

Guglielmo Guadagni was one of the first Heroes of his century (16<sup>th</sup> Century) (writes Gamurrini), and outdid in honors and charges all the other members of his Family.



Guglielmo Guadagni in 1597 with the Collar of the Holy Spirit around his neck

The French text above his portrait says: “Guglielmo Guadagni, Lord of Boutheon, Baron of Verdun, Seneschal of Lyon, and Commander of the same in the absence of the Governor. Made Knight of the Holy Spirit on January 5, 1597. Died on...” [He was still alive when they painted this portrait of his]

When he was 18 years old, Guglielmo started participating in military campaigns, in which he put into practice what he had learned in theory. He went to Germany with Jacques d’Albon, known as Marshal of St. Andre’, whose mother is related to Marchese Francesco Coppoli, Master of Chamber of the Very Sereine Ferdinando II, Grand Duke of Tuscany, now reigning (obviously a contemporary of Historian Gamurrini himself)



Jacques d’Albon, Marshal of St. Andre’ (1505-1562)      Grand-Duke Ferdinando II de’Medici (1610-1670) in his coronation robes and as a young man. He died in the battle of Dreux.

Guglielmo had the charge of assistant of the above mentioned Marshal. Then he participated in the capture of Calais and in the siege of Thionville and in the battle of Ramilles and in several other important events so that King of France Henry II, due to the absence of the Marshal of France of St. Andre’, appointed him Lieutenant General of the Lyonnais, Forez and Beaujolais, after having promoted him Seneschal of Lyon in 1554.



Lyonnais: Old Lyon



Forez



Beaujolais

During the year in which Guglielmo was governing Lyon, there was a huge famine which threatened to cause revolts in the city, so he ordered to find necessary food for everybody, even giving large personal financial contributions for it, showing himself a *generous Knight* in every situation. That same year the King of France conferred on him the dignity of Ordinary Gentleman of his Chamber. During that celebration there was an honorable Commemoration of the services provided to His Majesty by the Guadagni Family, declaring Guglielmo also Lieutenant of the King in the above Governments led by the Count of St. Polo.

In the same year that Francis II became King of France, he confirmed Guglielmo as Gentleman of his Chamber, Seneschal of Lyon and Lieutenant-General of the Lyonnais, Forez and Beaujolais in the absence of the abovementioned General Marshal of St. Andre'.

In an official document we see that Monsieur of Boutheon and his brother Monsieur of Beauregard (i.e. Guglielmo and Tommaso Guadagni) both have the title of noble and powerful Lord.

Guglielmo Guadagni Lord of St.Victor, Rochemaure, Seneschal of Lyon and his brother Tommaso Guadagni are samewise Lords of Beaujolais in the Dauphine' and Chamber Gentlemen of Monsinior the Dolfin, and this is attested in the year 1556.



Rochemaure

In 1567, also King of France Charles IX had him in great esteem; this great Champion shone also during his reign mostly in the recuperation of the City of Blois, and in those of Amboise, Poitiers, Burges and others;]



Blois



Amboise



Poitiers



Burges

However, it was in the great battle of Dreux that his courage was superior to everybody else's, and took him to the Command of the Army under the Duke of Nemours in Lyonnais and to the conquest of an important town under Marshal de Brissac (see portrait 5 pictures below).





Two pictures of the Battle of Dreux: in the lower one Guglielmo Guadagni seems to be the leader of the cavalry attack in the upper left of the picture. The original leader Jacques d'Albon, Marshal of St. Andre' (see a few pictures above) had just been killed in combat; Guglielmo Guadagni, 2<sup>nd</sup> in Command, led the charge and won the battle. As we read above, he was the "bravest" of all the combatants, charging unremittingly under fierce, continuous enemy fire until the powerful foes were completely routed; on top of the picture we read in French that the "Prince of Conde", leader of the army on the right, rebellious to the King of France even though related to him, was captured and his army defeated. Guglielmo could also be the one in red coat and armor, on a brown horse, leading the charge in the center of the upper picture of the battle. He strikingly resembles, at a younger age, to the black and white portrait of older Guglielmo with the Collar of the Holy Spirit around his neck at the top of the page.



Louis, Prince of Condé, cousin of the King of France, 1530-1569



Duke de Nemours



Marshal of Brissac

During the isurrections for civil unrest, remembering his services, the King commissioned Guglielmo to raise a company of 50 men; this company was always diligent towards this King (in remembrance of the great services given to the King by such a great hero (Guglielmo), the King ordered the Duke of Nemours (left picture above) to give Guglielmo Guadagni the Order of Knight of St. Michael).



King Louis XI sitting in his throne, in the room a painting of St. Michael killing a serpent.





King Francis 1<sup>st</sup> presiding the Order's Knights. Painting from a copy of the

Title page of the Order's Statutes drawn by Jean Fouquet in the 15<sup>th</sup>  
century. Statutes from about 1530.

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Badge of the Order of St. Michael



Collar of the Order of St. Michael