

Series: G Goods of Le Fonti [52-58]**1546 - 1764**

60

4 envelopes

Documentation concerning the establishment of Le Fonti estate (Pontassieve), located in the hill behind Fiesole, with the properties of Alfiano (Fiesole), sold by Giannozzo Mancini to Jacopo Guadagni (1497-1569), son of Ulivieri, in 1546, and of Tigliano (Pontassieve), given away by Ippolito Buondelmonti to Tommaso Guadagni (1582-1652), son of Francesco, in 1629. Stack "G.5" contains also acts related to the Torre dei Giugni alla Cavallina (Giugni Tower at the "Little mare") (Barberino di Mugello), bought by Maria Acciaioli when she was already widow of Tommaso Guadagni and bound by her in a firstborn contract in 1669, and the villa of Montemurlo, given away to marchese Pierantonio Guadagni, husband of Ottavia Benigna Piccolomini d'Aragona, by Duchess Emilia Strozzi, widow of Duke Francesco Piccolomini d'Aragona.

The Guadagni Archives were kept at the Villa of Le Fonti until 1926, when the Dufour Berte divided their properties and goods among themselves.

52_[39]**1551 - 1629**

61

"G.1" Fonti 1469-1629

25 files in envelope numbered (1-46)

With repertory of the stack (inserted in the opening)

Papers related to information on buying and selling of land for the Fattoria (Farm) of La Fonte by the Guadagni, with original contracts and copies of contracts.

Files # 19-46 are in a reuse parchment bound envelope titled "Contracts and other writings concerning the acquisitions and payments to Matteo and Domenico Morelli and their children and creditors for the Podere (small farm) and lands of the Casa Alta nel Popolo (High House of the village) of Monteloro" (1574-1629).

53_[40]**1574 - 1653**

62

"G.2" Fonti 1603-1653

58 files in envelope numbered (1-58)

With repertory of the stack (inserted in the opening)

Papers related to information on buying and selling of land for the Fattoria (Farm) of La Fonte by the Guadagni, with original contracts and copies of contracts.

File # 10, concerning some plots in the area of Monterecci (Fiesole), contains the Indian ink watercolor drawing of the plots claimed by Captain Giovanni Baroncini (1604-1703).

54_[41]**1593 - 1675** 63*"G.3" Fonti 1617-1674*

39 files in envelope numbered (1-39)

With repertory of the stack (inserted in the opening)

Papers related to information on buying and selling of land for the Fattoria (Farm) of La Fonte by the Guadagni, with original contracts and copies of contracts.

File # 22, contains "Documents related to the acquisition of the Podere (small farm) of Bibbiano", with contract of January 30, 1620.

File # 30 contains the transcription of parchment contracts from da Castiglione related to the divisions of the common lands of the pieve (parish Church) of San Martino a Lubaco and neighboring churches.

55_[42]**1606 - 1685** 64*"G.4" Fonti 1606-1678*

38 files in envelope numbered (1-28)

With repertory of the stack (inserted in the opening)

Papers related to information on buying and selling of land for the Fattoria (Farm) of La Fonte by the Guadagni, with original contracts and copies of contracts.

File # 5 is the stack of the "Lawsuit between Guadagni and Galli for availability of a piece of grazing land located near the town of Chimenti in a spot called Val di Ciliegio ("Cherry tree valley"), with verdict in favor of the Guadagni", with a watercolor Indian Ink drawing of the plot on the mountain Val di Ciliegio "where the litigation between Francesco Guadagni's heir and Giulio Galli's heir takes place at the foot of the Santissima Madonna del Sasso ("Most Holy Blessed Virgin of the Stone") (1627).

File # 10 is the stack of another lawsuit against Jacopo Brunaccini for unlawful cutting of a wood located in Lubaco.

56_[43]**1641 - 1764** 65*"G.5" Various Papers*

42 files in envelope numbered (1-46)

With repertory of the stack (inserted in the opening)

Papers related to the Fattoria (Farm) della Fonte, to Giugni Tower in Cavallina locality in Barberino of Mugello (bought by Maria Acciaioli, daughter of Donato, widow of Tommaso Guadagni (1582-1652) and bound by her in a firstborn contract in 1669), the villa of Montemurlo, given away by Duchess Emilia Strozzi, widow of Duke Francesco Piccolomini Aragona, to marchese Pierantonio Guadagni (1687).

Files ## 42-46 are assembled in one envelope with “Papers concerning the Small Farm and Mill of Bivigliano sold to Filippo Ginori” (1643-1764).

57_[44]

1546 - 1574 66

“G.6” *Alfiano*

18 files in envelope numbered (1-18)
With repertory of the stack (inserted in the opening)

Papers related to the estate of Alfiano, located near the town of San Michele a Muscoli (“Saint Michael with Muscles”), area of Fiesole, bound by Lotto Mancini, son of Duccio in 1480 and sold by Giannozzo Mancini to Jacopo Guadagni (1497-1569) son of Olivieri, in 1546

File # 8 contains a 16th century drawing of the watercolored Indian ink map of the properties of the Villa of Tobbiana, in the County of Prato, with contemporaneous description, bought by Mancini from the Nuns of San Niccolao of Prato.

58_[45]

1628 - 1714 67

“G.7” *Tigliano*

18 files in envelope numbered (1-17)
With repertory of the stack (inserted in the opening)

Papers related to the estate of Tigliano, located near the town of San Andrea a Doccia, area of Pontassieve, given away by Ippolito Buondelmonti to Tommaso Guadagni (1582-1652), son of Francesco, in 1629. The estate used to belong to the Lottini Family and had feudal bonds and obligations toward the Archbishop of Florence.

Tommaso Guadagni (1582-1652), son of Francesco Guadagni and Laura Bandini (sister of Cardinal Ottavio Bandini) was a fascinating ancestor of ours. He was the 5th of 10 siblings, 3 brothers, Iacopo, Pierantonio and Ottavio, and 6 sisters, one of whom was named Tecla (the only other Tecla Guadagni before Aunt Tecla and Tecla Guadagni Smith), another was Ortensia, 1st Marchese of San Leolino, the others were Lucrezia and Cassandra, married with children, and Vittoria and Maddalena, nuns under the names of Sister Maria Vittoria and Sister Maria Clemente. Tommaso was the only Guadagni male married with children of his generation of our branch, so we all descend from him. The other branch was the Guadagni dell’Opera who became Torrigiani.

Tommaso married Maria Acciaioli and had 9 children, 5 sons, Francesco (2nd marchese of San Leolino), Donato, Vieri, Pierantonio (1st marchese of Montepescali), and Donato Maria (3rd marchese of San Leolino), who bought the Santo Spirito Palace and from whom we all descend, and 4 daughters, Laura, Vittoria, Ortensia (like her aunt) and Anna Maria.

From the time he was a child, Tommaso spent a lot of his time in the palace of the Grand Duke. The Palace of the Grand Duke was built by banker Pitti, and is by far the largest palace in Florence and nowadays a beautiful art museum. The story of its building is interesting. Like the Guadagni and other important Florentine families, the Strozzi and the Pitti were wealthy bankers. They showed their pride and their wealth by building beautiful palaces for themselves. The Strozzi built the Strozzi palace, shown in the picture below. It is not the most copied palace in Florence, like the Guadagni of Santo Spirito's, nor the most daring and innovative like the Guadagni of Nunziata or San Clemente's, but it is considered the most beautiful because of the harmonious Renaissance design of windows and doors.



Strozzi Palace

Banker Pitti was jealous. "I will build a palace, he proclaimed proudly, where each window will be the size of the grandiose portal of the Strozzi Palace". And if you look at the picture below, i.e. the Pitti Palace, you will see how banker Pitti was able to be faithful to his promise. The huge size of the windows appears when you compare them with the people walking in the courtyard of the palace. However because of the enormous expenses of building a palace so gigantic and several times larger than the average Florentine palace, Pitti went bankrupt and had to sell his palace.



Pitti Palace

In the meantime, through the large fortune they had accumulated as bankers, protection from their two uncles Popes, Leo X and Clement VII and other rulers they were related to, political intrigue, and capacity to attract the common people, the Medici had become the rulers of Florence. On June 1537, to reward the Florentines' help against the French, Holy Roman Emperor Charles V made Cosimo I de' Medici (1519-1574) Duke of Florence. He later became the first Grand Duke of Tuscany. He married Eleonora of

Toledo (1522-1562), daughter of the Spanish Viceroy of Naples.



Eleonora's portrait by Bronzino.

Eleonora gave Cosimo 7 sons, Francesco, Giovanni, Pietro (nicknamed "Pedricco", died aged one), Garzia, Antonio, Ferdinando, and Pietro the second, to ensure male succession to the Medici, and 4 daughters, Maria, Isabella, Lucrezia and Anna, to connect the Medici with noble and ruling houses of Italy.

Cosimo, Eleonora and their children lived in the Middle-Ages castle called Palazzo Vecchio, in the center of Florence, which was the seat of the Florentine Government. If we remember, several years before, Gonfaloniere Bernardo Guadagni had Cosimo the Elder de' Medici, ancestor of Cosimo I, arrested in Palazzo Vecchio and incarcerated in a small cell in the tower with battlements. However, Eleonora started complaining with her husband: "With all our children, why do we have to live in an old castle in the middle of the city, on the top floor, just above all the offices of the Government? Couldn't we move to a newer house in the suburbs?" Pitti Palace was just that: a huge unfinished brand new house, surrounded by a large park in the suburbs! And bankrupted banker Pitti was trying to sell it! So Cosimo I bought it and moved there with all his large family and Pitti Palace became the Palace of the Grand Duke.



Pitti Palace.



Pitti Palace on the left, surrounded by Boboli Gardens, and Palazzo Vecchio with its old tower, in the background on the right, in the old center of Florence, the new and the old palace of the Grand Duke (That is why it is called “Palazzo Vecchio” which means “old Palace” (of the Grand Duke)).



Cosimo I de' Medici, Duke of Florence and later first Grand Duke of Tuscany, by artist Bronzino.



At the Grand Duke's palace, young Tommaso Guadagni became a great friend of Prince Cosimo de' Medici, whom you can see in the center of the above picture. Cosimo was the son of Grand Duke Ferdinando I and grandson of Cosimo I and Eleonora di Toledo. He later became Cosimo II Grand Duke of Tuscany. At his left is his wife Maria Maddalena of Austria, at his right his son, Ferdinando, future Grand Duke of Tuscany as Ferdinando II.

When Paolo Giordano Orsini was sent as ambassador to Germany, to ask Archduchess Maria Maddalena of Austria to marry Cosimo II, the Medici prince wanted Tommaso Guadagni to accompany him. Tommaso was an affectionate and trustworthy courtier. In 1645, he was elected senator. However, he was senator only for six years, because he died on March 3, 1652.

He was wealthy and magnificent. He used his great wealth to protect art and artists. He bought some houses in San Sebastiano Street. Those houses had been workshops to many famous artists of the time like Lodovico Cardi da Cigoli, Girolamo Macchietti, Gregorio Pagani, Matteo Rosselli, Giovanni da San Giovanni, and Baldassarre Franceschini, known as "Il Volterrano".

Lodovico Cardi da Cigoli



Girolamo Macchietti



Gregorio Pagani



Matteo Rosselli



Volterrano



Giovanni da San Giovanni



On the remnants of the houses, Tommaso Guadagni built a palace designed by Gherardo Silvani, in Micheli Street.



Palazzo Guadagni of the Nunziata Branch built by Tommaso Guadagni in Micheli Street: front above – side below – It is considered the most original and innovative palace in Florence. Nobody ever tried or dared to imitate it.



In his will, Tommaso stipulated that a chapel, dedicated to Saint Thomas, be built in the Cathedral of Fiesole. He asked his children to put an inscription in the chapel, to remind viewers that the Guadagni family originated from Fiesole.



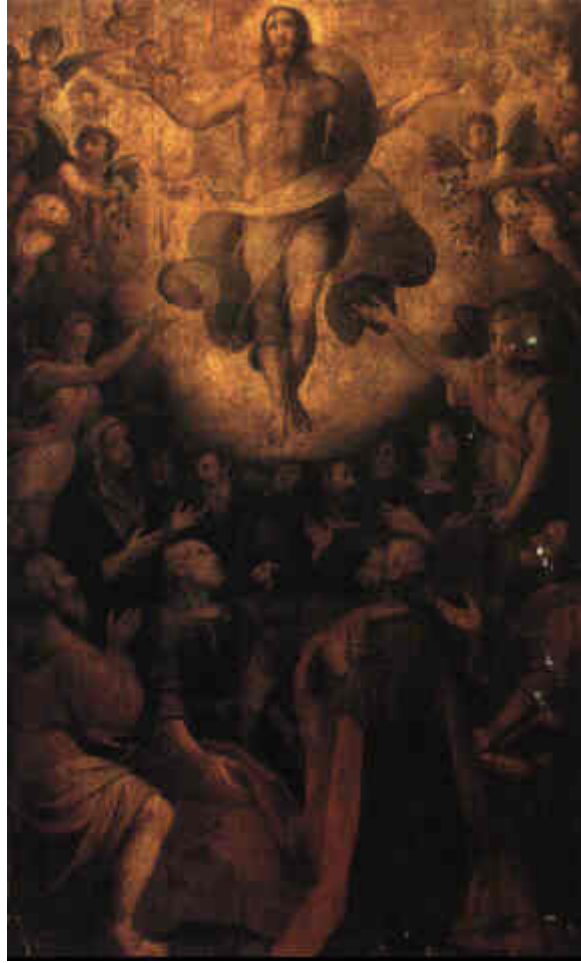
Cathedral of Fiesole

Tommaso's children obeyed his will and had "Il Volterrano" paint the great painting above the altar. In his will, Tommaso also ordered the building of the main altar in the church of San Girolamo, near Fiesole. This request was satisfied in 1661.

Furthermore, Tommaso ordered that a chapel be built in the garden of the friars of san Domenico. His children satisfied that request also. They had the artist Lodovico Buti portray the Transfiguration on Mount Tabor in the chapel.



Church and garden of San Domenico in Fiesole.



Lodovico Buti