglielmo Tuo
cognome di Boncone (che dell'ordine di san
Michael e consigliere del nostro Consiglio di Stato e
senescalco di Loreo, il quale tratta sua origine da
questa città di Firenze; ed in sua famiglia de
Franchi, che era di lingua francese, e quelle con
la dote venuta in Italia, e da fedele interprete
e maggior intelligenza de' costumi, nell'ordine
della nostra Maestà, in cui si comandava di Vostra Maestà
con ordinamento del nostro Serenissimo Ferdinando
gran duca di Toscana, si era commesso a seguire come
si conveniva, e seggiamo alcuni de' principali fiorentini,
che hanno per sé e certa nobiltà e scienza della
nobiltà e altre prerogative, dello quali il nostro Guglielmo
e il principe di Guadagni sono dopo tempo stati
adornati e ora gli faremo chiamare, a quali
chiamati anche intervenuto, non che della parte, ma anche
dialcuntra con sanguine, ma per non aver officio commet-
tuto, e spacciato, ordinando che ciascuno di loro
presenti quella di ragione e dove si, non per all'ordinamento

To the Very Serene and Very Christian Henry, by the Grace of God King of France and Navarre, Chief and Supreme Great Master of the Order and of the Militia of the Blessed Holy Spirit, the Lieutenant and Counselors of the very Serene Ferdinando de' Medici by the grace of God Grand-Duke of Tuscany, in the Florentine Republic.

We received, Oh Very Christian King, the letters of Your Majesty concerning the proofs of nobility of the Eminent Guglielmo Guadagni, Lord of Boutheon, Knight of the Order of St. Michael, Counselor of Your State Council, and Seneschal of Lyon, who originates from this city of Florence; and of his family the Guadagni, written in French language, and read with due reverence and translated in the Latin language by a faithful interpreter so that the witnesses can have better comprehension of them, on the request of Your Majesty, with decision of our very serene Grand Duke Ferdinando, in the desire to obtain the information you request, we appointed some of the most important Florentine citizens of full and sure nobility, having knowledge of the nobility and of its privileges, of which Guglielmo and the Guadagni Family have always been adorned, and we called them not only from the Guadagni's social group but also from among their relatives, and we asked them and also ordered them that the special commitment of our office was that each one of them, observing the reason of being put under the examination of our authority, set up over the things presented in Your Majesty's letters, ...



Ferdinando I de' Medici, Grand-Duke of Tuscany (1549-1609).

Page 1b [each page of this document includes two pages; so, to keep the page numbers as they are listed in the original documents, which makes it easier to track them down if needed, we will call the second page...#b] .

and in the articles exhibited for the part of the Very Eminent Guglielmo, and exhibited swearing to tell the correct truth concerning what he knew about it, and with all the faith and appropriate diligence, we have assembled the declarations of the same witnesses and sealed the present declaration with our usual seal and in fact public notaries, together with some public memoirs extracted from public Archives, Annals, and Florentine chronicles, of the degrees and honors received and contracted marriages and the famous men of this Guadagni Family, we have managed to send them to Your Very Christian Majesty, to whom may God give the greatest happiness, happy to do it according to your desires.

The tone of the letters that your Very Christian Majesty sent us and the speech on the chapters, the Articles, the Testimonies and the depositions of the witnesses on the same articles in force of the above mentioned letters of Your Very Christian Majesty, after having examined them, they orderly follow as below i.e.:

Henry, by the Grace of God King of the French and of the inhabitants of Navarre, Chief and supreme Great Master of the Order and Militia of the Blessed Holy Spirit to our many beloved gentlemen senators of the City of Florence, and to the other officials and Magistrates we give to each one of them best wishes of good health. As it is necessary to our beloved and faithful Guglielmo Guadagni, Lord of Boutheon, ...

[illegible]

...Knight of our Order of Saint Michael, Counselor of our State Council and Seneschal of Lyon, appointed and elected by us, Cardinals, Prelates, Grand Officers and Officers of our Order, to make him enter and be aggregated to the same, we have to prove for him to be able to get into this Order, that the statutes and the orders, the nobility and antiquity of the Guadagni Family, and it is good to make the research in this kingdom as the family originates from the city of Florence and we also desire to have the authority to perform everything that we decided together for the foreigners and inhabitants of our kingdom in similar situations. Following the advice of Cardinals, Prelates, Grand Officers and officials, to each one of us, clerk, ordained and deputy, we commit, order and entrust, with the present ordinance, that in front of us, as well as you can publicly do, cooperate and exercise for encounters, marriages, movements, investitures that may indicate the father of the Lord of Boutheon, as you still examine the Archives and public documents and those places of origin of the above Lord and all the Acts that may be sufficient to show the antiquity and nobility of the Guadagni Family, which we have requested from the Lord of Boutheon and received from him. Wanting everything to be put in front of us, as also the contracts found in the Archives, including papers of the Lord of Boutheon every time he was received in our Order in the same place, and put these papers in the hands of the Commissaries who will have deputies sent by us and by the Chapter of the Order.



Guglielmo Guadagni (Guillaume de Gadagne) 1534-1601, Baron of Boutheon, Count of Verdun, Baron of Lunel, Seneschal of Lyon, Lord of Roquemaure, Lord of Saint-Victor-la-Coste, Knight of the Order of Saint Michael, Knight of the Order of the Holy Spirit



Guadagni Crest with the insignia of the Order of the Holy Spirit

Furthermore, we beseech outright our very dear cousin the Grand Duke of Tuscany to agree that the present information be immediately and with no difficulties from us and from each one of us executed as we would do the same very willingly in similar occasions if requested by you because this is our desire. Given in Paris, with the seal of the Order, printed in white wax, in the month of January of the year of our Salvation 1595 and sixth year of our Kingdom.



King Henry IV of France (1553-1610)

For the King, Head and Supreme Grand Master sitting in the General Assembly of Grand Officers of the Order and Militia of the Blessed Holy Spirit, Delaube prine.

On the 15th of October 1595.

To the very dear Legislative Counselor Mr. Baccio son of the late Nobleman Filippo Valori Florentine senator, Knight of Santo Stefano and one of the Counselors of the Secret Procedure of the Very Serene Grand Duke of Tuscany, witnesses for us aforementioned Lieutenants and Counselors, to witness to the truth in this matter of the proving the nobility, elected, appointed, investigated, admonished and under oath, and on the above mentioned subject by the deputy admonished and sworn and by our office diligently and secretly examined, who, in his oath which he actually took and spontaneously, touching with his hand the Most Holy Scriptures, he testified in the following way, that is:

First of all the Family were called Guadagni in this city of Florence,...

[illegible]

and the family was noble and ancient and among the most noble and the most ancient of this city of Florence, listed, considered and regarded as a noble and ancient family, as it was pointed out, and also its members were noble and patrician men, openly and publicly recognized as such.

The witness whom we investigated to tell the truth, answered that the House and Family of the Guadagnis was really noble and ancient and among the most noble and ancient of the City of Florence and is commonly and indifferently loved, respected and esteemed and all the Florentine nobles and patricians esteem, consider and reckon them and every one of them knows this and this is enough. Questioned about where he learned it all, he answered that the glorious things he heard and knows are also due to what he has personally seen and heard publicly from so many men, Florentine patricians. Questioned on where these glorious Guadagni actions happened, he answered both in Florence itself and in all of Tuscany. Questioned about the time everything happened, he answered everybody remembers it and can confirm it. Questioned by the present people and the Gonfaloniers, he said he had witnessed it himself and so had Averardo de' Medici, Knight Jacopo della Spada, Florentine Senator, and Commissary of the Militia, can confirm it and so can Very Eminent Francesco Maria son of Captain Pandolfo of the Barons Ricasoli Knight of Santo Stefano and also Florentine Senator and countless other Florentine Senators.

moltoissimi allora Senatori fiorentini.

Sopra il secondo che gl'huomini della nazione di questa
 famiglia de guadagni in questo fine di fronte da
 lungo tratto di tempo heno stati, & heno abili, et idonei
 a conseguire, huere, & tenere tanto in d.^o (p^{re})
 come in d.^o il suo dominio, & i principali, &
 dignitadi Magistrate, & d.^o possori, offi^zi, immunita,
 esenioni, prerogative, prerogative, & privilegi, che
 hanno ~~stato~~ ^{sono} ~~conseguiti~~ ^{conseguiti} ~~sono~~ ^{sono} ~~stati~~ ^{sono} ~~solo~~ ^{sono} ~~tenere~~ ^{sono} ~~con-~~
 seguire et huer et huer, huer, & conse-
 guire, & d.^o presentemente ~~conseguiti~~ ^{conseguiti} & godono tutti gl'
 tali nobilitati in fiorentini, & i medesimi
 huomini d.^o famiglia de guadagni habbino ot-
 tenuto huer, & d.^o conseguire tal grad^o, offi^zi, Ma-
 gistrate, huer, immunita, esenioni, prerogative, pre-
 minentia & privilegi, & habbino conseguuto, conseguendo
 & godono pub^licam^{te}, & pub^licam^{te}.
 Il qual ordine da noi con interrogati con sue giura-
 menti, & d.^o d.^o & d.^o f.^o che gl'huomini di
 questa nobilita ~~presentemente~~ ^{presentemente} guadagni, al presente &
 passato & antichissimo tempo in qua, del qual d.^o
 & memoria d.^o huomini inventariati furono & sono abili
 & capaci a conseguire, & ottenere tutti i piu sublimi
 & d.^o grad^o & honori, & d.^o stati & d.^o con-
 seguiti, & d.^o ^{conseguiti} ^{conseguiti} fiorentini, & i medesimi
 huomini d.^o agnazione hanno ottenuto tal grad^o
 honori, & d.^o dignitadi, & d.^o supreme di
 tempo in tempo, & d.^o ordine habbino, libri publici
 dell'offi^zo delle informazioni, & particolarmente i libri

Above and according to the men of this Nation of the men of this Guadagni Family in this City of Florence, for a long time they were and are good and able to achieve, have and attain in this City and in all its Dominion, the offices of most important and Supreme Magistrates, Degrees, Honors, Offices, Immunities, Exemptions, Supremacies, Prerogatives and Privileges, that they usually have held, and obtained and achieved for a long time, and even presently they attain and enjoy all the privileges of the other ancient, noble Florentines, and if the same men of the Guadagni Family have obtained, enjoyed and achieved such Degrees, Offices, Magistrates, Honors, Immunities, Exemptions, Prerogatives, Supremacies and Privileges, they attain and enjoy them publicly and outright.

The witness that we interrogated answered after swearing to tell the truth that presently the men of the noble Guadagni Family and also in the past, from very ancient times, from as far as any human being can remember, were and are able and capable of attaining and achieving all the most sublime and supreme degrees and honors which have always been usually conferred to Florentine gentlemen and the same men have obtained such great honors, great dignities and even supreme, from times to time, as our witness has seen in public records of the Information Office, and mostly in the Book

[illegible]

Last part of Page 3 and Page 4

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In Passerini’s book we also see that this Guadagno, son of Guittone, son of Francesco and Ermellina, is the direct ancestor of all of us. His grandmother Ermellina is also the direct ancestor of all of us, Guadagni, Torrigiani, Gadagne and Dufour Berte. Her name is rare and it could come from Ermellino, an Armenian mouse.



In the Middle Ages, the Armenian Mouse, “Mus Armellinus” was considered a symbol of purity, innocence, generosity and goodness. The Saint’s day is July 9th, in memory of Martyr in China Saint Mary Ermellina of Jesus, Franciscan nun, born Irma Grivot.

The Guadagni family name starts with this Guadagno. In Middle Ages Italy Latin was still the official legal language. The “Latin Genitive” is similar to the “Saxon Genitive” except that the last vowel of the name becomes an “i”. For example to say “Zato, son of Guadagno”, you say “Zato Guadagni”. Probably, because Guadagno was the most famous member of his family in those years, even his grandchildren, Guitto and Migliorozzo, instead of calling themselves Guitto or Migliorozzo Zati, as their father was Zato Guadagni (son of Guadagno), called themselves Guitto or Migliorozzo Guadagni and so forth.

In the year 1202 in the Book of Reformations we read that Migliore is son of Ildebrandino (the name is hard to read, this Migliore Guadagni is the most ancient “Migliore Guadagni” listed by Passerini, and he lists his father as “Ildebrandino”. The only other information Passerini gives us on this Migliore Guadagni is:”He was a witness of the sale of a piece of land located in Polverosa, that a certain Iacopo made to a priest called Chiaro, prior of Santa Maria Maggiore (in Florence) on April 2, 1196. This is documented by a parchment of the capitular archive, published by Lami in his book “Monumenti della chiesa fiorentina” (“Monuments of the Florentine Church”. I know nothing else about him, states Passerini.



Façade of the very ancient Church of Santa Maria Maggiore in Florence. It is a Medieval church existing as early as the 8th century. In 1176, it became one of Florence’s priories. In 1186 it was put under papal direct protection by Pope Lucius III. Ten years later, Migliore Guadagni was witness to the sale of a piece of land to the Prior of Santa Maria Maggiore called Chiaro, which shows how the Guadagni were already active participants in the oldest centuries of the History of Florence, 819 years ago.

From the Family Tree we find out that Migliore’s uncle, Guadagno, is the direct ancestor of all of us. This Migliore, according to the “Proofs” was one of the Counselors in the year 1153 (?), hard to read, while Guadagno was in charge.

From the year 1281 (?), Pierotto Guadagni was guarantor for the Guelph Party (for the Pope) of the peace made between the Guelphs and the Ghibellines (for the Emperor). Pierotto assured the castle owner of Laterina, together with other rich Florentines.



Castle of Laterina (near Montozzi and Migliarina)



Middle-Ages Feast in Laterina

In the year 1289, in the Book of Priors, Migliore was Prior of Florence and he was again in 1293. He was also Gonfalonier of Justice twice. Gonfalonier of Justice was the highest important office in Florence like the one of Doge in Venice (Chief Magistrate and Leader of the Republic of Venice for over one thousand years) and Genoa. The Guadagnis were eleven times Gonfaloniers of Justice in Florence. The same Migliore was elected Gonfalonier in Florence to make peace



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with the people of Pisa. In 1293, he was Ambassador to Pope Boniface VIII. In the year 1304 (?) together with Matteo, Pieroccio, Migliorozzo and Filippone Guadagni, he was in the militia of Sesto San Piero. In the year 1308 he was gonfalonier of his own Militia of the neighborhood of Porta San Piero. They were all “Feditori”, selected among the bravest and richest citizens of Florence. Filippone died in 1312 together with other young Florentines, all Knights of the Band, mentioned by historian Giovanni Villani, in a battle against the troops of Holy Roman Emperor Henry VII, who was besieging Florence.



Mounted “Feditori” attack the enemy.



Statue of Florentine Historian Giovanni Villani (1276-1348) in the New Market, Florence



“Feditori”.

In his verdict of the year 1313, Holy Roman Emperor Henry VII sentenced Matteo Guadagni son of Migliore, Piero, Migliorozzo, Lotto, Bartolo, Giovanni and Neri Guadagni all from the same Guadagni Family, to be the main culprits of the Guelph Party (against the Emperor). And in the year 1325...

[illegible]

...the same Migliore Guadagni was the flagstaff bearer of the Gonfalone (“banner”) called Vaio while the City was in turmoil because of Castruccio Castracani as we read in the book of 98.



Coat of arms of a Ghibelline Italian Family with the Imperial Eagle on top.



Castruccio Castracani, Triumph of Death, Detail, in Monumental Graveyard, Pisa

Castruccio (1281-1328) was a Ghibelline Italian condottiero (“War Lord”), Duke of Lucca, who defeated the Florentine Guelphs (for the Pope) in the battle of Altopascio in 1325. As we remember, the Guadagni were always Guelphs.



Holy Roman Emperor Ludwig the Bavarian (1282-1347); he made Castruccio Duke of Bavaria after he defeated the Florentine Guelphs at Altopascio.

In the same year 1325, Lotto Guadagni, son of Migliore was in the Council. Chele son of Guadagno was made prisoner in the Battle of Altopascio against Castruccio.

In the year 1343, Migliore, son of Vieri Guadagni, makes peace with the nobles of the Aliotti Family and of Gualtieri Duke of Athens, as we read in the book chapter 6. In financial crisis because Edward III King of England did not reimburse the large sums lent to him by Florentine bankers and tired of the relentless civil war between Guelphs and Ghibellines, the Florentines decide to appoint a foreigner, Gualtieri VI, Count of Brienne and Duke of Athens (1302-1356) as their Governor.



Gualtieri VI, Count of Brienne and Duke of Athens (as we remember, later on, our direct ancestors, Florentine bankers Acciaiuoli, will become Dukes of Athens).

Full of good intentions, Gualtieri imposed despotic drastic financial measures to reduce the public debt, but the rich mercantile class, who had called him originally, disliked it immensely and after only eleven months kicked him out of Florence.

In the year 1344, the same Migliore Guadagni was kept hostage by Mastino II della Scala (+ 1351), nephew of Cangrande and Lord of Verona. Migliore was able to have the Florentines buy the City of Lucca from Mastino II.



Can Francesco della Scala, aka Can Grande (1291-1329), powerful Lord of Verona; he died at only 38 years old, poisoned. One of the people who tried to poison him was a Montecchi, of the family of Romeo in Romeo and Juliet by Shakespeare.



Family Crest (della scala means “of the ladder), Imperial eagle on top, they were Ghibellines and reigned over the city of Verona, Northern Italy, close to Venice, the City of Romeo and Juliet, for 125 years, from 1262 to 1387. Their Latin Motto was “Nec descendere nec morari” (“neither go down nor stay put” (Only go up the ladder))



Mastino II della Scala, nephew of Cangrande who had only daughters.

In 1363, the same Migliore Guadagni was elected Captain of War by the City of Todi, until 1373. As we read in the book C.C.3, the office of “Captain of War” was supreme, like the one of General in times of war.

In the year 1372, when he was Gonfalonier of Justice in Florence, he proposed to pass a law that for 10 years, the Gonfalonier of Justice would only be chosen from a restricted group of families, to keep peace in the City and for the good of the Republic, and said proposition was considered very strong as we can see in the book C.C.143. The following year he was elected “reformer”, with the name of “orator” (public speaker) over the businesses of the City of Florence as we see in Book C.C.447 . In the year 1376 he was again Gonfaloniere, and he was the most influential moderator of the law made against the “Magnates” (Rich people), as we can see in the Book of the Bali’a, 1381. The year 1378 saw him expelled from his office by the revolution of the lower class, called of the “Ciompi”.



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Later he was given his office back as a respectable and worthy man, as we can read in the History Book of Melchiorre di Scofano chapter 220 and 221 of the year 1361.

Vieri son of Migliore. Vieri Guadagni (+ young in 1368) [The original document does not have these dates next to the people’s names, as we are accustomed; I sometimes add them to facilitate the historical time placement] obtained the passage of the City of Volterra to Florence, who purchased it. For his good work he was granted the privilege listed in the Book of the Reform marked K. 41 [Passerini explains it as the “Privileve of bearing arms”, usually granted only to Kings, Princes of Royal Family and very high

nobility, outside the army.] In 1382, Migliorotto Guadagni [father of the abovementioned Vieri; Passerini calls him Migliore, not “Migliorotto”, it would be like calling Frank, “Frankie”. Five or more centuries ago, nicknames were used more often than nowadays even in formal documents like this one] is appointed by the Republic (of Florence) as inspector of the fortifications of Florence during the time of menace of war in the book written in the year 1414.



Walls of Florence near San Frediano Door



San Frediano Door painted by Florentine artist Filippino Lippi in 1494 (close to the year “Migliorotto” Guadagni was inspector of the City walls) in the Basilica of Santo Spirito, a few yards away from the Santo Spirito Guadagni Palace. For over 3 centuries, every time our direct Guadagni ancestors went to Mass, in their Parish of the Basilica of Santo Spirito, they would see this fresco. It is still there.



The painting of San Frediano Door is a detail of a large altar-piece, called the Nerli Altar-Piece: *The Virgin and Child with Sts John the Baptist, Martin of Tours and Catherine of Alexandria* by Filippino Lippi. In it the attention of the Blessed Virgin Mary is drawn by St. Catherine to Nanna Capponi, kneeling on the right, whose husband is Tanai de' Nerli, kneeling opposite to her, in black garments, rich Florentine merchant whose coat of arms are held by two little angels on top of the painting. Tanai commissioned it for his chapel, where it is now, the 12th chapel on the right entering by the main door of the Basilica of Santo Spirito, the Guadagni of Santo Spirito (us) Parish church. Nanna Capponi happens to be the aunt of Lucrezia Capponi, Jacopo Guadagni's wife, and our direct ancestress, and so Nanna is the great-aunt of all of us and Tanai our great-uncle.

The San Frediano door is in the right background of the painting, between the Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Catherine.

So Capponi blood runs in our veins. Does any one of us detect any resemblance between our profile and Nanna's?



Filippino Lippi (1457-1504) self-portrait

“Filippino Lippi was among the most gifted and accomplished Florentine painters and draftsmen of the second half of the fifteenth century”, writes the Heilbrunn Timeline of Art History for the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York.



The walls of Florence protecting the hills surrounding Florence.

Vieri, son of Vieri Guadagni was sent as Ambassador to Pope XXIII, later declared antipope, together with Rinaldo degli Albizzi. It's the year 1412. Vieri is appointed Ambassador to Pope Martin 5th. It's the year 1434.

Francesco (1400-circa 1457), son of Vieri Guadagni, is elected one of the government of Florence (the "Balìa"), whose members have power in the Florentine Government; since the Siege of Florence, the men of this Guadagni Family, even though not numerous, have **all been Supreme Magistrates** as it is customary among Florentine Patricians ("nobles").

We questioned the witness whether the men of the Guadagni Family have always lived and still live in this City of Florence, according to the habit of the Florentine gentlemen, and if they have accomplished and still accomplish (in noble actions, and if in their marriages when they give their daughters in marriage or when they marry women from other families, they have always contracted marriages with members of ancient and noble Florentine families, manifestly and publicly.

Interrogated by us in merit, the above witness affirmed that the men and the women of this Guadagni Family have always celebrated their marriage with a splendor appropriate to Florentine nobles, and have always contracted marriage with the most noble and ancient families of this City of Florence, as right now presently Cassandra, daughter of Francesco Guadagni (1534-1611), our direct ancestor, cousin of very eminent Guglielmo Guadagni, married Antonio Salviati (1554-1619), who is nephew of the Very Eminent Cardinal Alessandro de' Medici [who became Pope Leo XI (1535-1605)] and nephew" (by marriage) of the Very Eminent Cardinal Giovanni Salviati.



Pope Leo XI de' Medici



Cardinal Giovanni Salviati
(1490-1553) by artist Pier Francesco
Foschi (1502-1567)



Protestant Reformer Martin Luther (1483-1546) on the left, talks with our great-uncle Cardinal Giovanni Salviati



Salviati Palace in Florence

And how Lucrezia (+1652), daughter of the same Francesco Guadagni, married Andrea (+1625) of the Very Eminent Medici Family [They had 3 children together: Vincenzo (+1659), Salvestro (+1651) and Ottavia de' Medici Guadagni]. Likewise, Vincenzo (1546-1601), son of Filippo Guadagni (1504-1555, brother of our direct ancestor Jacopo, and himself direct ancestor of all the Guadagni dell'Opera and Torrigiani), cousin of Guglielmo Guadagni, married Cammilla Guicciardini, daughter of Florentine Senator Agnolo Guicciardini, sister of Contessina Ridolfi, niece of late Cardinal Ridolfi (1501-1550). Her paternal grandmother, Contessina de' Medici (1478-1515), daughter of Lorenzo il Magnifico, was the sister of late Pope Leo X (1475-1521).



Lorenzo de' Medici the Magnificent (1449-1492); second cousin of Simone Guadagni (1411-1468), our direct ancestor. Lorenzo de' Medici is also related to all of the Guadagni and Torrigiani through their common direct ancestor Simone Tornabuoni.



Pope Leo X de' Medici (cousin of all the branches of the Guadagni Family). He is the son of Lorenzo de' Medici the Magnificent



Cardinal Niccolo' Ridolfi (1501-1550)



Contessina de' Medici, on the left, with her older sister Maddalena (1473-1528).



Another portrait of our great-aunt Contessina de' Medici

Alessandro Guadagni (1545-1625), son of Filippo Guadagni, also cousin of Guglielmo, married Maria, daughter of Simone del Nero. Simone's wife, Lucrezia

Gualterotti, is a half-sister of His Eminence Cardinal Alessandro de' Medici. Likewise, Lucrezia, daughter of Filippo Guadagni, uncle of the above mentioned Guglielmo, married Bernardo Ricasoli, Law Consultor and Knight of Santo Stefano.





Crest of the Knights of Santo Stefano (here and above) [Church of the Knights of Santo Stefano in the 3rd picture]



His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI greets a Knight of Santo Stefano
The Guadagni were also Knights of Santo Stefano

Maria Guadagni, daughter of Filippo, married Giovanni Mannelli.



Page 6b

Francesco Guadagni (1534-1611), son of Jacopo (1497-1569), cousin of Guglielmo, married Laura, daughter of Pierantonio Bandini, and sister of Monsignor Ottavio Bandini (who later became a Cardinal) Archbishop of Fermo, and a short while ago Vice-legate of the City of Bologna.



Francesco Guadagni's brother-in-law, Cardinal Ottavio Bandini

46_[947]

"E.10" Diplomas

Parchment bound stack (15x11x2 inches)

1665 - 1752

53

Furthermore, Giovanna Guadagni, sister of Guglielmo, married Lorenzo Antinori. Elena Guadagni, Tommaso's daughter and Guglielmo's sister, married Lorenzo Capponi



Capponi Palace in Florence, Lungarno Torrigiani.



Antinori Palace in Florence: inside (above), outside (below)



Filippo Strozzi the Elder (1428-1491)

When Alessandro de' Medici became the Duke of Florence, Filippo and his son Piero, began to be considered possible enemies of the ruling Medici Family, also because Piero Strozzi, being half a Medici through his mother Clarice, daughter of Piero de' Medici the Unfortunate and grand-daughter of Lorenzo the Magnificent, who is thus our direct ancestor, could start pretending rights to the throne of Florence. Rumors about alleged Piero Strozzi's claims to the lordship of Florence reached Medici Pope Clement VII, who menaced the Strozzi of punishments. When Clarice died, the strain became unbearable and Filippo and Piero Strozzi self-exiled themselves in Rome, joining Catherine de' Medici, future queen of France and Lorenzino de' Medici. It is likely that Filippo Strozzi told Lorenzino to murder his cousin Alessandro, 1st Duke of Florence.

Then Filippo joined the Army of exiles led by Baccio Valori and moved towards Florence but they were defeated by Cosimo de' Medici's army in the battle of Montemurlo. Filippo was imprisoned in the Fortress of San Giovanni Battista in Florence, where he died, it is unclear if by suicide or killed by order of Cosimo de' Medici.



Clarice de' Medici, Filippo's wife and Piero's and Caterina's mother, our direct ancestor. In 1534, our direct ancestor Filippo the Younger finished the famous Strozzi Palace begun by his father Filippo the Elder.



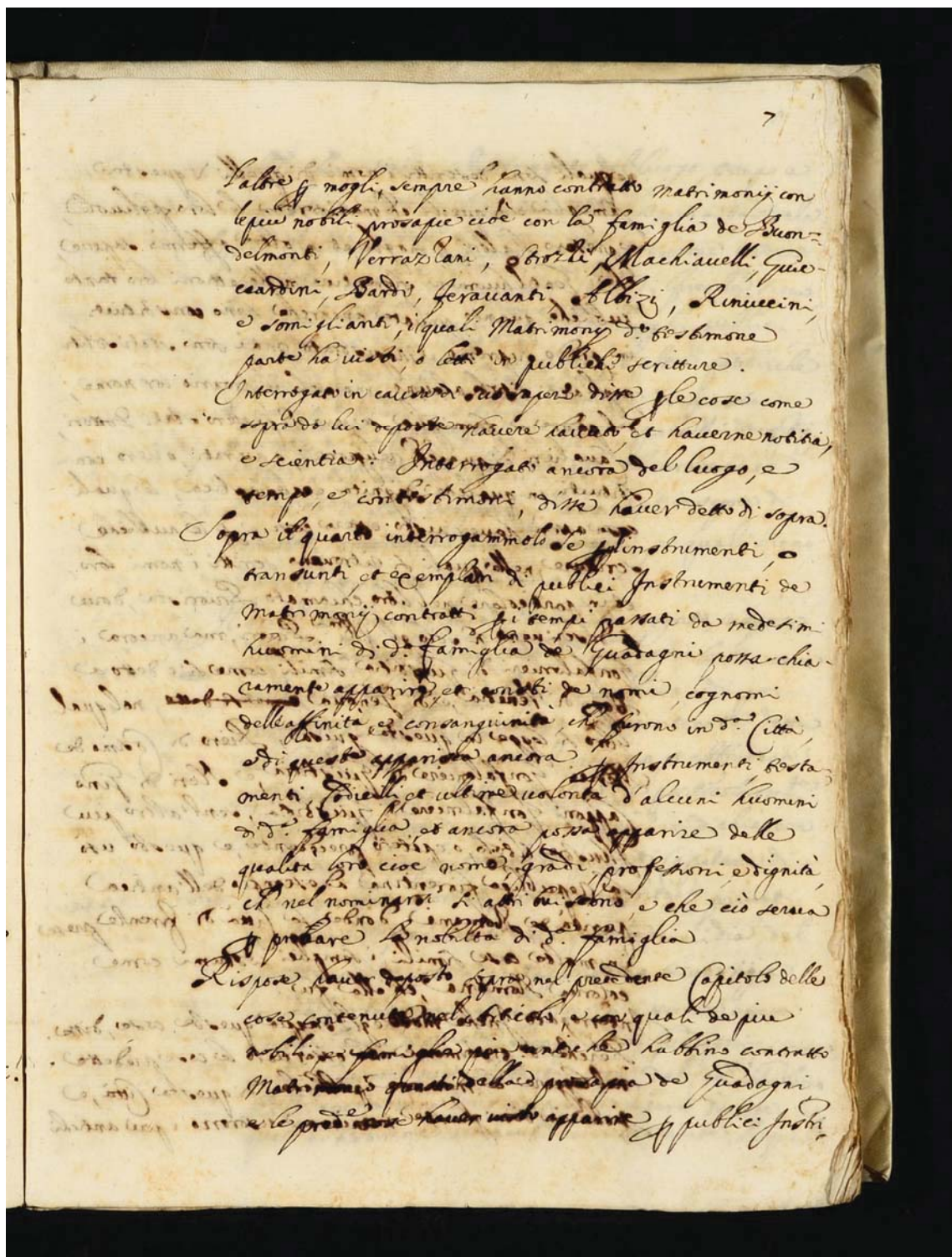
Strozzi Palace, on the right, Florence. It was just the private residence of our direct ancestors, the Strozzi Family. Look at the size of the passers-by. Prince Strozzi still owned it as his private residence in the 1930s, when my mother, Isabella Guadagni, was a young girl.

Andrea Guadagni, daughter of our direct ancestor, Ulivieri Guadagni (1452-1541), Guglielmo Guadagni's grandfather, and of his second wife, Caterina daughter of Francesco Minerbetti, whom he married in 1512, married Neri Ardinghelli, illegitimate son of late Cardinal Ardinghelli in 1526.

Ginevra Guadagni, daughter of our same ancestor Ulivieri and of his first wife Oretta, daughter of Tommaso Giovanni, married Giovanni Popoleschi in 1512. The same Ulivieri Guadagni had a second wife the daughter of Francesco Minerbetti. His first wife, Oretta, daughter of Tommaso Giovanni, is Guglielmo Guadagni's paternal grandmother.

Tommaso, son of Ulivieri and father of Guglielmo, married Pernetta, daughter of Guglielmo Berti and of Claudia Gianfigliuzzi, Guglielmo's maternal grandmother.

Simone, son of Vieri Guadagni, Guglielmo's great-grandfather, married Ginevra, daughter of Piero Castellani, son of Vanni Castellani! And if we go further back, the men of this Guadagni Family married their daughters and chose their wives always among the most noble families i.e. Buondelmonti, Verrazzano, Strozzi, Macchiavelli, Guicciardini, Bardi, Fioravanti, Albizzi, Rinuccini and similar, and our witness has seen part of them or read it in public writings.



Questioned on how he knew these things, he answered he had heard and learned about them. Asked about places, times and co-witnesses, he answered he had already mentioned it above. On the fourth topic we asked him about the documents, the summaries and examples of public documents on the contracted marriages in the past by the same men of the Guadagni Family; he can clearly list names, surnames, affinities and common blood ties, who were in this city, and we can also find documents, wills, codicils, last wills by some men of this family, and we can also find characteristics like names, ranks, professions, dignities, and listing of other acts useful to prove the nobility of this family.

ne quali sono descritti i nomi di quelli di questa
famiglia ed quelli di maritorno le loro figliuole,
e ne sono l'altre e mogli, et in altre affermò sapere,
che i suoi uomini fiorentini nelle azioni loro tanto
pubbliche quanto private, ancorché sieno consueti
in grado supremo, e magistrato, mai non stati altri
più che di loro alcuno, ma solo il proprio lor nome,
del padre o famiglia, se però non fossero stati Dottori,
o Cavalieri di qualche religione, o aurati, o vero con-
tribuiti in qualche dignità ecclesiastica, le quali
cosa non hanno visto opera loro, e di le pubbliche
scritture, nelle quali si ritrovano scritti i nomi loro,
et in particolare nel libro chiamato Priorista, dove
si descrivono non solo gli Priori, ma ancora i
Gonfalonieri di giustizia simili come si è detto a
doge di Venezia, e di Genova, nel qual
libro si legge in questa guisa, Piero di Cosimo de
Medici Gonfaloniere di giustizia, e Neri di Jns
Gonfaloniere di giustizia, con l'altro più
Mussato libro, o capitolo precedente, e questo uti
la repubblica fiorentina descritte dell'antica
prima di Romani, donde la città di Firenze prese
in molte cose simili, i simboli et stemmi come
colonna Romana, et ha fu.
Intanto che non è il meglio questa cosa, detta.
Perché si è ordinato che ora sia la cosa predetta
nel leggere la memoria di pubblica di questa città, e
che in tutti gli altri usi sono i più antichi

He answered he had already testified above in the previous chapter of the information contained in the article and with which of the most noble families the Guadagni contracted marriages and which contracts appeared in public documents in which the names of the members of this family and of the ones to whom they marry their daughters, or they take their wives from and furthermore he affirmed to know how the Florentine gentlemen, as much in their private as in their public actions, even though they have a supreme rank and are magistrates, they have never been accustomed to use somebody else's name, but only their own, or their father's or family's, if however they were Doctors or Knights, or piests, of having some ecclesiastical dignity, which were publicly known, and in the public writings, in which their names can be found, mostly in the book called "The Priorist", where are listed not only the Eminent Priors, but also the Gonfaloniers of Justice, similar as what we stated above for the Dogi of Venice and Genoa, in which book people are listed as follows: Piero son of Cosimo de' Medici, Gonfalonier of Justice,



Cosimo de' Medici the Elder (1389-1464)

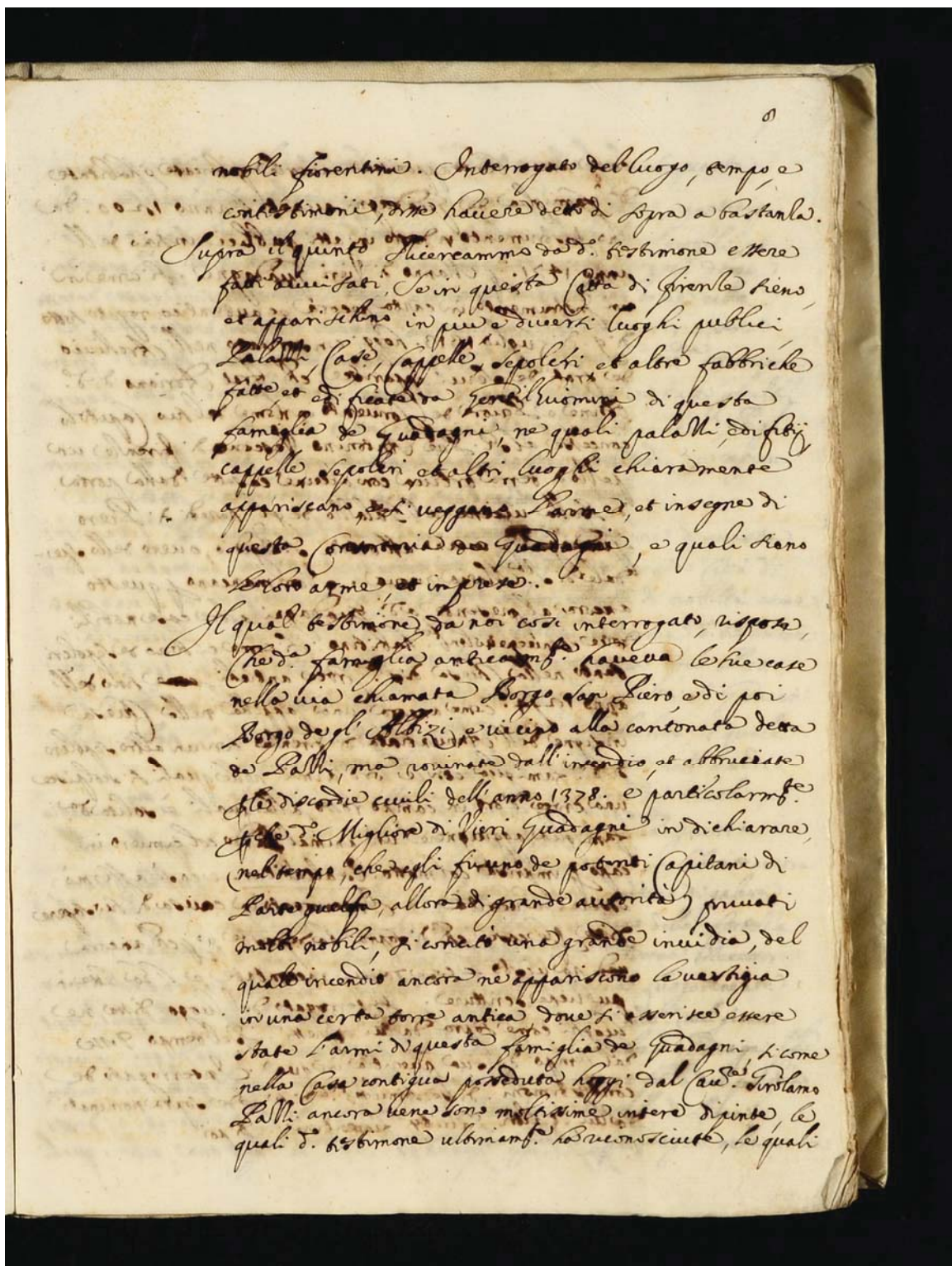


Piero de' Medici the Gouty (1416-1469) is Cosimo's son

and Neri (1452-1519), son of Gino Capponi (1423-1487), Gonfalonier of Justice, without any more eminent title or preceding qualification, and this was the custom of the Florentine Republic from the ancient times of the Romans, from which the City of Florence took many characteristics, as the simple habits, as when it was a Roman colony.



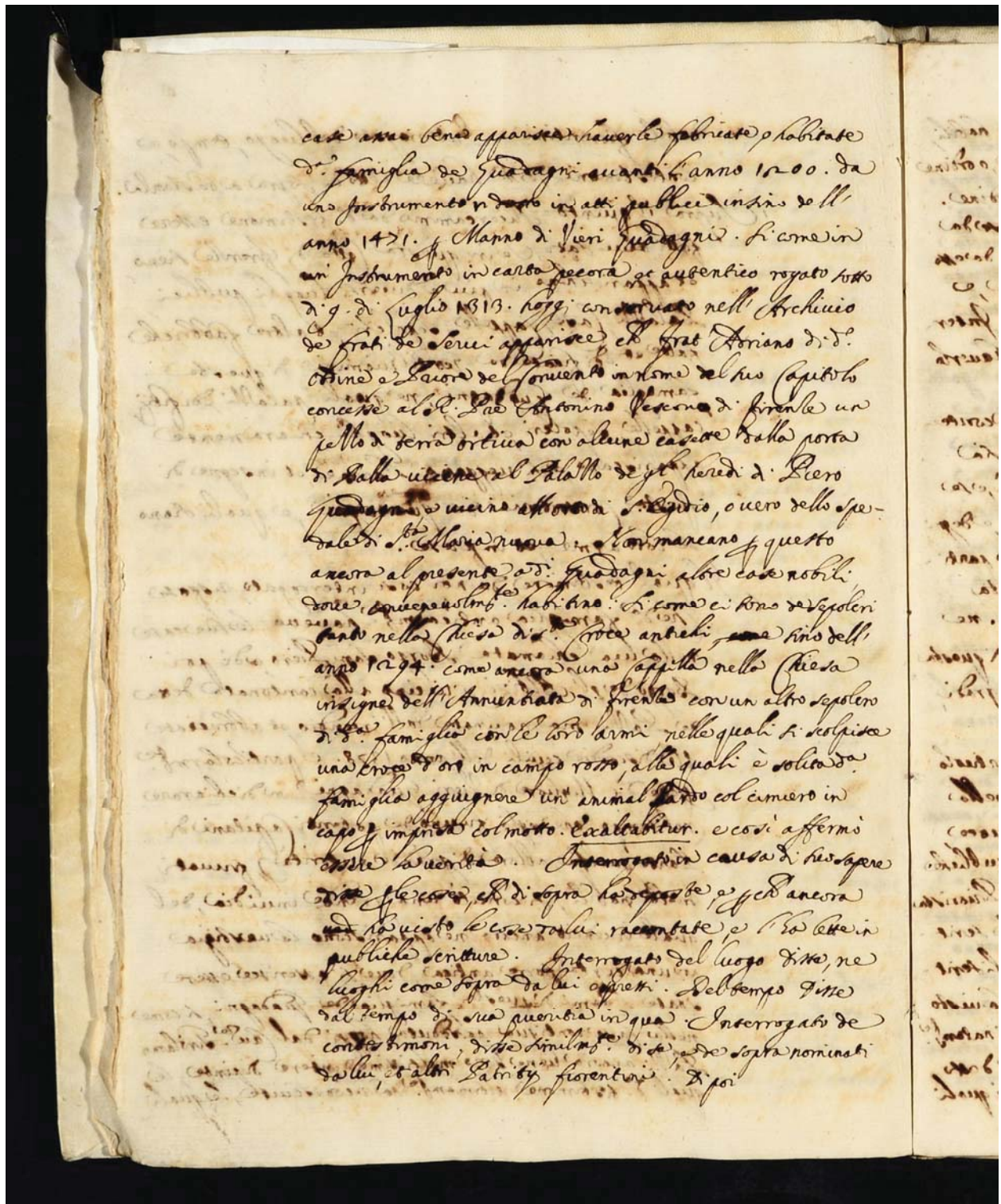
Roman ruins in Florence: Vestiges of the Church of Santa Reparata, martyr at the times of the Romans.



Interrogated on how he knew all these things, he answered he had observed the aforementioned things because he had read the public writings of this city and because they related about the most ancient Florentine nobles.

Questioned about location, time and co-witnesses, he answered he had testified about it above and that was enough. On the fifth point we asked the witness on certain specific information. If in this City of Florence you can find in several public places, palaces, houses, chapels, tombs and other buildings built by the gentlemen of this Guadagni family and if in these palaces, buildings, chapels, tombs and other locations clearly appear and can be seen crests and coat-of-arms of the Guadagni Family and what are their actions and feats.

The witness we interrogated answered that in the olden days the Family had their houses in the street called Borgo San Piero, later Borgo degli Albizzi, close to the corner called de' Pazzi, but they were burnt and ruined by fire in the year 1378, for disagreements and mostly because Migliore Guadagni (+1383 of plague), son of Vieri, in declaring that he would appoint powerful captains of the "Guelph Party", with great authority and several of them from noble families, arose a great envy, of which the fire it caused still left signs in a certain ancient tower where it seems was the Family Crest of the Guadagni Family, as in the neighboring house owned today by Count Girolamo Pazzi, you can still well see the numerous painted family crests of the Guadagni, clearly witnessing that these houses were built and inhabited by the Guadagni Family in the year 1200.





Borgo degli Albizzi, Florence. In this street, in the old elegant center of Medieval Florence, the Guadagni owned houses and lived since the year 1200 (from a document found in public records in 1471, by Manno Guadagni (1407-1481), son of Vieri Guadagni and Francesca Tornabuoni. It is in a document written in parchment and authenticated by a notary in July 1313. Today (year 1595) this document is kept in the Archives of the Friars of Terni and it belongs to Brother Adriano of Santa Line and Gaione that the Convent in the name of its Chapter gave a lot of very good land with a few houses, next to the Door of Palla, together with the Palace of the heirs of Piero Guadagni, near Sant'Egidio, next to the Hospital of Santa Maria Nuova, to Reverend Prior Antonino, Bishop of Florence.



Sant'Egidio Church, Florence (above, below and to the right) It is in the part of Florence where the



Guadagni used to live in the Middle-Ages.



Hospital of Santa Maria Nuova, Florence in a print of several centuries ago (close to 1595). It is the oldest hospital in Florence.



As it is now, the outside has not changed. In 1595 the Guadagni were probably taken to this hospital when they were sick, as it was close to their houses.

The Guadagni still (in 1595) have quite a few noble houses, where they live. There are also ancient Guadagni tombs in the Church of Santa Croce, since the year 1294.

The famous Guadagni Palaces, among the most beautiful, original and grandiose in Florence, are not listed in this document because they were all bought or built after the year 1595.

“Nunziata” Guadagni Palace: Tommaso Guadagni (1582-1652), our direct ancestor, son of Francesco, had the palace designed by famous Florentine architect Gherardo Silvani (1579-1675), built in the first half of the 17th century.



“Nunziata” Guadagni Palace. It is now the Faculty of Architecture of the University of Florence. It is considered the most unique and original palace in Florence. No other Florentine palace resembles it even closely.



Guadagni Palace of Santo Spirito, bought in 1683 by our direct ancestor, Donato Maria Guadagni (1641-1718), 3rd Marchese of San Leolino, son of the above Tommaso Guadagni who had the “Nunziata” Guadagni Palace built, starter of the Santo Spirito Branch and our direct ancestor. It is the most admired and imitated palace in Florence.



Guadagni (left half)-Dufour Berte (right-half) crest with crown of Marchese above.
(The Guadagni of Santo Spirito (our branch) Palace, including the attached two windows wide house,
with the Guadagni-Dufour Berte crest above the door, which was added to the palace and is now part of
it, is on the right)

Details of the inside of the Guadagni Palace below.



It is still owned by our descendants and cousins Marchesi Dufour Berte.



Guadagni dell'Opera (del Duomo) Palace also designed by famous architect Gherardo Silvani. It was built in 36 years (1604-1640). Our great-uncle, Alessandro Guadagni (1545-1625), nephew of our direct ancestor, Jacopo Guadagni, and himself direct ancestor of all the Torrigianis, had Silvani build it. It is now the Seat of the Region of Tuscany, the most important palace of Tuscany. As there are 19 regions in Italy, we can conclude that the Guadagni dell'Opera Palace is one of the 19 most important buildings in all of Italy.

The below document is an official documentation by the President of the Region of Tuscany (which has its seat in the Guadagni Palace) on the recent restoration of the palace by the Region of Tuscany itself, described below as ***“one of the most important palaces of Florence”***

After Pietro Guadagni inherited the Torrigiani name and fortune and sold the Guadagni Palace, the palace belonged to the Strozzi and the Sacratì families, before being bought by the Region of Tuscany a few years ago. That is why they call it “Guadagni Strozzi Sacratì”. It was however built by the Guadagni and owned by them for two centuries before being sold by Pietro Guadagni Torrigiani.

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Restoration of Palazzo Guadagni Strozzi Saccati for the Presidenza of Giunta Regionale Toscana

1th step 2003

2nd step 2004

Piazza S.Maria del Fiore, Florence (FI), Italy

project

SPIRA Srl

architectural and decorative set survey

G2BA Architetti Associati

conservation project

SPIRA Srl

G2BA Architetti Associati

Giusy Suardi

structural engineer

Studio Blasi

client

Regione Toscana

Centro Leasing spa

Locafit spa

The Guadagni Strozzi Saccati Palace is one of the most important palaces of Florence. It is located in Piazza del Duomo right in front of the apse of Santa Maria in Fiore, under the cupola drawn by Filippo Brunelleschi. The restoration is finalized by the realization of the Presidential Council of Tuscany. The general coordination of the project is under the direction of the Spira Study in Florence.

Particular care has been given to the sumptuous decorative apparatus of the palace including stuccos, frescos and mural paintings of great value. The surfaces of all the noble floors or the ones that were showing historical and artistic values have been surveyed and analysed. It has been assessed the adherence of the decorated plasters to the underneath walls, the cohesion of the mortar and colours, and analysed the frame of the fissures. Per each type of degradation it has been indicated the intervention procedure by organizing a series of systematic operations aiming to the preservation and the integrity of the surfaces.



Guadagni Porta al Prato Palace, upper-central left part of the picture. It was bought and enlarged by our British

great-great-grandmother Louisa Lee Guadagni, wife of Donato Guadagni, Marchese of San Leolino. The last family owner was our great-aunt Aurora Guadagni, sister of our great-grandfather Guadagno Guadagni, Marchese of San Leolino, and daughter-in-law of Saint (Aunt) Emily d'Oultremont d'Hoogvorst (Canonized by Pope Saint John Paul II the Great).

It is now the Central Office of the Police for Florence.



Two views of the façade of the Porta a Prato Guadagni Palace, where our grandfathers, Luigi, Guitto, Bernardo, Giacomo and Tommaso grew up, when they were not in Masseto.

158

Ans. Flor.

*Veduta della Piazza di S. Croce*

Church and Square of Santa Croce a few centuries ago (before they covered the front with a marble façade), and today (below).





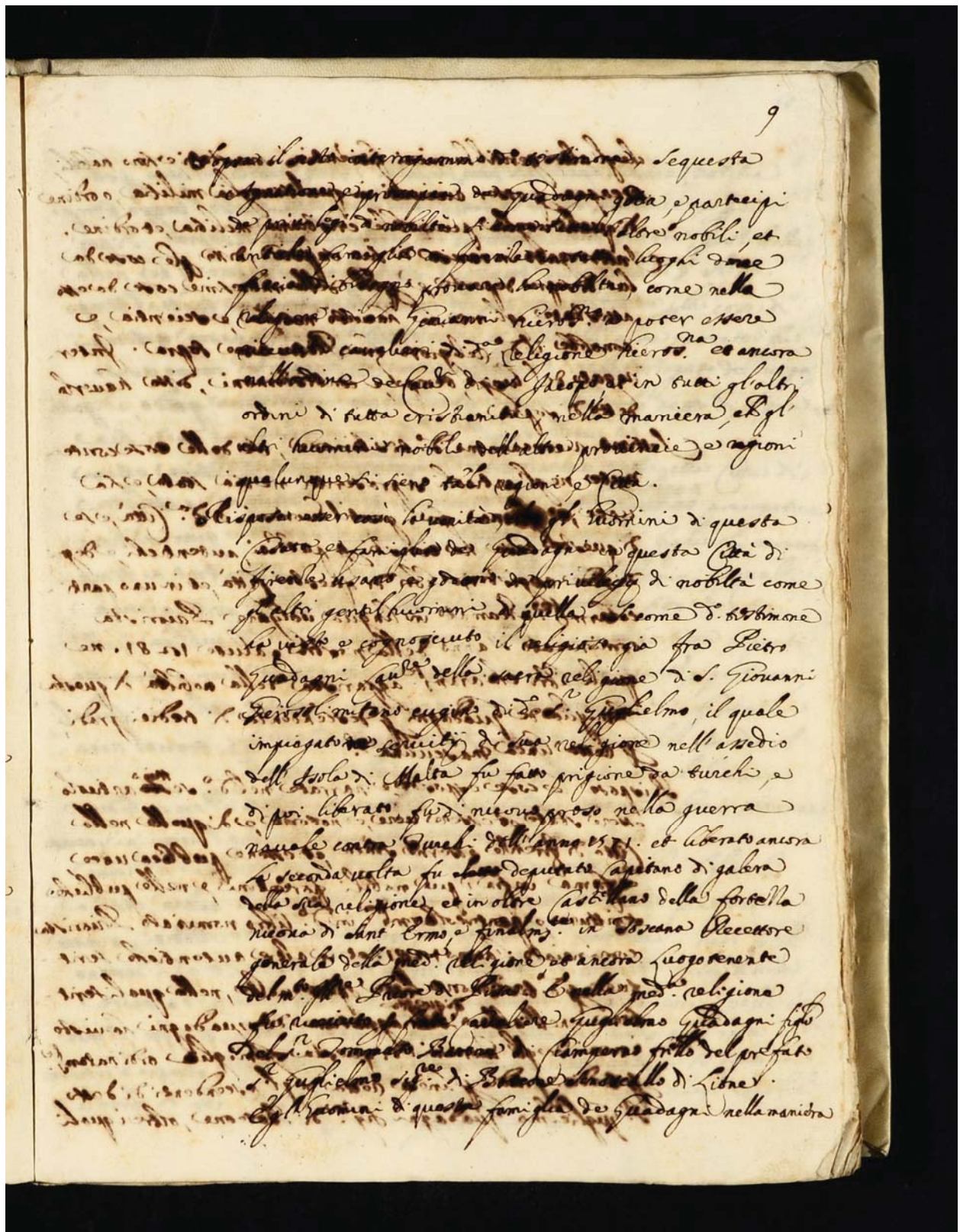
Basilica of Santa Croce inside.



And there is also a Guadagni Chapel in the Majestic Basilica of Santissima Annunziata, in Florence (above), with another tomb of the Family with their crest, in which is sculpted a golden cross on a red background, [to which the family usually adds an animal with a helmet on his head with the motto *Exaltabitur*].

Guadagni Family Crest and part of the chapel on the left of the main altar of the Santissima Annunziata Basilica in Florence, above.

And so the witness testified that all this was true. Questioned on where he got the above mentioned knowledge, the witness answered that he saw himself some of the things he told, and others he read in public writings. Questioned on where he found them, he answered he found them in the localities specified above. Timewise, he said from his youth on. On the co-witnesses, he said one was himself the others were the ones he mentioned above and other Florentine nobles.



Furthermore, the men of this Guadagni Family in this City of Florence use and enjoy the privileges of all the other gentlemen, as our witness has seen and known the Religious Brother Pietro Guadagni, Knight of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem ("Order of Malta"), cousin of Guglielmo, who served in his Order in the Siege of the Island of Malta, was captured by the Turks and then freed, was captured again in the naval warfare against the Turks in the year 1571, and freed a second time, he was deputy captain of a Galley of his Order and later

Commander of the Fort of St. Elmo and finally General Receptor of his Order (of Malta) in Tuscany and then Lieutenant of the Priory of Pisa of the same Order.



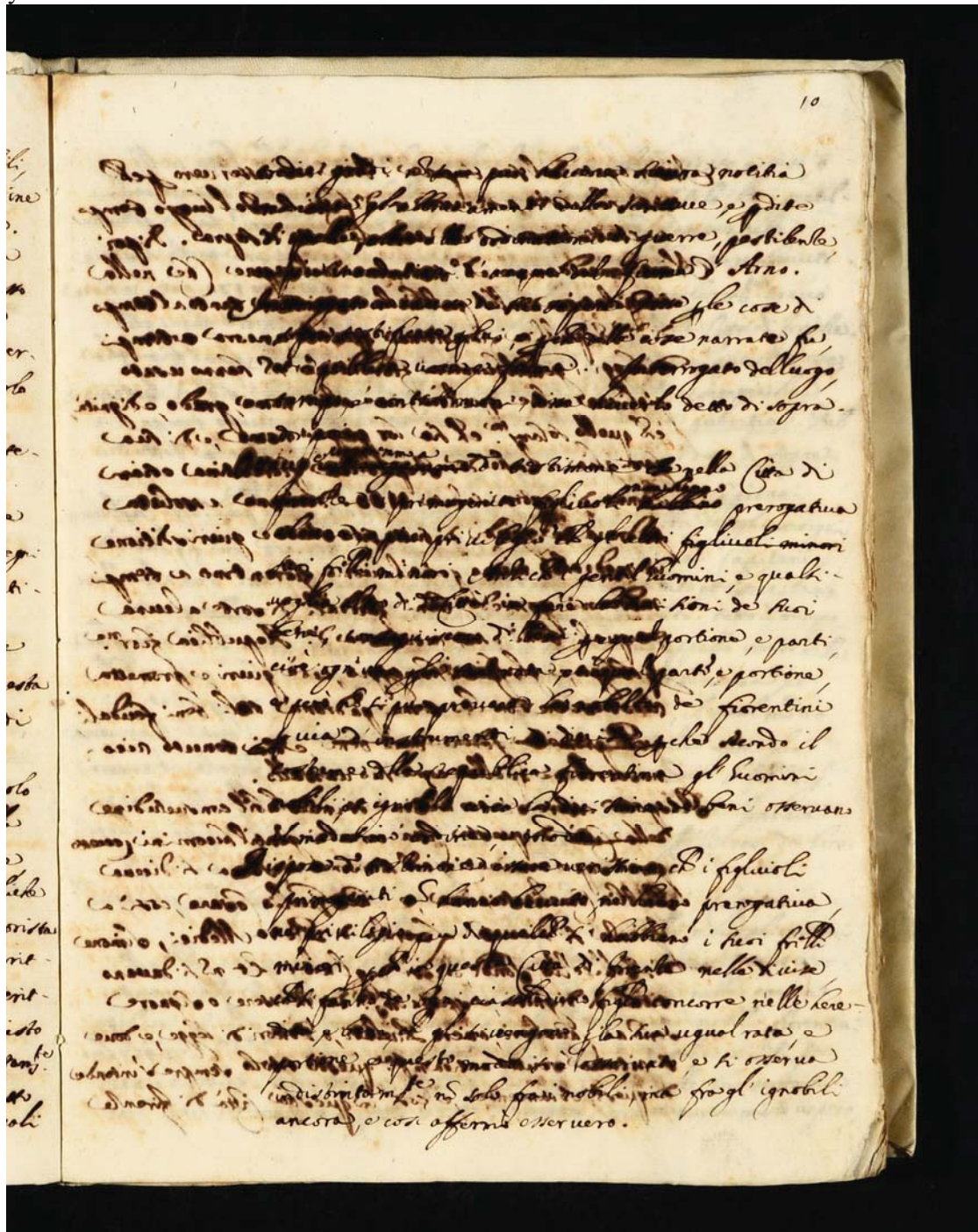
Knight of Malta during the times of Knights Pietro and Guglielmo Guadagni

Guglielmo Guadagni, son of Tommaso III Guadagni, Baron of Champroux, brother of Guglielmo Guadagni, Lord of Boutheon and Seneschal of Lyon, became a Knight of the same Order of Malta.

Seventh point, we asked the witness if in the things contained in the above mentioned articles, there has been or he has heard about public, authentic books of this City and one, specifically called in "Vulgar Language" (i.e. Italian (vs. Latin)) Priorista, started in our evaluation in the year 1281, in which books is mentioned the nobility of this Guadagni Family of whom we know 13 male generations in a row (in 1595).

He answered the things he exposed and talked about in the 7th article, were and are true and well known and famous among the most noble Florentines and in the public writings and especially in the Book named Priorista, started in the year 1281 and in other authentic writings, which witnesses have often mentioned, in which writings on the Tree of this Guadagni Family, have seen the names of the men of this family ordered in 13 generations of ancestors of this Guglielmo Guadagni, Lord of Boutheon.

Pages 10 to 13b are hard to read. I will however put the photoreproductions of all the originals in the Guadagni Website because they are 420 years old authentic family documents and one day maybe with new techniques they will be able to read them and translate them.





Pages 10b and 11



Pages 11b and 12

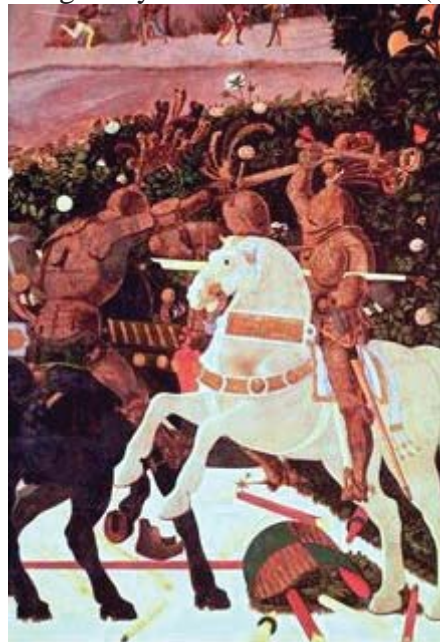


Pages 12b and 13

L'anno 1288. e 1293. conseguì il supremo grado e
dignità di Gonfaloniere, qual Messore fu il secondo
Gonfaloniere di Firenze dopo la creazione di questa
suprema dignità, quale era allora come è il Doge di
Venezia, e di Genova, qual supremo dignità andrei
uolere tenere gli uomini di questa famiglia de
Medici, e il padre surano de' Priori della
libertà e pop. fiorentino che hanno conseguito dieci
sette volte, e sono impero esercitati si come di poi
in diversi tempi, Jacopo di Nuccio, Guadagni ha
fatto uolte prima del supremo grado de' Luogotenente,
e Consigliere del Serenissimo Gran Duca di Toscana nella
Repubblica Fiorentina, e come gli altri di questa
famiglia de' Guadagni hanno fatto sommo honore, e
celebre gli altri Magistrati, e uffici. Et ancora
de' più nobili, e intelligenti Guadagni ha
fatto da capitano de' Fiorentini, e con loro ha fatto
la guerra di quella con la sua signoria si con-
tinua, e fino l'anno 1493. Et ancora l'anno 1495.
quale da noi fu fatto, e fatto a' suoi adoro a Bonifazio
Summo Pontefice. Et nell'anno 1506. nell'esercito
fatto dalla Repubblica Fiorentina u' intervennero Marco
Pierluigi della Rovere, e il figlio dello d. nobil
Giovanni de' Guadagni, quali furono de' feditori d. d.
Carlo, quale fu fatto, e furono Cavalieri di
S. Stefano, e fu fatto, e fu fatto de' deputati, e con
dotti, e fu fatto, e fu fatto in guerra con
il Re di Francia, e fu fatto, e fu fatto, e fu fatto
dalla Repubblica Fiorentina, e fu fatto, e fu fatto



Florentine Knights by artist Paolo Uccello (1475-1396)



Florentine Knights fighting in a battle by artist Paolo Uccello



Middle-Ages Florentine Bystanders by Early Renaissance Florentine artist Paolo Uccello

Holy Roman Emperor Henry VII, but later, as we remember, they were reinstated and could receive honors. In 1325, Migliorozzo Guadagni was flag-bearer, overlooking the City, to signal dangers of war. Chela Guadagni was serving in the army and was captured by the enemy.

In 1343, Migliore Guadagni, son of Vieri, made peace with the Aliotti Family, with the activity of the Duke of Athens. In 1344, he was one of the hostages, that the Florentines gave to Alberto and Mastino della Scala in the purchase of the City of Lucca.



City of Lucca

In 1363, the same Migliore, son of Vieri, was elected captain and general commander of the Army of the City of Todi.



City of Todi

In 1372, Migliore Guadagni was created one of the Ten of the whole Militia of Florence with very large authority and superior powers over everybody else. In the same year 1372, the City of Florence appointed Migliore to fortify the localities, the castles and the fortresses of the Dominion of Florence because of suspicions of impending war.



City of Florence (Tower of Giotto and curved top of the Dome upfront)

Always in 1372, the same Migliore was appointed Reformer, under the title of Speaker over the Government of the City of Pistoia.



City of Pistoia

In 1361, Vieri Guadagni obtained from the Republic of Florence the Command of the Regiment of the City of Volterra.



City of Volterra

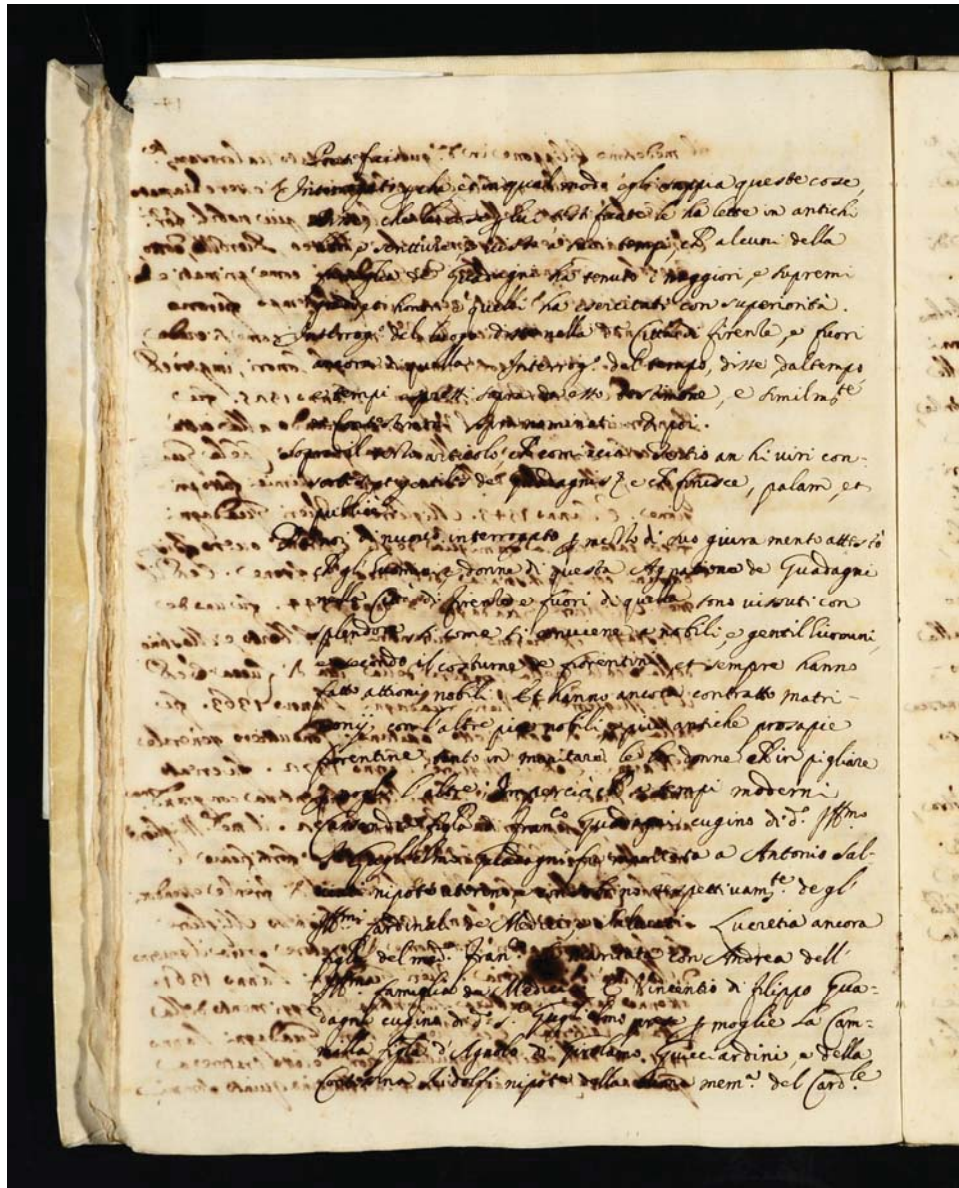
In 1411, Vieri Guadagni, son of Vieri, was appointed by the Republic of Florence as Ambassador to (anti) Pope John XXIII and in 1424 to His Holiness Pope Martin V.



(anti) Pope John XXIII (1370-1419; anti-papacy [during Western Schism]: 1410-1415)



Pope Martin V by artist Pisanello: (1369-1431; Papacy: 1417-1431; his election effectively ended the Western Schism (1378-1417).



Questioned on how he knew these things, he answered he had read them in ancient books, writings, and he met in his times, some members of the Guadagni Family. He had the major and supreme offices and he performed his duties with superior ability. Questioned on the locality, he answered: "In the City of Florence and also out of the City". Questioned on the time, he said: "from the time mentioned by Simone and likewise from the times mentioned above".

On the sixth article which starts: "Derbis ad limini consortis consortis gentiles de Guadagnis" (...from the gentle wives of the Guadagni") and ends: "Palam et publice" ("Privately and in public").

Questioned again by us, on his oath, he affirmed that the men and the women of this Guadagni Family in the City of Florence and out of it, have lived with the splendor appropriate to nobles and gentlemen, according to the habit of the Florentines and have always performed noble actions and still have contracted marriages with the most noble and ancient Florentine Families, as much in getting their daughters married as in choosing wives to marry. And so, in modern times (Late Renaissance), Cassandra, daughter of Francesco Guadagni (1534-1611), cousin of the Very Eminent Guglielmo Guadagni, was married to Antonio Salviati (they were married in 1595, the year this document was written and sent to the King of France), respectively nephew of the Very Eminent Cardinals de' Medici and Salviati.



Our great-great-uncle Antonio Salviati, husband of Cassandra Guadagni



Cardinal de' Medici, before becoming Grand-Duke of Tuscany
Ferdinand I de' Medici



Cardinal Salviati

Lucrezia Guadagni, another daughter of the same Francesco, (+1652), married Andrea of the Very Eminent Medici Family, son of Carlo de' Medici, and Vincenzo, son of Filippo Guadagni, cousin of Guglielmo Guadagni, married Cammilla Guicciardini, daughter of Agnolo Guicciardini (1525-1581, 21 works in 49 publications in 4 languages and 143 library holdings) son of Girolamo Guicciardini, and of Contessina Ridolfi, niece of late Cardinal Ridolfi.



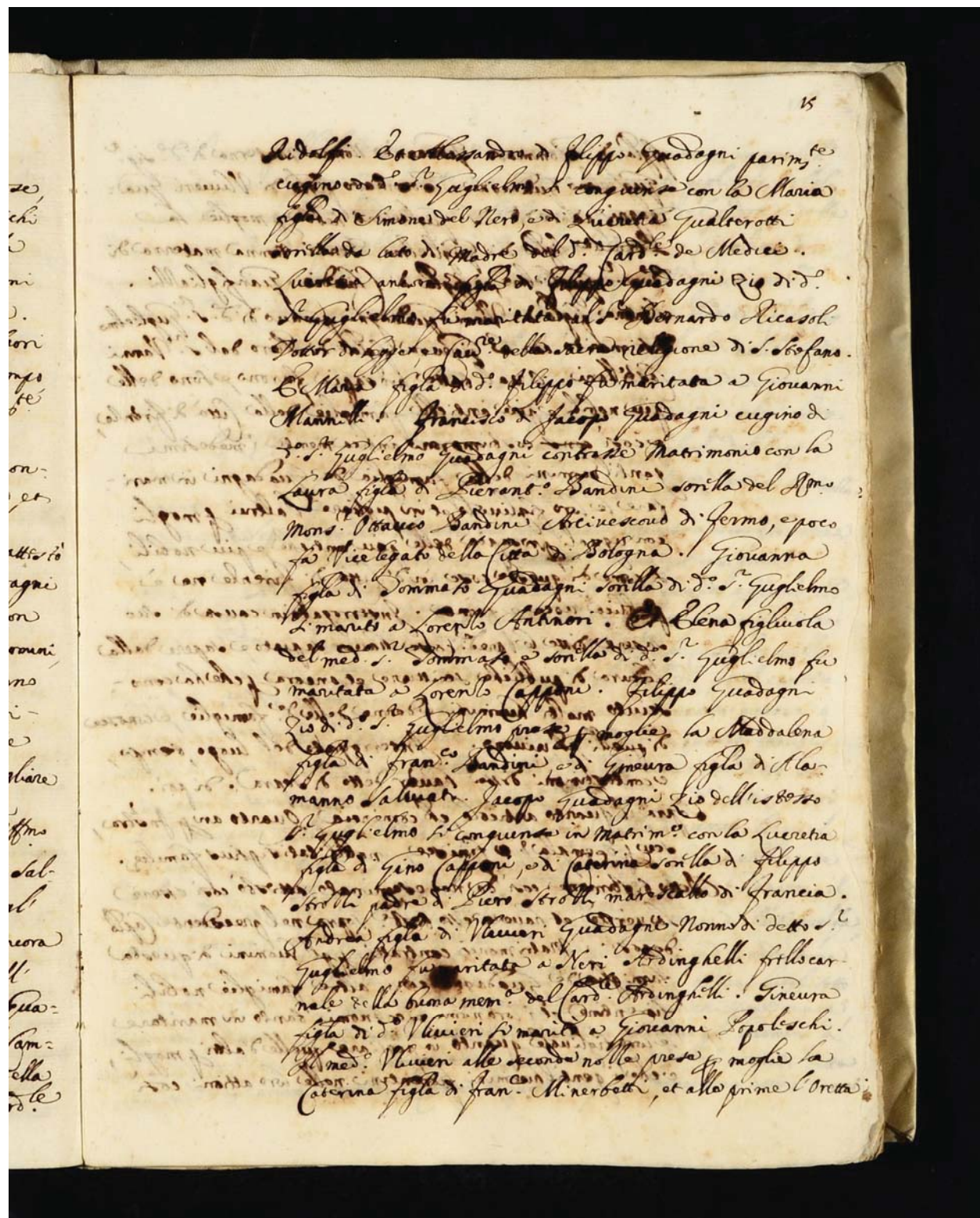
Carlo de' Medici by artist Andrea Mantegna



Guicciardini Palace in Florence



Cardinal Ridolfi



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Alessandro Guadagni, 1545-1625, son of Filippo (brother of our direct ancestor Jacopo), cousin of Guglielmo Guadagni, marries Maria del Nero, daughter of Simone del Nero and Lucrezia Gualterotti, half-sister, by her mother, of Cardinal Alessandro Ottaviano de' Medici (1535-1605), who was elected Pope Leo XI, in 1605, ten years after the document on "Proofs on Nobility,..." was written, and who thus became Uncle of Filippo Guadagni and great-uncle of all his descendants. He was related to the Guadagni through his half-sister. When his predecessor, Pope Clement VIII died in 1605, the favorite candidate for the Papacy was the famous Jesuit Cardinal Bellarmine, who had behind him King Philip III of Spain. However this half-brother of ours, Alessandro de' Medici, whose nephew was Alessandro Guadagni, probably named after him, was supported by King Henry IV of France, whose wife Maria de' Medici was our cousin, escorted to meet her husband in France, by our and her

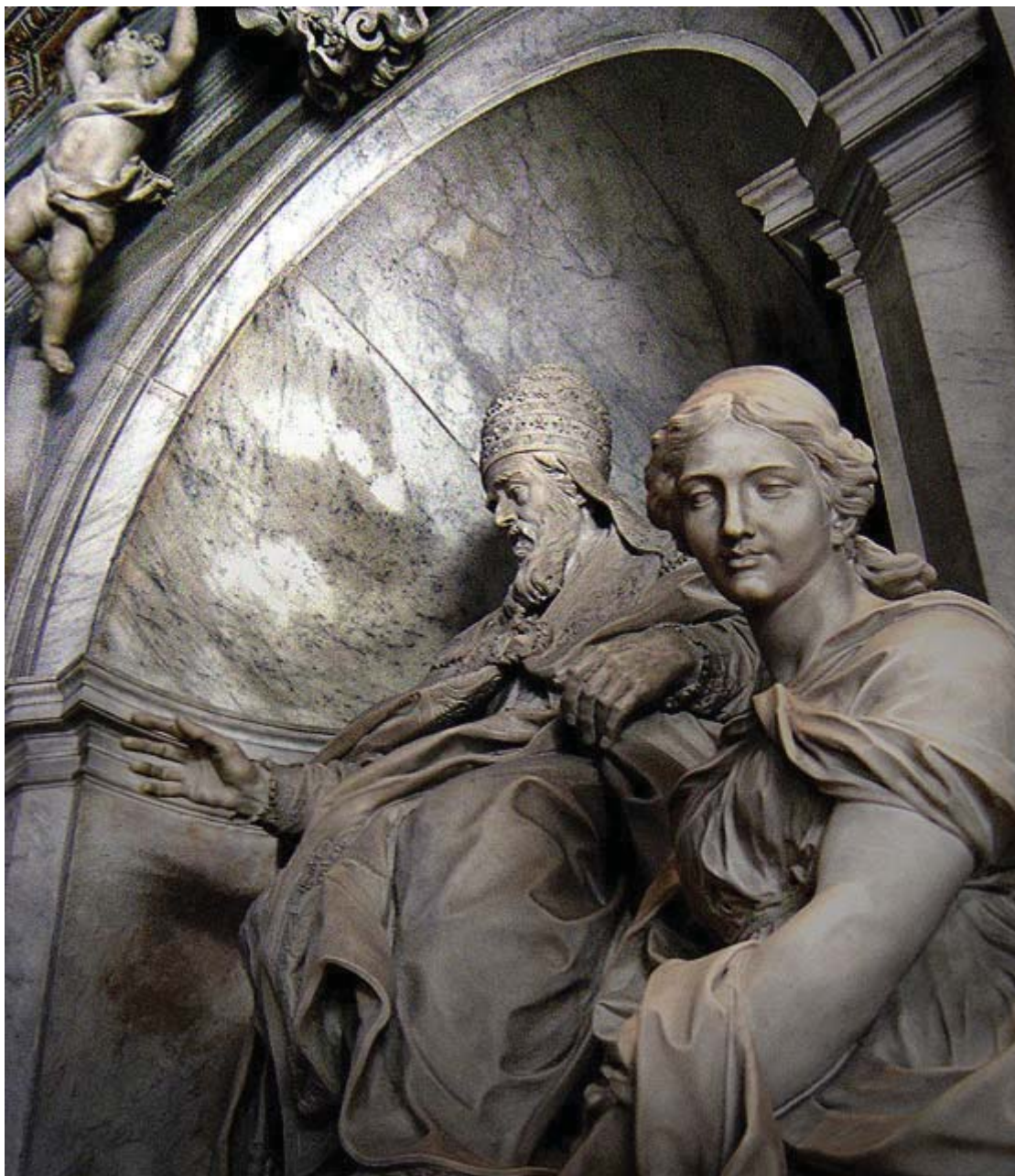
cousin the famous Knight of Malta Guglielmo Guadagni. Our cousin by marriage, the abovementioned King of France, is said to have spent 300,000 ecus in the promotion of Cardinal Alessandro's candidacy, to whom he was related by the Guadagni and the Medici. On April 1, 1605, great-uncle Cardinal Alessandro de' Medici was elected Pope. He chose to be called Leo XI in honor of his uncle Pope Leo X, son of Lorenzo de' Medici the Magnificent and our cousin.



Pope Leo X (1475-1521; Papacy: 1513-1521)



Pope Leo XI (1535-1605; Papacy: April 1-April 27, 1605, only 27 days) When he was elected, he was almost 70 years of age, and he died 27 days later as a result of fatigue and cold in the ceremony of taking possession of the Basilica of St John Lateran.



Tomb of Pope Leo XI, in St. Peter's Basilica, Rome.

Lucrezia, daughter of Filippo Guadagni, uncle of Guglielmo, married Bernardo Ricasoli, Doctor in Law, Knight of the Order of Santo Stefano, and Maria Guadagni, also daughter of Filippo, married Giovanni Mannelli. Francesco Guadagni (our direct ancestor), son of Jacopo and cousin of Guglielmo, married Laura, daughter of Pierantonio Bandini, sister of Very Eminent Monsignor Ottavio Bandini (1558-1629), Archbishop of Fermo and a short while ago Vice-Legate of the City of Bologna. He was created Cardinal in the consistory of June 5, 1596, 9 months after this document was written.

Giovanna Guadagni, daughter of Tommaso Guadagni and sister of Guglielmo, married Lorenzo Antinori. Elena Guadagni, daughter of the same Tommaso, and sister of Guglielmo, married Lorenzo Capponi.



Antinori Palace, Florence

Filippo Guadagni, uncle of Guglielmo, married Maddalena Bandini, daughter of Francesco Bandini and of Ginevra, daughter of Alamanno Salviati. Alamanno Salviati once wrote to his friend Niccolo' Machiavelli, author of "The Prince"; "I don't say you have no faith, but rather you have little left."



Lucrezia de' Medici (1470-1553), eldest daughter of our cousin Lorenzo de' Medici the Magnificent, wife of Jacopo Salviati, with whom she had 11 children, the youngest of whom was Alamanno Salviati (1510-1571), great-



Villa Salviati

grandfather of Maddalena Bandini, wife of Filippo Guadagni, and so ancestress of all of the Guadagni dell'Opera Branch and Torrigiani (and also great-aunt of all the Guadagni of Santo Spirito Branch). Another child of Lucrezia was her daughter Francesca, first married to Piero Gualterotti and grand-mother of Alessandro

Guadagni's wife, Maria del Nero and then to Ottaviano de' Medici and mother of Pope Leo XI. So two generations of Guadagni, Filippo and his son Alessandro, were married with Lucrezia's descendants.



Niccolo' Machiavelli (1469-1527), cousin of Jacopo Salviati (1461-1533), whose son Alamanno Salviati, direct ancestor of all the Guadagni dell'Opera and Torrigiani and great-uncle of all of us, wrote the above.

Jacopo Guadagni, uncle of the same Guglielmo and our direct ancestor, married Lucrezia, daughter of Gino Capponi, and of Carolina, sister of Filippo Strozzi the Younger (who died in prison, after having lost the battle of Montemurlo against Cosimo I de' Medici, Grand Duke of Tuscany), father of Piero Strozzi, Marshal of France.

Andrea Guadagni, daughter of Ulivieri, grandfather of Guglielmo, married Neri Ardinghelli, late Cardinal Ardinghelli's illegitimate son. Ginevra Guadagni, also daughter of Ulivieri, married Giovanni Popoleschi. The same Ulivieri married Caterina, daughter of Francesco Minerbetti in his second marriage. His first wife instead was Oretta Giovanni, daughter of Tommaso Giovanni and maternal grandmother of abovementioned Guglielmo Guadagni. By the way, Ulivieri (1452-1541) is the direct ancestor of all of us, he had 10 children with Oretta, of whom from Tommaso came the French Gadagne, from Filippo, the Guadagni dell'Opera and Torrigiani, from Jacopo, the Guadagni of Santo Spirito and Dufour Berte, and only one daughter with his second wife Caterina, Andrea.



Elena Guadagni, daughter of Tommaso II Guadagni and Peronetta Berti, and sister of Guglielmo I Guadagni, Lord of Boutheon and Knight of the Cross of the Holy Spirit.



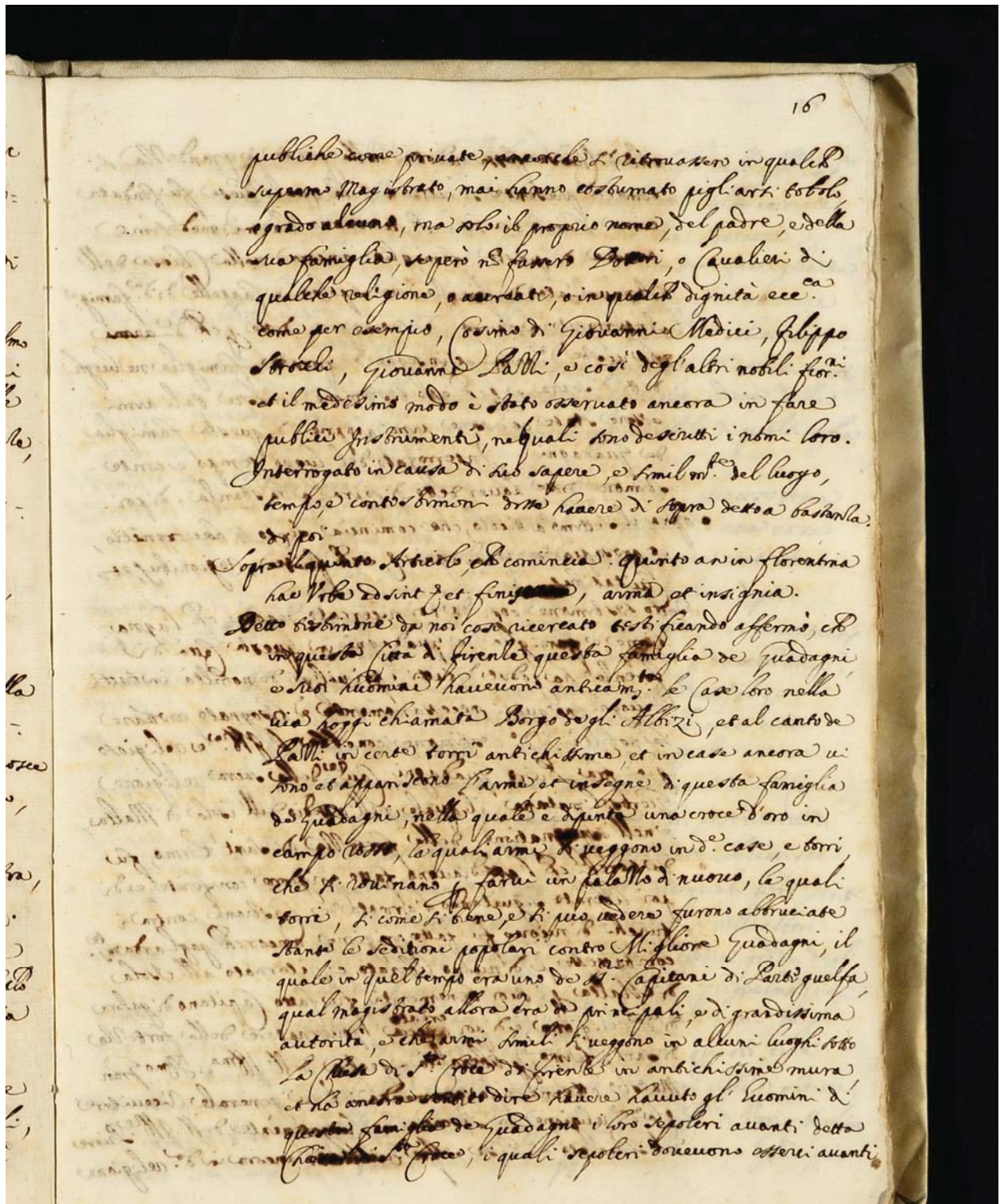
Alessandro Capponi, son of Lorenzo Capponi and Elena Guadagni, nephew of Guglielmo Guadagni and grandson of Tommaso II Guadagni and Peronetta Berti.

Simone Guadagni, son of Vieri Guadagni, great-grandfather of Guglielmo, married Ginevra, daughter of Piero, son of Vanni Castellani. They are from the most noble and ancient families of Florence, and so, in the same way, in ancient times, the Guadagni gentlemen gave their daughters in marriage and chose their wives from families like theirs, among the most noble and ancient in the City of Florence, and this is well known by everybody.

Questioned on how he knew these things, he answered he learned them from reading public writings and also that he met several men and women of their families and also of the ones they marry with. On the localities, times and co-witnesses he stated he had talked about them above.

On the fourth article, which begins with “...exempla (“examples”) and ends with “...nobilitatis iptius familia” (“a family as noble as his”), the same witness, examined by us, stated that it was true and that what he had

said in the above chapter about the marriages contracted by the men of this Guadagni Family with other noble Florentine families, and giving their names and surnames as much as in giving their daughters in marriage to as in choosing their wives from and that the Florentine gentlemen in their actions, in public as in private...



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...this is how they act, even if they were in charge of a very important office, they never add a title or degree, but only their name, their father's or their family's, unless they are doctors or Knights of an Order, or associates or having a special dignity, like for example Cosimo son of Giovanni de' Medici, Filippo Strozzi, Giovanni Pazzi, and so for the other Florentine nobles



Filippo Strozzi (1428-1491); Jacopo Guadagni (1497-1569) married his granddaughter, Lucrezia Capponi, from whom we all descend (so he is also our direct ancestor).



Ugolino Martelli (1519-1592) by artist Bronzino (who painted the Guadagni Chapel in Santissima Annunziata), our common cousin through our common ancestor, Simone Tornabuoni.



Giovanni de'Pazzi (1439-1481) Even though he did not participate in the Pazzi plot against the Medici and the murder of our great-uncle Giuliano de'Medici, younger brother of our direct ancestor, Lorenzo the Magnificent (who was himself wounded in the Pazzi attack), he was imprisoned until his death in jail, because he was of the Pazzi Family. His brother Guglielmo de'Pazzi is cousin by marriage of our direct ancestor Ulivieri Guadagni (1452-1541) through their common great-grandfather Simone Tornabuoni.

The same system has been used to fill out the public documents, in which their names are listed. Questioned on how he knew localities, times and co-witnesses, he answered he had already said enough about them above.

Concerning the fifth Article which begins;"Quinto an in Florentina hac verba advint" ("Fifth and in Florence these words happened") and finishes "arma et insignia" ("Coat-of-arms and Crests")

The above mentioned witness, researched by us, affirmed that in this City of Florence, this Guadagni Family and their men formerly had their Houses in the street which today (1595) is called Borgo degli Albizzi, in the Pazzi corner, in very ancient towers and in house where you can still see the coat-of-arms and Family Crests of this Guadagni Family, on which there is a golden cross painted on a red background, and you can see them in houses and towers, which are being torn down to build a new palace. These towers, as is well known, were burnt down by lower class revolts against Migliore Guadagni, who was at that time one of the Captains of the Guelph Party (for the Pope), one of the most important and full of authority magistrates in Florence, and the Guadagni crests can be still seen in certain spots under the Church of Santa Croce of Florence on very ancient walls and there the men of the Guadagni Family had their tombs, before the Church was reduced to its actual size. The church was built in the year 1270.



Palace of the Guelph Party in Florence



Page 16b

The Pazzi Palace (below) was built in 1462-1472, where the Pazzi Corner used to be with the Guadagni houses and towers in the Middle-Ages.



Pazzi Palace

You can find coat-of-arms in the tombs and Family Chapels of the Guadagni Family also in the Basilica of Santissima Annunziata, in Florence. Questioned on his knowledge of family crests and coat-of-arms of this family in the above-mentioned places, the witness knows that these crests have been of the Guadagni Family. Interrogated on localities, times and co-witnesses, he answered he spoke about them above.

On the 7th article which starts: "Septo di hac agnatio et prosapia de Guadagnis" ("Seventh on the knowledge and family of the Guadagnis") and ends: "regionibus et civitatibus" (of their regions and cities"). This witness of ours testified about the recognition and the Family of the Guadagni in this City of Florence has enjoyed all the privileges of the nobility in all the places where it was necessary to prove the nobility and the religious character of late Brother Piero Guadagni (1544-1592), Passerini calls him "Pietro" (more formal), Knight of the Holy Religious Order of Jerusalem, who, during the Siege of the Island of Malta, and the conquest of the Fortress of Saint Elmo by the Turks, was among the few who were made prisoners by the besiegers because of his wounds, and was then freed and rejoined the Christian Army against the Turks. He was made prisoner again even though he was fighting bravely. He was freed again and returned to the Island of Malta where he was appointed Galley Captain of his Order because of his merits and then was promoted Governor of the Fortress of Saint Elmo.



Model Galley of the Knights of Malta

By the grace of the Very Eminent Grand Master of the Order he obtained to be appointed General Receiver of his Order in Tuscany and Lieutenant of the Very Eminent Prior of the Priory of Pisa.



Fortress of St. Elmo, Malta. It still has the flag of the Knights of Malta waving over it, because even though the rest of the Island of Malta is an independent country, Fort St. Elmo still belongs to the "Sovereign Order of the Knights of Malta."

Et fidei. Causa. fra Guglielmo Guadagni figlio dell' Ill. Sig.
 Tommaso Guadagni Barone di Champroux fratello carnale
 di d. Ill. Sig. Guglielmo Guadagni Sig. de' Boutheon e
 Seneschal di Lion. Et che lo genitore di questa famiglia de
 Guadagni sono abili e capaci a conseguire et ottenere
 tutti gli honori dignita, preminenze e gradi soliti conve-
 nire a nobili fiorentini et simili occupati di esser aiutanti
 in qualche uolga militia et in qualche uolga ordine della
 cristiana religione et come gli altri nobili di qualche uolga
 vita e ragione.
 Interrogato in causa di suo sapere di se fosse sopra
 da lui deposedo in detta arte et referendo l'una cosa
 all'altra. Interrogato del luogo tempo e contesdomoni
 rispetto, hauere sopra questo a la famiglia. di poi.
 Opposto il detto arte et che comincia. Optimo e de contenti
 in presentis articulis e che finisce per directam linea?
 A qual di domone uchi demmo che e respondato il quale
 e netto di d. no giuramento deposedo. Et esse con-
 tuerne per abili et non uere di quella etterne
 publicam et forma dei gentili homini di d. Citta
 et che di questa eterne et appaia in libri e scritture di
 d. fidei et pariet l'art. et abili et chiamato Lion. et
 come nece et hanno del Sig. Ill. Sig. ne quali libri sono
 notati et mortali et de d. di domone, et nell' albero
 della famiglia de Guadagni e ordine di tredici gradi degl
 accidenti et nota linea di d. Ill. Sig. Guglielmo Gua-
 dagni Sig. de' Boutheon ha uisto descritti i nomi degli
 homini di questa famiglia che sono questi cioe.
 di Guglielmo figlio di Tommaso Vluieri figlio di Lionore,
 vien figlio d'un altro Vieri. Migliore figlio di Vieri Migliore
 figlio di Guadagno. Migliore figlio di Vluieri, e Guadagno.

Also Brother Knight Guglielmo Guadagni (1575-1615), son of the Very Eminent Tommaso Guadagni (1539-1594), Baron of Champroux and brother of the Very Eminent Guglielmo Guadagni, Lord of Boutheon, and Seneschal of Lyon, was a Knight of the same Order of Malta. [In 1592, 3 years before this official document was written, Guglielmo, barely seventeen years old, had joined the Knights of Malta. He had a very glorious career with them, and also with the Knights of Santo Stefano, a similar order, founded by Grand-Duke of Tuscany Cosimo I de' Medici. However, all of this happened after 1595, that is why the "Proofs of the Nobility of the Guadagni Family" document gives us a detailed account of Brother Knight Piero Guadagni's life, but only mentions Guglielmo's, who had just begun his career when this document was written. Pietro Maria Guadagni

(1702-1779), son of Giovambatista Guadagni, was also a very brave and famous Knight of Malta (Passerini states: "He was one of the bravest and most experienced knights, and in many battles he showed outstanding courage.") He was promoted Admiral of the Fleet and he obtained the Command of the Lieutenancy of the Priory of Pisa. However, he was born in 1702, 107 years after the document was written so he is not listed in it.



Guards of Fort St. Elmo

This proves that the members of this Guadagni family are able to attain and obtain all the honors and dignities, preeminences and ranks, which are usually granted to the Florentine nobles and are able to be accepted in any Order of the Christian Religion as the nobles of any city and region.

Questioned on where he had learned all his knowledge, he answered that his answers to the above articles were referring to one another. Interrogated on the localities, times and co-witnesses, he answered that what he had stated above, was enough. Afterwards, on the 7th article which starts "Septimo si da contentis in primeris articulis..." ("In the seventh we are happy for the first articles...") and ends: "directa linea" ("direct line"), we asked the witness to answer which of the facts stated in his oath were true, and of these which were publicly well known among the gentlemen of this City, and which were found in books and documents of this City and mostly in the book named "Priorista" ("The Priorist"), written in the year of the Lord 1281, in which books, documents and "Priorista", read by abovementioned Simone and in the early history of the Guadagni Family by order of thirteen generations of ancestors in straight line of the Very Eminent Guglielmo Guadagni, Lord of Boutheon, has seen written the names of the men of this family listed in order i.e.: Guglielmo son of Tommaso, Ulivieri son of Simone, Vieri son of another Vieri, Migliore son of Vieri, Migliore son of Guadagno, Migliore son of Ulivieri, and Guadagno,

et alibi agl' ascendenti patet de tredici gradi ad sene
per hauer nobilita' & auctoritate & potesta di libri & public
Instrumenti, et ancora mediante la guerra, et inondatione del
fiume d'Arno, & la pred. cosa. Et sapete ancora & lo
publico uscio & fama. Di poi
sopra l'ottavo archiepo & comincio. Octauus quod in Vobis flo.
rentis & finisco, et omnibus utuntur.

Domanda amaro de' berbmone, & di apri' la Buena
dual & t. così creata. Dico. Buena contenute in quello
che ne state uere impone comune m. & indifferenti
tanto da nobili, che da gl' ignobili di questa città di Firenze
& suo dominio. & osserva nella divisione de' beni tanto di nob.
patti moniali & d'ogni altro parente, & tutti i figliuoli di
qualunque sesso, & donna partecipo, & concorrono
in tali heredita' & equal parte & portione, & queste cose
indifferenti. & osservare nella città di Firenze, & tutto
il dominio & così de' berbmone. Questo fare, & osservare
imperio & nella città di Firenze & suo dominio n' ha
luogo la primogenitura, & di tanti figli primogeniti, &
tutti gl' altri figli omni concorrono equalm. nelle heredita'
& successione de' beni dadiuendati.

Interrogato in causa di suo sapere disse. che così l'è
creata, & di presente & di osservare in del luogo, tempo, &
conditione. Disse. hauer detto di sopra. Di poi
sopra il nono archiepo & comincio. Quod in conficiendis publicis
scripturis & finisco. Vanallus sequatur.

Il qual berbmone così da noi interrogato rispose. Di sopra
ancora hauer detto di nobil. Patibj fiorentini non
anno usato a uenire, & altro nome, se non il proprio bro, & de
loro genitori, & famiglia, & così per i soprannominati, & de
la repubblica fiorentina n' ha detto, & sostegga ben
feuale, ne ch'la nuova cosa & persona, & la fauor



Flood of the Arno River in downtown Florence. Florence is flooded on average once a century and the Middle-Ages floods looked like this one of November 4th, 1966.

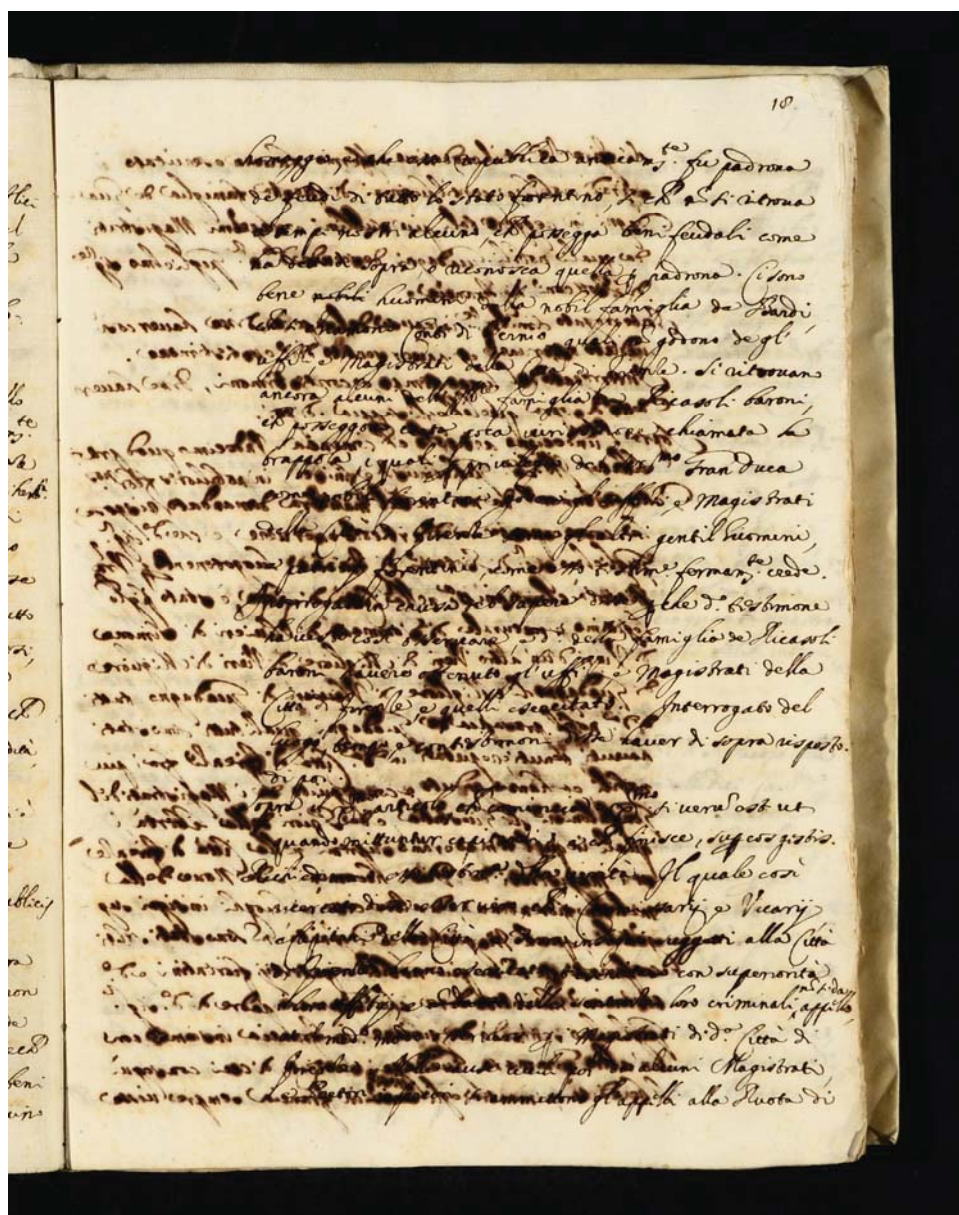


Square of the Duomo, where the Guadagni dell'Opera Palace is located, on the right behind the Duomo.

On the 8th article which starts: "Octavo quod in Verba Florentia" ("The eighth which in Florentine language...") and ends: "Et omnibus utentur" ("And can be used by everybody..."). We asked the witness to tell us the truth. The witness told us that the information contained in the 8th article is commonly and indifferently known both by the nobles and the not nobles of this City of Florence and its dominions, you observe in the distribution of the goods whether of patrimony inheritance or from any other relative and all the children from whatever man and woman they participate in such inheritance in equal part and portion and this can be noticed indifferently in the City of Florence and all its dominion and so the witness has noticed things are done both in Florence and its dominion, where the first-born rights are not observed and the firstborns and everybody else have the same share of inheritance.

Questioned on the source of his learning, he answered that it is because that is how things have been observed in the present and in the past. On the locality, time and co-witnesses, he said he had already talked about it above.

On the 9th article which starts: "Quod in conficiendis publicis scripturis" ("What is entrusted in public writings...") and ends "vassallus secatur" ("The Vassal will be...") we questioned the witness who answered that as he has already said above, Florentine nobles do not use any other name, except theirs, their father's or their family's, except the names mentioned above. The Republic of Florence has no subjects who own feudal goods and do not recognize the Republic as owner of them or do homage of them to it and so the Republic of Florence is the owner of them in all the state of Florence.



There are however men of the noble Bardi Family, Counts of Vernio, who have important offices as Magistrates of the City of Florence. And there are also members of the noble family of the Barons Ricasoli, who own fiefs in a locality called La Grappola, who by privilege of the Very Serene Grand-Duke, are Florentine nobles and Magistrates in the City of Florence, and are like the other Florentine gentlemen and patricians, as we said. Questioned on where he learned these things, the witness has seen that the Barons Ricasoli have attained the offices and magistrates of the City of Florence. Questioned on locality, time and co-witnesses, he said he had already answered about it above.



Bardi Palace in Florence (outside and inside).



Ricasoli Palace, Florence: Inner Courtyard (above and below).



From 18b to 35b the pages are hard to read. I will copy them below, and start translating from page 36. From page 36 to page 82b they are easy to read and I will translate them accordingly. The last 3 pages of the document, 83-85, are again difficult to read, but I will do my best to try and translate them, lest we miss an important conclusion of the whole document.



Pages 18b and 19



Pages 19b and 20



Pages 20b and 21



Pages 21b and 22



Pages 22b and 23



Pages 23b and 24



Pages 24b and 25



Pages 25b and 26



Pages 26b and 27



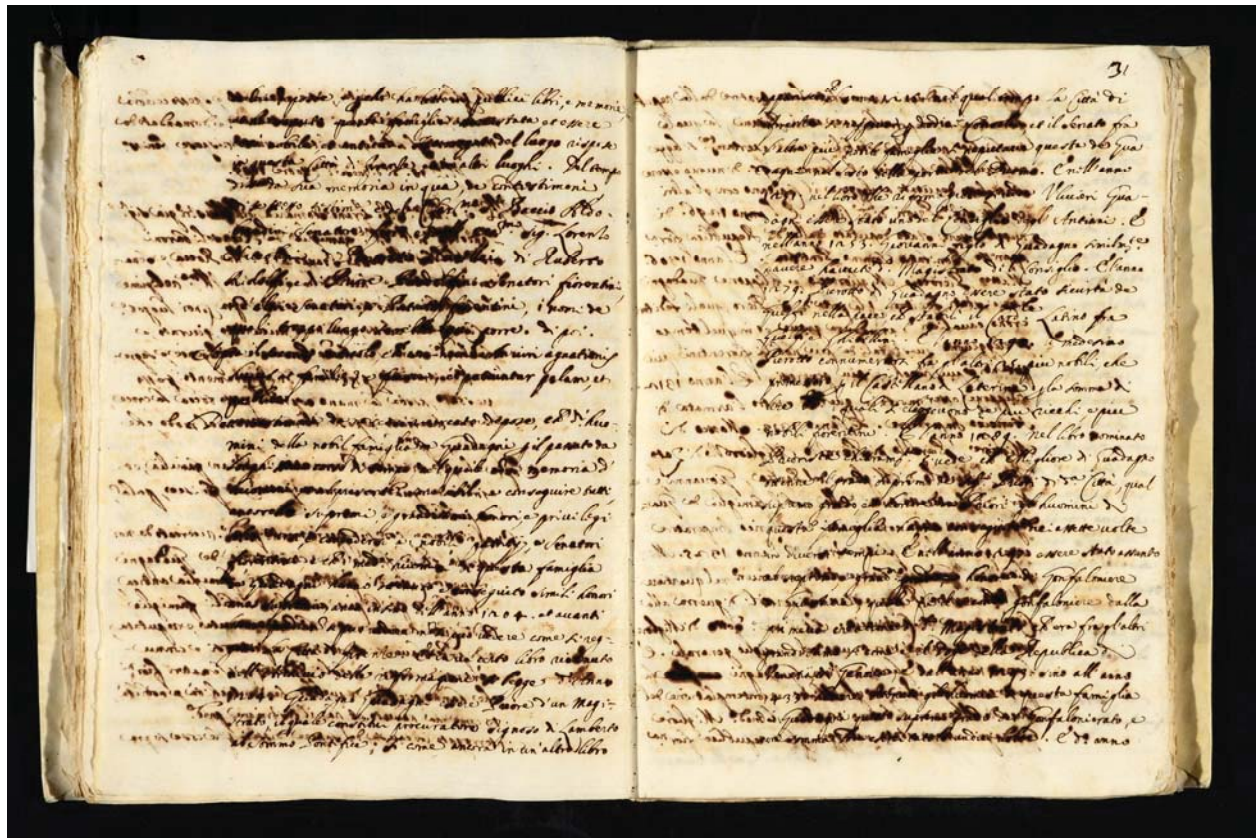
Pages 27b and 28



Pages 28b and 29



Pages 29b and 30



Pages 30b and 31



Pages 31b and 32



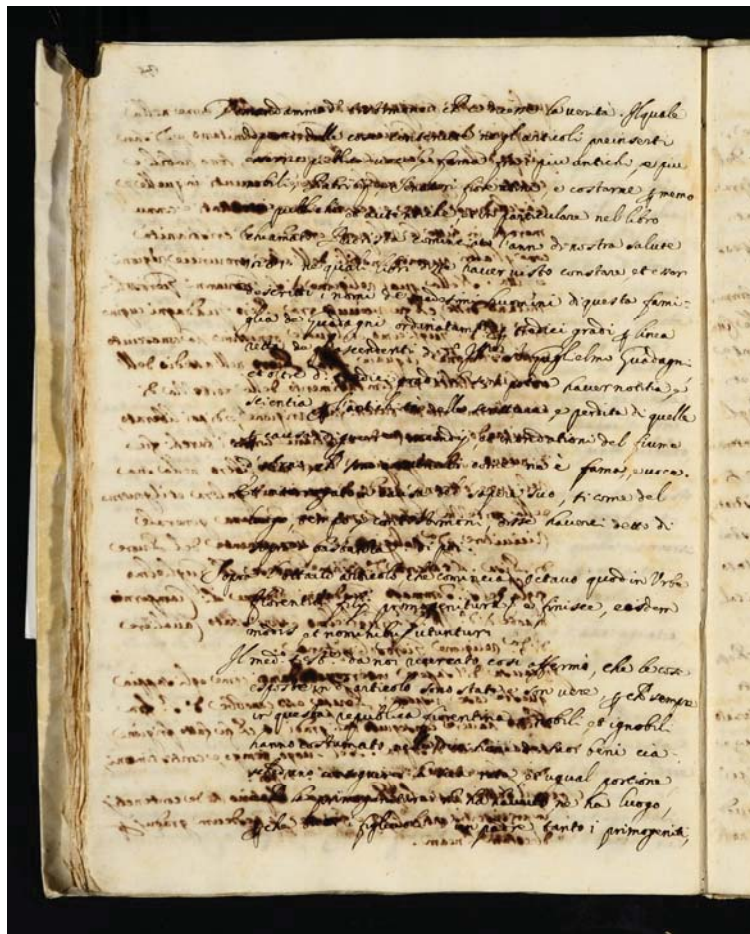
Pages 32b and 33



Pages 33b and 34



Pages 34b and 35



Page 35b

quanti fratelli minori concorrono p[er] uqual porzione,
 erata nella diuisione de beni di quale uoglio heredità
 tanto del padre, et della madre, et d'altri suoi con-
 sanguinei, et non potersi altri menti prouare la nobilità
 p[er] istrumenti di diuisione, secha in un istesso
 maniera usansi i nobili, che gl'ignobili dello Città,
 et giurisdictione fiorentina.

Interrogato p[er] noi in causa del sapere. Risposto essersi
 così osservato, et osservarsi ne tempi antichissimi
 et moderni in tutto il Dominio fior.^{no} Del luogo
 tempo et circostanze, disse. Hauerlo detto di sopra.
 di poi.

Sopra l'articoło nono et comincio. non et in fare la
 pubblica scrittura et scrivere, tanquesi ciij Vassallij
 teneatur.

Ditto haue sopra testificato, et tanto a tempi dello
 repubblica fior.^{na} quanto ne tempi d'oggi in fare
 memoria pubbliche mai hanno costumato i nobili
 fiorentini attribuirsi altra qualità, grado, o dignità
 senza il proprio lor nome, di lor padre, et famiglia: Et
 similmente dice la repubblica fiorentina già lungo
 tempo essere stata assoluta padrona d'ogni feudo di
 tutto il suo dominio, et che niuna nobilità fiorentina a
 tempi nostri possiede beni feudali et i quali p[er] obligatione
 et p[er] concessione la repubblica fiorentina p[er] padrona et gli
 faui romaggi, o giuri, et prometta uenire a iudicio
 beni da lei come padrona, et goderli come Vassallo, et

...in the Republic of Florence the inheritance is divided in equal portions among the firstborns and the other siblings, whether the inheritance is from the father, or the mother, or from other blood-relatives and you could not otherwise prove the nobility and the documents of the division of the inheritance, because the nobles and the not nobles divide the inheritance in the same way, in the City and Jurisdiction of Florence.

Questioned on how he knew all this, he answered all this had been observed from very ancient times and modern in all the Florentine dominion. On localities, times and co-witnesses, he said he had already talked about it above.

Concerning Article 9 which starts: “Ninth will be done in the public writings” and ends:”He will be their vassal”. He said he testified above that as much in the time of the Florentine Republic than in nowadays, it will be publicly remembered that the Florentine nobles have never had the habit of claiming any quality, rank or dignity, except for their name, their father’s, or their family’s; likewise he added that the Florentine Republic has been for a long time absolute master of every fief in all its dominion, so that in our days no Florentine noble owns feudal fiefs for which he has the obligation to recognize that the Florentine Republic is the owner of it, and he will do homage, swear and promise to recognize that his goods are owned by the Republic, and he will enjoy them as a Vassal, and this he said was the truth.

e così disse essere la verità.
 Interrogato come egli possa sapere queste cose, rispose.
 Che tale cosa gli è nota essere pubblica e notoria. Del
 luogo, tempo e contesimon, disse haver detto di sopra.
 Sopra il 10^{mo} articolo, et comincia. Si n^o uenit est ut
 quando mittentur capitanei et frisce, et officij supe-
 gestis.
 Qual testimone così accitato da noi, depose; che i Commis-
 sarij, Capitani, Vicarij, o Podesta mandati alle città,
 terre, ville, e luoghi sotto la giurisdictione fiorentina
 hanno esercitato, et esercitano il Magistrato, et
 officij loro con superiorità tutto il tempo, degli
 dura, e che nelle cause criminali dalle sentenze
 loro non si è dato, né da appello, et il medesimo si
 osserva nella città di Firenze da suoi Magistrati,
 il qual modo hanno tenuto gli huomini di questa
 famiglia da guadagni, che hanno esercitato
 tali magistrati, et officij mentre sedono di tal
 Magistrato.
 Interrogato se noi in causa del sapere. Disse che
 testimone come Senatore fiorentino ha esercitato
 tale Magistrato anco supremo, et il Commissariato
 da alcuni anni in qua. Del luogo, tempo, e
 contesimon disse haver detto di sopra. di poi
 sopra l'undecimo articolo et comincia. Undecim quod
 palibatur. Si n^o uenit est ut frisce, in nobis.

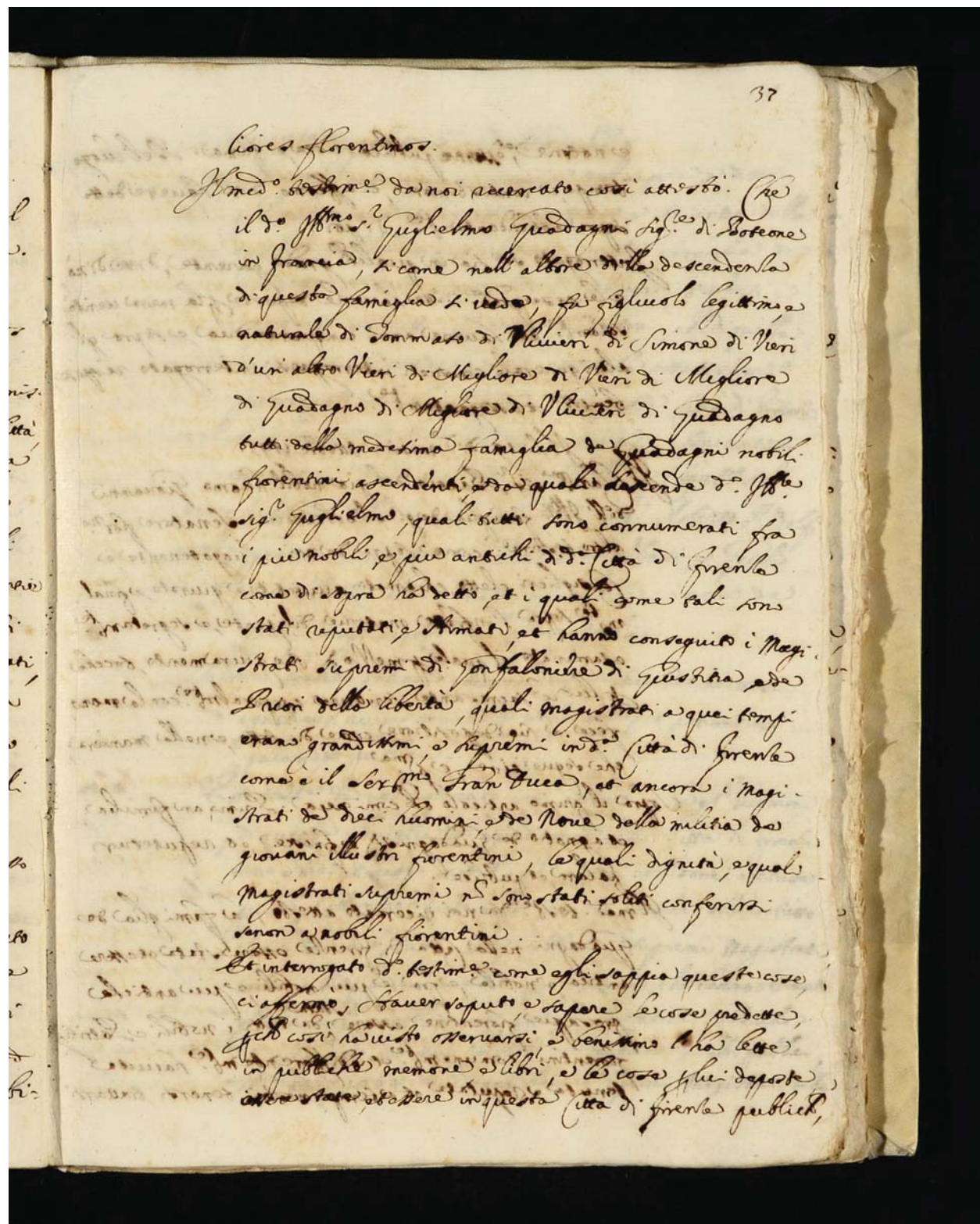
Questioned on how he knew these things, he answered that the information he stated was public and notorious. On locality, times and co-witnesses, he said he spoke about them above. On the 10th article, which starts; "Si nocul est ut quando mittentur capitanei" ("If it is unknown when they will send the captains") and ends: "ex officiis supesto gestis" ("We are waiting for a sign from the authorities").

The witness stated that the Commissaries, captains, Vicars and Podesta' (Mayor) sent to the cities, towns, villages and localities under the Florentine jurisdiction have exercised and exercise the power of their office with superiority for the whole time of their office, and that in the criminal cases, nobody appealed or appeals their

sentences, and the same we see in the City of Florence from its magistrates, and likewise have acted the men of the Guadagni Family who have been magistrates and officers.

Questioned on his knowledge, the witness said that as a Florentine Senator he had held even the Supreme Offices and had been a Commissary for the last few years. About locality, time and co-witnesses he answered he had mentioned them above.

Concerning the 11th article which begins: "Undecimo quod praelibatus illustrissimus Guglielmus" ("The eleventh which concerns the very famous Guglielmo") and ends "in nobiliores florentinis" ("among the Florentine nobles").



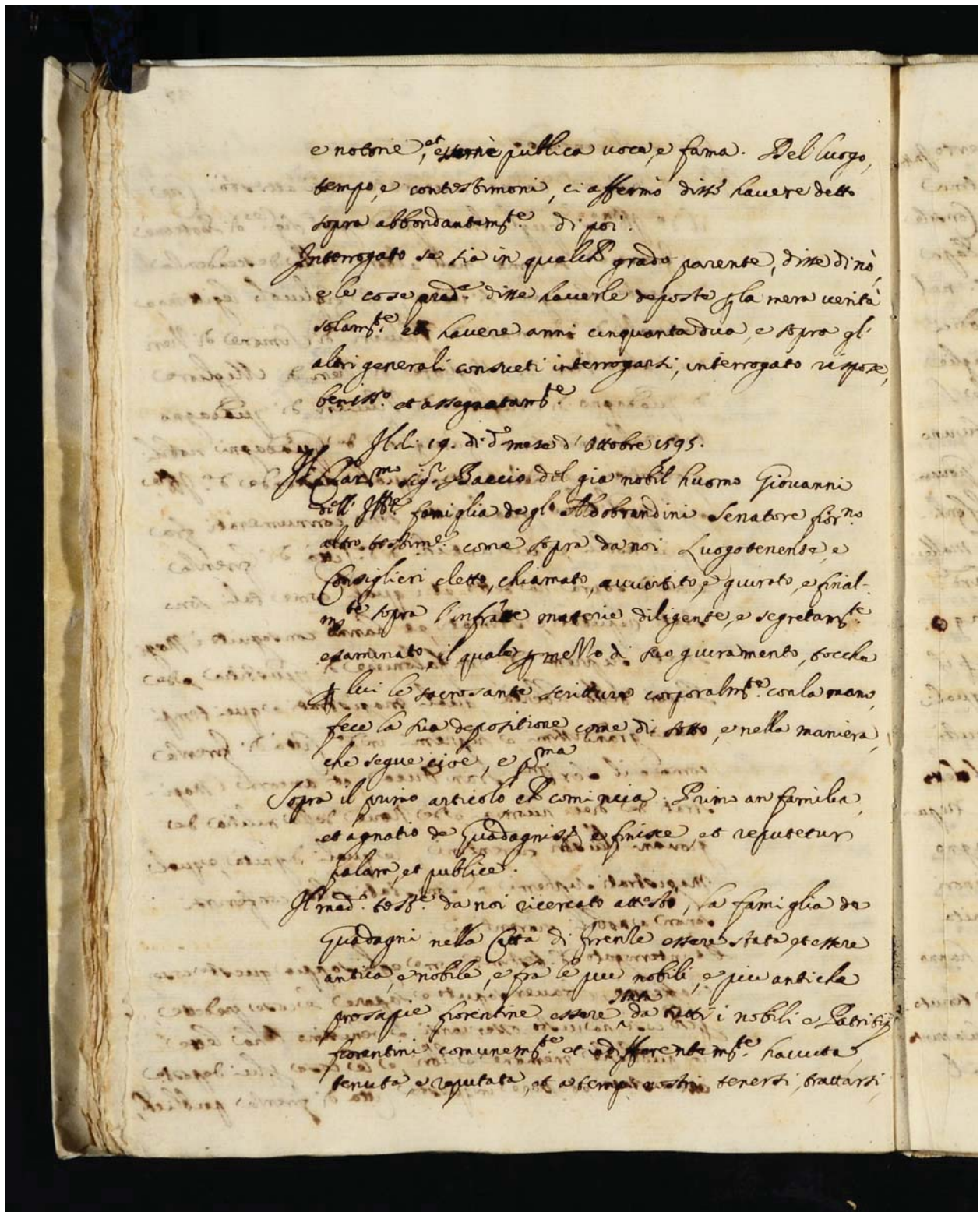
The same witness thus testified. That the very eminent Guglielmo Guadagni, Lord of Boutheon in France,



Guadagni Castle of Boutheon, France

as in the beginning of the lineage of this family, we believe he was the legitimate son of Tommaso son of Ulivieri, son of Simone son of Vieri, son of another Vieri son of Migliore son of Vieri son of Migliore son of Guadagno son of Migliore son of Ulivieri son of Guadagno, all of the same Family of Florentine noble ancestors, from whom descends the very Eminent Guglielmo, all of them listed among the noblest and most ancient of the City of Florence, as the witness testified above, and who as such have been considered and loved, and have attained the supreme offices of Gonfalonier of Justice and Priors of the Freedom, they were the greatest and supreme magistrates in the City of Florence, as is the Very Serene Grand-Duke, and still the Magistrates of the Ten Good Men and of the Nine of the Militia, famous Florentines even when they were young, whose dignity and charges of Supreme Magistrates are normally only bestowed to noble Florentines.

If the witness is interrogated on how he knows these things, he answers he has known and knows the above facts because he observed them and he has also read about them in public memoirs and books and the things he stated above were and are publicly and notoriously known in the City of Florence and are public hearsay and fame.



About locality, time and cowitnesses, he said he has abundantly mentioned them above.

Questioned if he was some how related to Guglielmo Guadagni he answered he was not and on what he said above he testified he has said only the mere truth. He also said he was fifty-two years old and if we compare him to the other people we interrogated, he answered very well and sensibly.

On October 19, 1595.



Villa Aldobrandini

The very famous Baccio, son of the late nobleman Giovanni of the Very Eminent family of the Aldobrandini, Florentine Senator, another witness as above called by us, Lieutenant and elected Counselor, admonished, sworn in and finally diligently and secretly examined over the above subjects. During his oath, Baccio touched the Holy Scriptures, physically with his hand, and then he testified, as we can see below, and in the following way i.e.

On the first article, which starts: “Primo an familia et agnatio de Guadagnis” (“First on the Family and reputation of the Guadagnis”) and ends “et reputetus palam et publice”(“and his reputation privately and publicly”)

Our witness said that the Guadagni Family in the City of Florence was and is ancient and noble, and among the most noble and the most ancient, among the Florentine families, and it has been by all the Florentine Nobles and Patricians commonly and differently admired, held in esteem, and nowadays openly and publicly considered and reckoned.

e reputarsi palesemente e pubblicamente.
 qual cosa bene interrogando in cause del sapere, e disse
 che ha hauuto et ha ottima notizia e scienza della
 qualità, nobiltà et antichità di questa famiglia de
 Guadagni, e tale haueu veduto hauuto, sentito, e
 reputarsi da tutti i Sarrisi fiorentini, e di quella
 hanno notizia come ha hauuto et ha otto persone.
 Interrogato del luogo disse. In questa città di Firenze
 e del tempo da sua memoria in qua. De consub
 moni poi, di se stesso e dell' Ill. e Car. sig.
 Auorardo Medici, e del Car. sig. Roberto Ridolfi,
 Giovanni Somai, Gio. Batista Nasi, e Giulio
 de Nobili, e d' altri conatoni fiorentini, i nomi de
 quali lungo sarebbe il raccontarle.
 Dopo il secondo articolo e comincia. Secondo auueni
 cognationis huius familiae et finisce, et co potantur
 palam et publice.
 Etto disse. Da non ueracato così attento. Ne gli uomini
 di questa famiglia de Guadagni nella città di Firenze
 sono stati et sono sono labili capi et idonei a conse
 quire, e ottenere tanto nella città di Firenze che in tutto
 il suo dominio, tutti i più nobili, e supremi Magistrati,
 honori, uffici, e preminenze, e prerogative, che hanno ottenuto
 gli altri de più nobili, e più antichi generatoni. Perche
 di costume ben noto haueu in memoria e libri publici,
 Et l'anno 1204. Guadagni haueu i primi Magistrati della

Questioned on how he knew those things Baccio answered he had and has good information and knowledge of the quality, nobility and antiquity of this Guadagni Family, and so have seen, esteemed and reckoned all the Florentine patricians and everybody knows about it as he himself has noticed.

Questioned on the locality, Baccio said "In this City of Florence". Questioned about the time, he answered as far as he can remember. Of the co-witnesses, he mentioned himself and then the Very Eminent Alessandro de' Medici

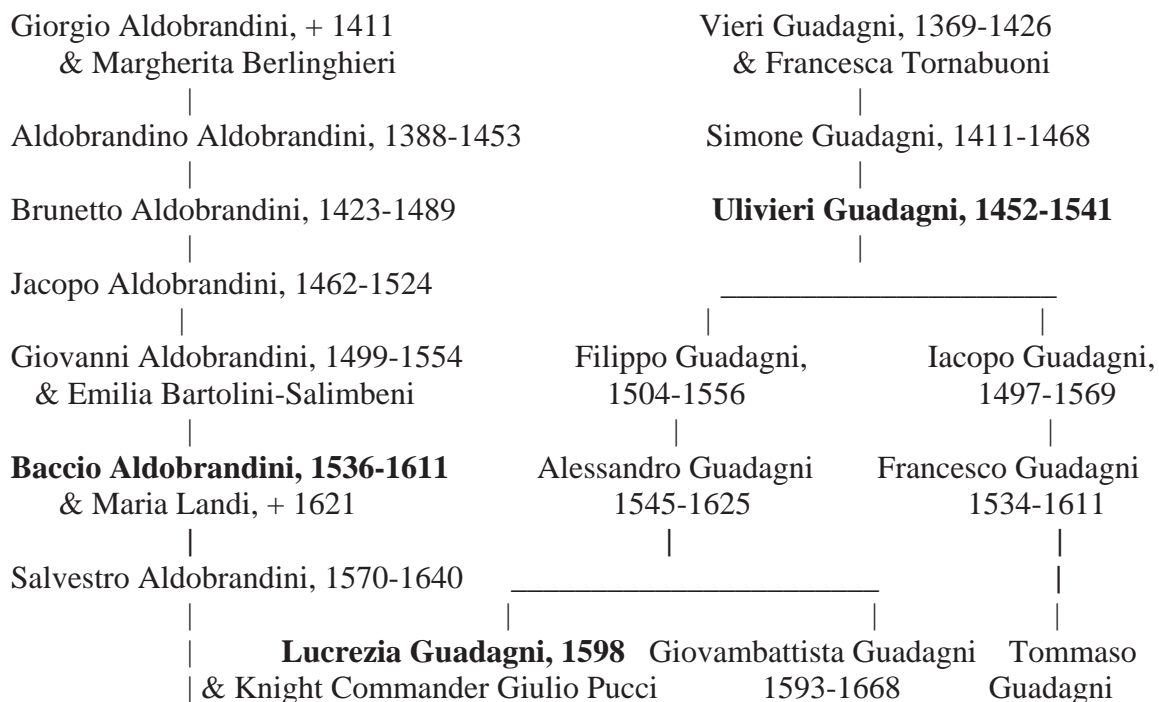
The same witness which we had looked for, guaranteed that the very eminent Guglielmo Guadagni, Lord of Boutheon in France, in the family tree of this family was legitimate and natural son of Tommaso, son of Ulivieri, son of Simone, son of Vieri, son of another Vieri, son of Migliore, son of Vieri, son of Migliore, son of Guadagno, son of Migliore, son of Ulivieri, son of Guadagno, all in the same Guadagni family, Florentine noble ancestors, and from whom the very eminent Guglielmo descends; all of them are listed among the most noble and the most ancient of this city of Florence, as he mentioned above, and as such they have been reckoned and loved and have attained the supreme offices of Gonfalonier, Commissioner, and Priors of Freedom, as Magistrates in those days they were infinite and supreme in the City of Florence, as is the Very Serene Grand-Duke and also the Magistrates of the “Ten men”, and the “Nine of the Militia”, as young Florentines whose dignity was equal to the one of the Supreme Magistrates and can be found only among the Florentine nobles.

I asked the witness how he knew these things; he affirmed that he has known and knows the abovementioned facts, because some he has seen himself others he has read in public memoirs and books, others were testified publicly in this City of Florence as notorious, by public opinion and fame.

When we questioned the witness on what he knows about them, he answered that he has very good information and knowledge of the quality, nobility and antiquity of this Guadagni Family and has seen how all the Florentine patricians consider them honest and of good reputation and of them he knows what he has heard and said. Interrogated on the place, he said the Guadagni come from this city of Florence since immemorial time (since anybody can remember). If you need testimony of it, you can ask Eminent Mr. Averardo Medici, Eminent Mr. Roberto Ridolfi, Giovanni Sommai, Giovambattista Nasi, Giulio de Nobili and other Florentine Senators, whose list of names would be too long to recall.

[These “witnesses” of the year 1595, giving Proofs of the Nobility of the Guadagni Family in this official legal document prepared and sent by the Senate of the Grand-Duchy of Tuscany to King Henry IV of France for the awarding of the title of “Knight of the Cross of the Holy Spirit” to Guglielmo Guadagni, are all famous and historically well-known people. The following is the family tree of Baccio Aldobrandini, who is testifying above; one of his descendants married a Guadagni, see Aldobrandini and Guadagni family trees below

[Family Trees of the Guadagni, Torrigiani and Aldobrandini Families, united by the marriage of Salvestro Aldobrandini (1760-1823) with Maddalena Pucci (1760-1813), great-great-grand-daughter of Lucrezia Guadagni, whose direct ancestor Ulivieri Guadagni (1452-1541) is ancestor of both the Guadagni and the Torrigiani and the Aldobrandini and Arrivabene Valenti Gonzaga families]
(see below)





& Giberto Arrivabene Valenti Gonzaga
(Portrait of Countess Vera Arrivabene by

Leonardo Arrivabene Valenti Gonzaga
& Maria delle Grazie Brandolini d'Adda

Giberto Arrivabene Valenti Gonzaga
b. 1961
& Bianca of Savoia Aosta

Giuseppe Torrigiani Antonio Guadagni
b. 1916 1911-1993 & Dolores
& Marozia Bini-Smaghi Mapelli

artist Brunelleschi)

Raffaele Torrigiani Vieri Guadagni
b. 1956 b. 1948
& Elena Sanminiatielli & Janice Michel

Fulco Torrigiani, **Dino Guadagni**, 1969
b. 1986 & Marcia Dawn Voeltz



Giberto Arrivabene Valenti Gonzaga



Bianca of Savoia Aosta; b. 1966; great niece of the last King of Italy, His Majesty Umberto II of Savoia; The Savoia Family crest, white cross on red back ground is visible in the lower right of the picture.



H.M. Umberto II of Savoia, King of Italy

Giberto and Bianca Arrivabene Valenti Gonzaga

| |

|
Viola 1991, Vera 1993, Mafalda 1997,
Maddalena 2000, Leonardo 2001

Dino and Marcia Guadagni

| |

|
Gabiella Elizabeth 2007, Isabella 2010



Dino Guadagni

Both Giberto and Dino are direct descendants of Ulivieri Guadagni (1452-1541) and so are all their children

On the second article, he starts according...a...of the family and ends up talking about their public offices. Answering our questions he said that the men of this Guadagni Family in the City of Florence were in the past and are today able, competent and fit to achieve and obtain in the City of Florence as well as in all its dominions all the most sublime and supreme judiciaries, honors and offices, leading positions and prerogatives, achieved by the noblest and most ancient Florentines; because the witness has very well seen in memoirs and public books in the year 1204: Guadagno had the first magistrates of the Florentine Republic as you gather from a certain form of proxy made by the Florentine Republic in the person of a certain Tignoso di Lamberto, Florentine Consul sent to the Court of His Holiness the Pope for very important matters [*Historian Passerini writes: "On May 5, 1204, Guadagno Guadagni exercised his public authority by assigning Tignoso Lamberti (i.e. di Lamberto) as ambassador to the Roman Curia. At the time he was one of the three Priors of the Arts, who governed the Florentine Republic together with the consuls."* Immediately after, Passerini adds: "**we don't have any document describing the political constitution of our old republic (of Florence) at that time so we must limit our knowledge of it to the papers concerning that century which are still available and to suppositions**". Which means that **the Guadagni Archives are a yet unknown written document shedding light on an undocumented period of Florentine and thus Italian and World history. By translating it and publishing it in the Guadagni Website we are increasing the knowledge of the past of World Culture and we must be grateful to Vieri who, 19 years ago, had the idea of assembling the Guadagni History in a website.** In the year 1215, the City of Florence was governed by twelve consuls and the Senate, mostly noble families, among which were the Guadagni. In the year 1251, Migliore Guadagni, son of Ulivieri was one of the Council of the Elders [*Passerini writes about a Migliore Guadagni who was a judge and on 2/4/1254, ratified the peace with the City of Pistoia while he was part of the City Council. However he makes him son of Panza Guadagni, while the documents says Migliore "son of Ulivieri Guadagni"; however Panza and Ulivieri were brothers, the mistake could be easily made*] In the year 1253, Giovanni Guadagni, son of Guadagno, had the same office in the Council. In the year 1279, Pierotto Guadagni, son of Guadagno, was guarantor of the Guelphs in the peace established by Cardinal Latino between the Guelphs and the Ghibellines.



Cardinal Latino

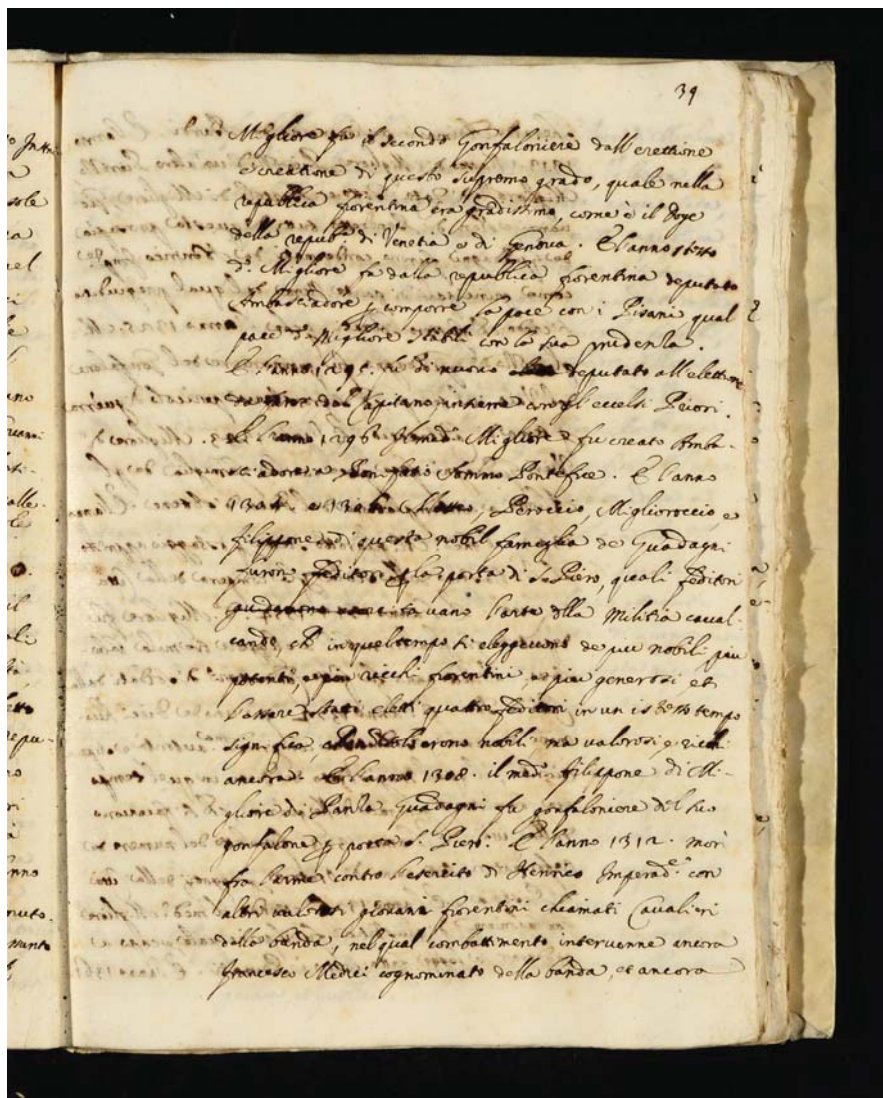
Repubblica fiorentina come si raccoglie da un certo fat-
to di procura fatta dalla Repubblica fiorentina
nella persona di un certo signore di Lamberto Console
fiorentino mandato alla corte di nostro signore il Papa
per negozi di gran momento. L'anno 1215. nel
qual tempo la Città di Firenze si governava per dodici
consoli, et il Senato, fra le più nobili famiglie
si connumerava questa de' Guadagni. Et che l'
anno 1251. Migliore di Guadagni fu uno
del consiglio de' Priori. L'anno 1253. Giovanni
figlio di G. Guadagni hebbe la medesima carica del Con-
silio. L'anno 1279. Pierotto di Guadagni fu malleva-
dore de' quelli nella pace stabilita dal cardinale
Latino fra i guelfi, e ghibellini. L'anno 1290.
il medesimo Pierotto fu uno de' 25. che promisero al
Castellano di Laterina la somma di 260.000. quali
li eleggevono de' più nobili, et avevano garantiti
e sicchelle maggiori. L'anno medesimo il detto
Pierotto fu eletto a recuperare i beni della Repu-
blica. L'anno 1289. Migliore di Guadagni
fu assunto al grado sublime de' eccellenti signori
Priori di Firenze, qual sublime grado e dignità
gl'huomini di questa famiglia de' Guadagni hanno
di etate uolte conseguite, e con somma dote tenute.
L'anno 1299. il medesimo Migliore Guadagni fu assunto
al supremo, et primo grado di Gonfaloniere, il quale

In the year 1290, Pierotto Guadagni was one of the 25 who promised the sum of 60,000 gold florins to the owner of the Castle of Laterina as was decided by the most noble citizens who had greater wealth. In the same year the above mentioned Pierotto was elected to recuperate the goods of the Republic (when it says "The Republic" it normally means "The Republic of Florence", unless specified otherwise). In the year 1289, Migliore son of Guadagno was appointed to the sublime office of the exalted Sires Priors of Florence, such a sublime office and dignity which the men of the Guadagni Family have often attained and held with the greatest honors.



The greatest Italian poet Dante Alighieri (1265-1321) was a “Prior of Florence” also.

In the year 1293, the same Migliore Guadagni was appointed to the supreme and greatest office of Gonfalonier, of which Migliore was the second Gonfalonier after the creation of this Supreme Office, which in the Florentine Republic was the highest, like the “Doge” in the Republic of Venice or Genoa (i.e. the President in the United States).



In the same year the Republic of Florence sent Migliore as an Ambassador to arrange the peace with Pisa, which Migliore was able to do thanks to his carefulness.

The following year he was again appointed to the election by the Captain together with the sublime Priors. In the year 1296 the same Migliore was appointed Ambassador to the Supreme Pontiff Boniface VIII.



Pope Boniface VIII (1230-1303) Pope from 1294 to 1303.

In the years 1304 and 1305, Matteo, Pierotto, Migliorozzo (+1310) and Filippone, all of this noble Guadagni Family were “feditori” for the Porta (“Door”) San Piero of Florence. Porta San Piero was one of the six zones in which Florence was divided in the year 1172.

[“Feditore” (from the Latin “federe”, meaning to wound, injure, hurt) was a type of Middle-Ages knight, in the Middle-Ages towns army. They were chosen among the noble families of the town and their task was to start the battle.

The “feditore” was a lightly armed knight, recruited among the best fighters of the town and sometimes they were volunteers. They were deployed in the front line of the army and their duty was to engage the first assault of the enemy. It was an extremely dangerous task, but it brought great honor and prestige. The “feditori” (plural of feditore) were usually the first to shed enemy blood.

Because of the important as well as dangerous role in the battle, the “feditori” wore and carried a noteworthy equipment: a chainmail over their body, two chainmail forearm covers with metal glove to protect their arms, two chainmail open trousers tied in the back to protect their legs, from the thighs to the ankles, a chainmail beret, to protect their head, attached to or separate from their body chainmail, with or without a chainmail band covering their chin and partially their mouth, plus an iron helmet with a nose cover or whole lower face protection attached.

A cloth with their family crest drawn on it could be worn above the above mentioned armor, to protect themselves from the heat or the cold or as a symbol of their family to be recognized.

The armament could include a three foot long sword, a round or kite shaped shield, and obviously a 7 to 12 foot long spear or lance. The “feditore” could also have secondary weapons like a dagger and a wooden or iron mallet to use in the throng (melee), instead of the expensive spear.



“Feditori” leading the charge



“Feditori” with family crests on their shields and horse vestments



“Feditori” on horseback, in the “melee”.

As “feditori” they knew well the mounted on horse knightly war techniques. In those days the most noble, the richest and most powerful and generous Florentines were chosen as “feditori”. The fact that four Guadagni were selected to be “feditori” by the City of Florence at the same time, means that the Guadagni were not only considered noble, but also brave and rich. (It was important to be rich because in those days when the towns were protected by walls, expensive to build and hard to patrol and defend, the towns were built as a concentration of small houses, one on top of the other, to assemble the greatest amount of citizens in the smallest space surrounded by walls. Only the very rich had large enough houses or palaces to have stables for horses, necessary for the “feditori”, who were knights).

In the year 1308, Filippone Guadagni, son of Migliore, son of Panza, was appointed Gonfalonier of Justice of the Porta San Piero. In the year 1312, Filippone died in battle against the army of Holy Roman Emperor Henry, together with other brave young Florentines called the “Knights of the Band”. Also Francesco de’Medici, who was also part of the “Knights of the Band”, participated in the battle, as well as Gherardo Adimari and S... de’ Bardi.

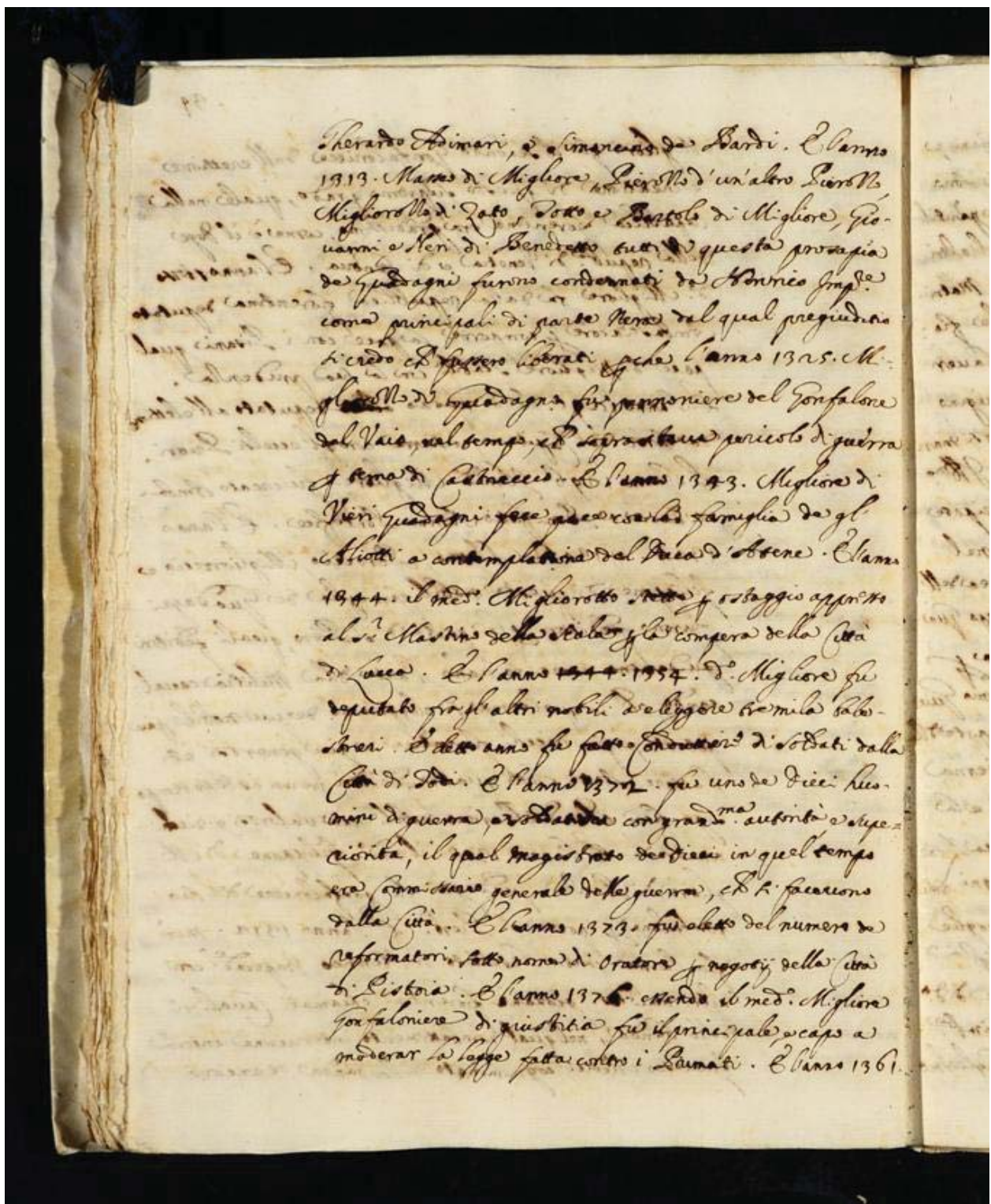
[Holy Roman Emperor Henry VII descended into Italy from Germany to be officially crowned as such by the Pope in Rome. He wanted all of the City-States of Central and Northern Italy, like Florence, Siena, Milan, Venice and so forth, to accept him as ruler and submit to his authority. However Florence refused to do so and strengthened its fortifications in anticipation of a siege.



Holy Roman Emperor Henry VII (1275-1313; Emperor from 1312-1313)

In mid September 1312, Henry approached the city and very quickly, it was obvious that the city militia and the Guelph cavalry could not match the Emperor in an open battle against his battle-hardened soldiers from the North. The Florentine army was outmaneuvered and lacking in provisions, so it retreated back into Florence during the night. Was it in this battle that Filippone Guadagni was killed? Let us remember he was a “feditore”, always ahead of everybody else, attacking the enemy in the midst of the melee. We see in the “Proofs of the Nobility of the Guadagni” that his death in the defense of their beloved Florence (1312) was still remembered almost 3 centuries later (1595).

Siena, Bologna, Lucca and smaller cities, sent men to help man the walls. So began the siege of Florence, Henry possessing 15,000 infantrymen and 2,000 cavalry, up against a combined Florentine strength of 64, 000 defenders. Florence was able to keep every gate open except that which faced the Emperor, and it kept all of her commercial routes open. For six weeks Henry battered the walls of Florence, and was eventually forced to abandon the siege.]



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A year later, in 1313, Holy Roman Emperor Henry VII condemns Matteo Guadagni, son of Migliore, Pierotto, **another Pierotto**, Migliorozzo son of Zato, Lotto and **Bartolo**, son of Migliore, **Giovanni** and **Neri**, son of **Benedetto**, all these members of the Guadagni Family, as main members of the Black Party [After being divided in Guelphs, for the Pope, (the Guadagni were always Guelphs), and Ghibellines, for the Emperor, now Florence was divided in Blacks for the Pope, and Whites, for the Emperor, so Henry is accusing the Guadagni of being for the Pope, against the Emperor); only 12 years later, in 1325, it seems, the Guadagni are freed of this "prejudice", term of the document.

(The abovementioned Bartolo Guadagni is not listed in Passerini, nor are all the Guadagni Family members of this list which I wrote in bold characters and underlined, including the above mentioned **Filippone**, dying heroically in

the defense of Florence, which seems to prove that this document of 1595, related to the Middle-Ages history of the Guadagni Family was unknown to Passerini, the most important Guadagni historian, so we are treading uncharted waters)

Now, these Pierotto, Bartolo, Giovanni, Neri and Benedetto Guadagni, of whom we know nothing, must have been important people of their time, if Holy Roman Emperor Henry VII, the most powerful man in Europe, publicly proclaims them to be enemies of the Holy Roman Empire, and if Florentine nobles who are preparing this document of the “Proofs of the Nobility of the Guadagni Family” for the King of France, three centuries later, still remember their names.

Why wasn't Passerini aware of this important historical document of the Guadagni Family History? In page 2 of the “Inventory of the Archives of the Guadagni Family of Florence” by Dr. Rita Romanelli (year 2007) we read that “in 1938 the grandfather of Charles (“Chuck”) Guadagni actual owner of the Archives, Guitto Guadagni, son of Guadagno, bought the Guadagni Archives from his cousins the Marchesi Dufour Berte and wrote in a letter to his friend Gunther Beubel: “I will tell you a very stupid thing I have just done: I bought the Archives of my family, there is not much in it, but there are things which you will find interesting when you see them”. Guitto, Marchese of San Leolino, was the oldest brother of our grandfathers Luigi and Bernardo Guadagni. As we remember, in 1805, Niccolo' Guadagni (1730-1805), last representative of the “Nunziata” died. His heirs were the members of the “Santo Spirito” Branch (ours), who at that time were two cousins, Tommaso Guadagni (1743-1814), and our great-great-grandfather Donato Guadagni (1794-1879). Tommaso had only one son, Neri, (1790-1862), who had only one daughter, Ottavia (b. 1817), who married Marchese Odoardo Dufour-Berte in 1837. As Neri was interdict when he was young, the Guadagni patrimony was divided in two, half to Ottavia Guadagni Dufour Berte and half to Donato. The Dufour Berte inherited the Santo Spirito Palace and it seems also the Guadagni Archives, which as we read above became property of the Dufour Berte.

So I presume that when Passerini wrote the Genealogy and History of the Guadagni Family, in 1873, he was not able to consult all of the Guadagni Family Archives, owned by their cousins Marchesi Dufour Berte and kept in the Dufour Berte Palace.

So we are now translating an unknown and never published document of Guadagni and world history, shedding new and unprecedented light on both. As the Guadagni are an important family in world history, whatever they do, influences and changes parts of World History and their understanding. I will thank again Vieri Guadagni, who, by asking me to translate Passerini and to do further research on the Guadagni history in 1995, allowed me to embark in this fascinating historical adventure, interesting for the Guadagni and for the rest of the world.

Migliorotto, son of Guadagno, was “Gonfalonier” of the Gonfalone of the Vaio, in the time when there was a very serious danger of war against Castruccio in the year 1323. [Castruccio Castracani (1281-1328) was Duke of Lucca and Italian War Lord. He was a Ghibelline (for the Emperor) all his life. In 1315, he defeated the Florentines in the Battle of Montecatini, killing 114 Florentine nobles. Eventually he will defeat the Florentines again in 1325 in the Battle of Altopascio.] Migliore, son of Vieri Guadagni made peace with the family of the Aliotti to please the Duke of Athens.

In 1344, the same Migliorotto [Guadagni](#) is hostage of Mastino II della Scala (1308-1351), Lord of Verona, for the purchase of the City of Lucca.



Statue of Mastino II della Scala

In 1354 the same Migliore was designated among the other nobles to elect 3,000 grooms (?). In the same year he was appointed commander of the soldiers by the City of Todi. In 1354, Todi was an independent City-State like Florence and Migliore Guadagni had been appointed Commander of its soldiers.



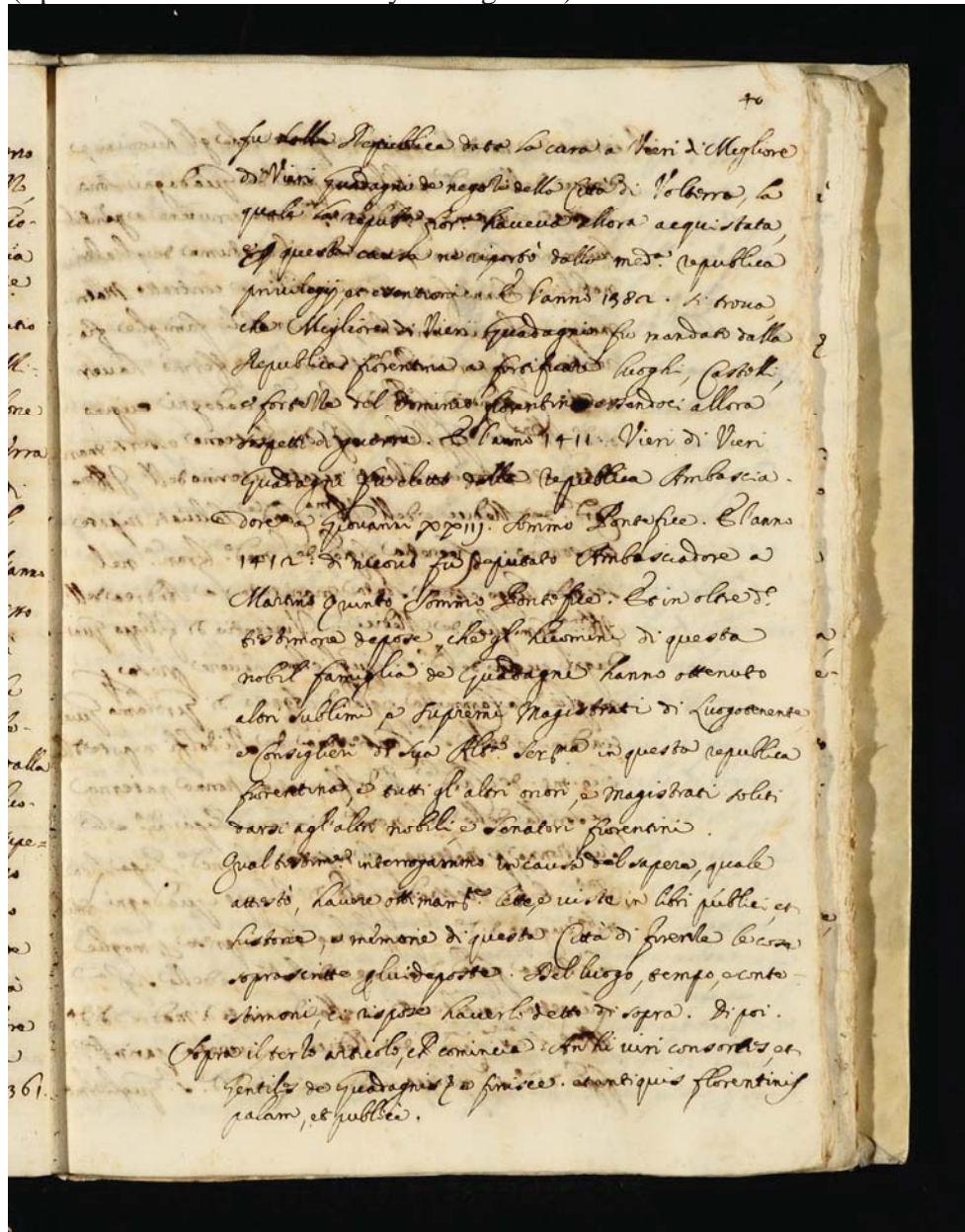
The Duomo of Todi in the Sloping Piazza del Popolo (“Square o the People”)





The Italian press reports Todi as “*The World’s most livable city*”.

In the year 1372 he was one of the Ten men of War, sometimes also with very large authority and superiority, as magistrate of the Ten in that period he was general commissary of the War that were done by the City of Florence. In 1373 he was appointed one of the Reformers under the appellation of Speaker of the treaties of the City of Pistoia. In 1376, Migliore was Gonfalonier of Justice and was the most important leader to moderate the law against the Sarmati (I presume a Florentine Family in disgrace?).



In the year 1361, the Republic of Florence gave Vieri son of Migliore son of Vieri Guadagni the charge of negotiating with the City of Volterra, which the Florentine Republic had just acquired. From that office Vieri obtained privileges and exemptions from the Republic of Florence.



Volterra

In 1382, the Florentine Republic sent Migliore son of Vieri Guadagni to fortify towns, castles and fortresses of the Florentine dominions as there was suspicion of a possible war.

In the year 1411, the Republic of Florence appointed Vieri son of Vieri Guadagni ambassador to the Supreme Pontiff John XXIII (Later the Catholic Church declared he was an antipope but nobody knew it at the time).



Antipope John XXIII

In 1412 Vieri was sent as ambassador to Pope Martin V.



Pope Martin V by artist Pisanello.

Furthermore, the same witness, Simone, stated that the men of this noble Guadagni Family obtained supreme and sublime offices of Lieutenants and Counselors of the Very Serene Highness of this Florentine Republic and all the other honors and offices usually given to the other Florentine nobles and senators.

In the sublime interrogatory to increase our knowledge, he affirmed having accurately read and seen in public books and history and memoirs of this City of Florence the above written things here testified. He answered what he said above, on place, time and witnesses. On the 3rd article, he starts with “the noble men and wives of the Guadagni Family” and ends with “from ancient Florentine open and public history”.