

# **GUADAGNI FAMILY ARCHIVES**

## **INVENTORY**

By Rita Romanelli (2007)

Software employed for the survey and the printing: *Arianna 3.1*

Research on the Guadagni Family from their Florentine archives

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This text is taken from the text read by its authors, Elisabetta Insabato and Silvia Biaggio, during the day of Study on the Guadagni Palace of San Clemente, (also known as Guadagni Palace of the Nunziata Branch of the Family) which took place in Florence, in the office of the Faculty of Architecture in the Guadagni Palace itself on November 23, 2006. The text is now being published in the documents of the convention.

The Archives of the Guadagni Family of the branch Marchesi of San Leolino are now available to consultation in the Archivio di Stato di Firenze, (“Florence State Archives”) from now on abbreviated in ASFi.

[ASFi: Deputazione sopra la nobiltà e la cittadinanza (“Deputation on the Nobility and Citizenship”), 14, ins. 8:

Case of the nobility of the Guadagni. All of the three branches of the family represented by marchese Niccolò (branch of the “Nunziata”), marchese Donato and children (branch of “Santo Spirito”) and senator knight Filippo (branch “dell’Opera), obtain the status of patrician (noble) by decree of July 17, 1752. You can find the family trees and information on the members of the family in the related brochure in ASFi, Sebregondi, 2763.

For information on the castle of San Leolino also known as San Lorino in Monti in Val di Sieve, check E. REPETTI, Dizionario geografico fisico storico della Toscana(...) (“Geographical, physical, historical dictionary of Tuscany “), Firenze 1835, vol II, pp. 678-679; and ASFi, Guadagni, 107, vecchia segnatura (“old shelfmark”), from now on v.s.) S/1.

Ortensia, daughter of Francesco Guadagni, married Filippo, son of Averardo Salviati in 1602. First she was supervisor of the education and then lady-in-waiting of the Grand Duchess of Tuscany Vittoria della Rovere. Ortensia became a widow in 1614. On June 21<sup>st</sup>, 1645 she obtained the investiture of the marquisate of San Leolino in Monti from the Grand Duke Ferdinando II de’ Medici (ibidem, ins. 15). On February 1652 she was also granted the privilege to transmit the title of Marquis to her brother Tommaso at her death.

She died in 1659. (L. Passerini, *Genealogia e Storia della famiglia Guadagni* (“Genealogy and History of the Guadagni Family”), Firenze 1873, page 104.)

The Archives of the Guadagni Family, branch of the marchesi of San Leolino, were kept by the Guadagni in their old property of Masseto, near the town of Pontassieve. When the property was sold, on September 2005, the Archives were entrusted to the istituto di conservazione fiorentino (“Florentine Conservation Institute”).

[The operation was performed according to article 43 of Codice dei beni culturali e del paesaggio (“Code of Cultural and Landscape goods”) that foresees the form of conservative custody. From September 2006 to September 2007 the filing and the reorganization of the archives were completed by an operator not part of the Soprintendenza (“Superintendence”), Dr. Rita Romanelli, in collaboration with the Amministrazione Archivistica (“Archives Administration”) personnel. Such operation was entrusted to her under an agreement with the Guadagni owners of the Archives represented in Florence by attorney Simone Aiazzi.]

From the examination of the papers it was concluded that the Archives had not always been with the Guadagni family whose name they bear. In 1938, Guitto Guadagni, grandfather of the actual owner, Charles Loren Guadagni, bought the Archives from his cousins marchesi Dufour Berte. In a letter to his friend Gunter Beubel, Guitto wrote: “I will tell you about something really stupid I just did: I bought the Archives of my own family. There is not much, but when you will come here you will find some of them very interesting.” [ASFi, Guadagni, 39 (v.s. E/4).]

So Guitto Guadagni, as head of the family whose name he bore, had felt the need to regain possession of the written documents witnessing the history of his ancient family. The Guadagni had in fact obtained the official status of Florentine nobles from the very first moments of the application of the law on nobility and citizenship by the Republic of Florence in the Middle Ages. Two years later, in compliance with the year 1939 law on archives, Guitto reported its ownership to the Prefettura di Firenze (“Prefecture of Florence”). [Archivio della Soprintendenza Archivistica per la Toscana, Fascicolo Guadagni, lettera di Guitto Guadagni del 31 luglio 1941 (“Archives of the Archive Superintendence for Tuscany, Guadagni file, letter of Guitto Guadagni, on July 31<sup>st</sup>, 1941”).]

However, probably for reasons tied to the commingling of the papers of the two families, 173 parchments related to the Guadagni family (from the years 1233 to 1771) and a small group of packets and registers related mostly to farms and fiefs of the Guadagni, remained in their cousins Dufour Berte Archives. A tight intertwining with Guadagni papers, mostly relating to 19<sup>th</sup> century documents, can still be found in the Dufour Berte Archives. [List of the consistency of the Dufour Berte Archives, recently registered at the official records of the Soprintendenza Archivistica per la Toscana (“Archives Superintendence of Tuscany”)]

Sure enough, in 1837, Ottavia Guadagni (1817-1876), Neri Guadagni's daughter, married marchese Edoardo Dufour Berte [Archivio Dufour Berte ("Dufour Berte Archives"), Florence (from now on ADB), *Various matters (red numbers)*, provision 332 (v.s. red string 21 above), file 89, "Authentic copy of the marriage contract of the noble sir Eduardo Dufour Berte with the gentle damsel Ottavia of the marchesi Guadagni on October 2, 1837 [...]. Will, succession acts and division of her assets" *Yonder*, provision 335 (v.s. red string 24 above), files 1-10.

Not only did Ottavia Guadagni bring into her marriage a substantial part of her assets, including the Guadagni Palace of Piazza Santo Spirito, the farms of la Luna, le Fonti and le Torri, but also the archive papers of all the branches of her family who descended from the same common ancestor. This ancestor was Ulivieri Guadagni (1452-1541), son of Simone, heir of a lineage who had accumulated a large capital through trade, but had also suffered exile, for having played an important role in the degli Albizzi power struggle against the Medici. The brothers Vieri and Bernardo Guadagni, sons of Vieri, participated in it. See Passerini, *Genealogia e Storia...* ("Genealogy and History...")...above mentioned work, pages 76-77 and R. M. Zaccaria, *Guadagni Bernardo e Guadagni Vieri* ("Guadagni Bernardo and Guadagni Vieri") in *Dizionario Biografico degli Italiani* ("Biographical Dictionary of the Italians") volume 60, Rome 2003, pages 55-57 and 64-66.

In 1805, Niccolo' Guadagni (1730-1805), son of Ottavio, died childless. He was the last representative of the Guadagni branch who had built the Guadagni Palace behind the Nunziata ("Santissima Annunziata Church, in Piazza Santissima Annunziata"). He had sold it himself. So two members of another branch of the Guadagni Family, the branch of Santo Spirito, became his heirs. They were called "of Santo Spirito" because Donato Maria Guadagni (1641-1718), son of Tommaso, (Passerini, *Genealogia e storia...* "Genealogy and History...", above mentioned work pages 121-122) had bought Palazzo Dei in Piazza Santo Spirito from the Congregazione dei Buonomini di San Martino ("Congregation of the Good Men of Saint Martin"). L. Ginori Lisci, *I palazzi di Firenze nella storia e nell'arte* ("The palaces of Florence in History and Art"), volume II, Firenze, 1972, pages 735-742.

These two members of the Guadagni of Santo Spirito were Tommaso (1743-1814) son of Neri, and Donato (1794-1878), son of his brother Luigi (1751-1799). ASFi, *Guadagni*, 255 (v.s. String 24), insertion 3. The controversy between the brothers Tommaso and Luigi Guadagni over their inheritance continued even after Luigi's death. It only ended with the recognition of the ownership of the Palagio estate in Mugello to Luigi's son, Donato (our great-great-grandfather). Tommaso had only one son, Neri, who had been interdicted in his youth, even though he lived until 1862. In 1815, Tommaso Guadagni's widow, Maria Maddalena Baldovinetti, had asked the Court to interdict her son Neri, because he could be "easily misled in business bargaining", and she assumed his legal protection together with Pietro Pannilini, attorney general for Tommaso's inheritance. At Neri's death his assets were inherited by his daughter Ottavia, born in 1817 from his marriage with Lucrezia Capponi, daughter of Lorenzo. ASFi *Guadagni*, 256 (v.s. String 25), file 1: marriage stipulations, 1815. Lucrezia died of childbirth in

1817 (*yonder*, file 2 and file 11). As we stated above, Ottavia Guadagni married a Dufour Berte.

From these first considerations, we can identify some elements which allow us to outline the characteristics of the archives of the nobility. However, we must not overlook the peculiarities tied to the context of local institutions, cultural and social ideals, and main economical coordinates.

First of all, the archives of the nobility amount to real concentration archives because the juridical institutes often encouraged the undivided transmission of the inheritance (to keep family palace, castle and main farms in the hands of the oldest, and thus conserve the impressive and centuries-old family patrimony) and consequently also of the family papers. Furthermore, family papers originating from other noble families, tied by marriage, would often flow into each other's archives. In noble families, there are continual grafts, both of family blood and assets, but also subtractions of the same, caused by hereditary and wedding policies. This has precise consequences also on the family archives: a main family archive can be the collector of one or more complex documents portfolios, containing themselves subordinate added collections.

This "cluster" organization cannot however always be followed or identified. This happens when an "original" organization of a family foundation is overtaken by a successive reorganization of the papers, when the integration process of complex document funds from different origins (i.e. "families"), becomes a regeneration of the same and originates something completely new. At this point, to verify which were the original documents of the old fund you must use ancient "shelf marks" and similar appropriate tools. These considerations are applied in the study of the archives of the nobility of Siena in E.INSABATO, *Vincoli di sangue e vincoli archivistici, Alcune considerazioni sugli archivi di famiglia*, in *Archivi, carriere, committenze* ("Blood links and archive links. Some considerations on family archives in Archives, careers, clientele") above mentioned work, pages 3-28.

Second, we must underline that the problem of the formation of family archives, by this I mean the stratification and transmission of the same, is limited to the culture of the nobles, and it started to manifest itself, with all its complexity, in the central centuries of the Modern Era (16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> centuries), which means in the Society of the Ancien Regime [Note of Francesco Carloni de Querqui, from now on FCdQ: The Ancien Regime, French for old regime, was a political and social system where the "Nobility" was legally considered a social class with different privileges, rights and duties, than everybody else and the law protected and officially recognized this different status of its members. It started disappearing in Western Europe in 1789 with the French Revolution which claimed that "all men are born equal and have equal rights"].

From the second half of the 16<sup>th</sup> century hereditary nobility becomes the social model for the upper class. In spite of their mostly commercial origins, also the Florentine aristocracy adopts the "Ideology of the Gentleman" (C. DONATI, *L'idea di nobiltà* in

*Italia secoli XIV-XVIII, "The idea of nobility in Italy from the 14<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup> century"*)  
Bari, 1988.

In this time frame, a line of genealogical-family memoirs starts asserting itself, where the inseparable duo is formed by "city history/family history". Historical sources of documents, private and public, are revisited and analyzed. The Archivio delle Riformagioni ("Riformagioni Archives"), where the most important and ancient public documents of the Republic of Florence have been kept from the beginning of the 13<sup>th</sup> century was the favorite source for it. On the Archivio delle Riformagioni read F. KLEIN, *L'Archivio della Repubblica Fiorentina o delle Riformagioni* ("The Archives of the Republic of Florence or of the Riformagioni") in *L'Archivio di Stato di Firenze* ("The State Archives of Florence") by Manno Tolu and A. Bellinazzi, Fiesole 1995, pages 53-54 and C. ROTONDI *L'Archivio delle Riformagioni Fiorentine* "The Florentine Riformagioni Archives", Roma 1972.

Also the Guadagni Archives have a section dedicated to the scrutiny and copying of the most ancient available documents, which are able to confirm the antiquity of the lineage and of the handling of public charges. It is in the series 'Memorie' ("Memoirs"), indicated by the letter E (1-10) and with numbers 36-46.

Some of these manuscripts are written by Senator Carlo of Tommaso Strozzi, ASFi, *Guadagni*, 39 (v.s. E/4): "Scrutiny of miscellaneous writings on the Genealogy of the Guadagni Family by the very distinct Senator Carlo Strozzi, assembled by Marquis Pierantonio Guadagni, as a proof of obsequious esteem and gratitude towards the very distinct remembrance of the aforementioned Knight so well deserving of his family, year 1747 A.D." Carlo Strozzi was a friend of Pier Antonio (1579-1632) of Francesco Guadagni. Pier Antonio was known for his rich and precious personal library and for his attendance to the meetings of the same "Conversation" as Carlo Strozzi. The "Conversation" was "the Academy of Antique Studies on the memoirs of our country (Grand-Duchy of Tuscany) and of its noble families". Said meetings were held in the house of Francesco Segaloni, chancellor of the Riformagioni and author of the Florentine Priorista. ASFi, *Guadagni*, 39, (v.s. E/4) "Among the other gentlemen attending this Conversation were Senator Carlo of Tommaso Strozzi and Pierantonio of Francesco Guadagni. Together with the other members of said Academy they contributed to the numerous studies which illustrated the Priorista and the noble Florentine Prosapie."

Francesco Segaloni stopped contributing to the *Priorista Fiorentino* ("Florentine Priorista") in 1625. It is preserved in ASFi, *Manoscritti* ("Manuscripts"), 226. On the Tuscan Academies: E.W.COCHRANE, *Tradition and enlightenment in the Tuscan Academies 1690-1800*, Roma 1961.

A century later, around 1747, Pier Antonio Guadagni's great-nephew, also named Pierantonio Guadagni, son of Ottavio [fcdq: Mistake of authors Insabato and Baggio: Pierantonio, son of Ottavio, was Pier Antonio's grandson, not great-nephew, because Ottavio was Pier Antonio's son, check Family Tree Plate Three in the Guadagni Family Website], gathered together all the memoirs and family trees composed by Strozzi and

other authors who had tried to assemble information on the Guadagni Family, like Vincenzo Borghini or to write the Guadagni Family history like Scipione Ammirato (cc. 3-15 “Scritti del Signor Scipione Ammirato della famiglia de’ Guadagni in Firenze” (“writings of Scipione Ammirato on the Guadagni Family of Florence”) and Francesco Rondinelli, who was a friend of the Tommaso Guadagni who built the Guadagni Palace “behind the Nunziata” ), neatly in volumes.

Vincenzo Borghini (ASFi, *Guadagni*, 40 (v.s. E/5) is the author of “Notizie Istoriche della famiglia Guadagni(...)” (“Historical news on the Guadagni Family”) marked by letter A. At chapter 61 you find copy of a letter by Vincenzo Borghini to Piero Covoni, dated March 18, 1578, associated with the results of the research made stating the difficulties of the genealogical research:”This is everything I was able to find until now on the Guadagni Family (...) and for what concerns the years before 1280 you need to guess what is reliable and what is not”. The information found by Borghini is assembled in documents 63-68’

Francesco Rondinelli wrote “Memorie della Famiglia Guadagni descritta dal Sig. Francesco Rondinelli al Sig. Tommaso Guadagni dall’anno 1150 al 1639” (“Memoirs of the Guadagni Family described by Francesco Rondinelli to Tommaso Guadagni from the year 1150 to 1639”), ASFi *Guadagni*, 37 (v.s.E2), inss 4 and 14 and 45, (v.s.E9), ins.5.

This is the period during which the Guadagni Archives of the Nunziata Branch are the object of a first and important work of reorganization of which the characteristics remained unchanged until now, like most of the Tuscan noble archives. E. INSABATO writes on the topic, *Un momento fondamentale nell’organizzazione degli archivi di famiglia in Italia: Il Settecento*, in *Il futuro della memoria*, Atti del convegno internazionale di studi (Capri 9-13 settembre, 1991), Roma 1997, 2 voll.,I,pp. 289-310 (“An important moment in the organization of the family archives in Italy: the 18<sup>th</sup> century, in *The future of Memory*, Acts of the international study meeting, Capri September 9-13, 1991, Rome 1997, 2 volumes, I pages 289-310.

The Archives reorganization was commissioned by Niccolo’ Guadagni (1730-1805), son of Ottavio (1684-1746). Niccolo’ was born on January 25, 1730. He recuperated the Marquisate of Montepescali, which Grand-Duke Cosimo III of Tuscany had taken away from the family. However he quickly gave up any feudal jurisdiction over it, limiting himself to keep the “title of Marquis of Montepescali” for himself and his male descendants.

In 1786 he tried unsuccessfully to be recognized as Prince of Nachod, in Bohemia, This title had belonged to his female ancestor, Ottavia Benigna Piccolomini (L.Passerini, *Genealogia e Storia*, “*Genealogy and History...*”cit. pp.”above mentioned work pages” 117-119). On the Principality of Nachod, ASFi, *Guadagni*, 44 (v.s.E/8), inss 7-37 and on the request by Niccolo’ Guadagni to succeed in the primogeniture (rights of the eldest descendant) of Ottavio Piccolomini of Aragona (1656) for the Principality of Nachod (1785), ASFi, *Guadagni*. 249 (v.s. file 18) ins. 9.

Niccolo' Guadagni, son of Ottavio, charged Father Francesco Casini, of Prato, to reorganize the Guadagni of the Nunziata's Archives. Casini is known to have reorganized the archives of other noble Florentine families like the Counts della Gherardesca and the Bardi of Vernio and important archives for the history of the City of Prato, like the one of the old municipality, of the Pia Casa de' Ceppi ("Pious House of Ceppi") and the Opera of S. Maria delle Carceri ("Charitable Organization of St. Mary of the Prisons"). The result of Casini's work, finished in 1769, is an alphabetical inventory referring to an overview of the parchments and property lists. Casini dedicated the introduction of his inventory to Niccolo' Guadagni on October 21, 1769 (ASFi, *Guadagni*,6). From another document we can conclude that Casini was already working at reorganizing the Guadagni Archives in 1767: Ivi, 14 (v.s. D/3), ins. 9:"Various remembrances of deeds and other papers, found written in jackets in the year 1767, by Father Francesco Casini of Prato, while rearranging the domestic archives of the exceedingly famous Marquis Niccolo' son of the late Marquis Ottavio Guadagni".

As we mentioned above, the parchments and the related registers compiled by Casini remained in the Dufour Berte Archives, ADB, "Scrutiny of the Guadagni Parchments", s.n.

Casini's cultural formation belonged to the scholarly Florentine tradition. He tried to use a papers arrangement solution which can still somewhat satisfy our contemporary research methods "...I compiled this inventory with the idea to create the fastest and easiest method to find the Documents we need. (...) However sometimes we look for the same information in different ways because we might look at it under different aspects or with different ideas about it. So at times I felt constrained to list the same information in different chapters of my work" ASFi, *Guadagni*, 6, mentioned above (m.a.).

We must however clarify that Casini's rearrangement of the documents, on which we desire to linger, does not complete our analysis of his work. The Archives which we now have present other aspects more complex and structured. The papers originating from the Nunziata Branch can be easily identified by a little card placed on the back of the envelopes containing the Guadagni Crest, colored in red and gold and Niccolo's name, plus the alpha-numeric shelf-mark written in black ink also on the back of the registers ASFi, *Guadagni*, 12-123 (v.s. D/I-S/17). We must add also other folders bound in parchment, which contain in them a note of ownership by Niccolo's brother, Pier Antonio Guadagni.

The Guadagni Family crest attached to the "Proofs of Nobility" is thus described:"Red background, with thorned or dented gold cross. Above the crest is the crown of Marquis for the two marquisates of San Lorino (i.e. San Leolino) and Monte Pescali and above, it has for crest the unicorn with the motto "Exaltabitur" (Latin for "I will be exalted"), ASFi, *Deputazione sopra la nobilta' e la cittadinanza* ("Deputation on nobility and citizenship")<sup>14</sup>, insert 8. On the meaning of the symbol of the unicorn, largely used in the decoration of the Guadagni Palace of San Clemente [the Guadagni Palace of the Nunziata was sold by Niccolo' Guadagni (1730-1805) last surviving member of the Nunziata Branch, to the Pretender to the British Throne, who eventually

sold it to the Duke of San Clemente, and that is why it is called Guadagni Palace of San Clemente do differentiate it from the Guadagni Palace of Santo Spirito, which belonged to our branch of the Guadagni, or of the Guadagni Palace dell'Opera, whose owner changed his name in Torrigiani and sold it.]. The Guadagni Palace of San Clemente or of Nunziata is also called "casino" because of its large private park, R.SPINELLI, *Indagini sulle decorazioni secentesche del Casino Guadagni di San Clemente a Firenze* ("Study on the 17<sup>th</sup> century decorations of the Guadagni Casino of San Clemente in Florence") in "Quaderni di Palazzo Te" ("Tea Palace Notebooks") n.4, 1996, pages 36-65. Precise cross-reference to the Archival sources of the Guadagni Family Crest can be found in ASFi, *Raccolta* ("Collection") *Ceramelli Papiani*, 2509.

We will consider now the papers of the Guadagni of Santo Spirito Branch (our branch and actually the only surviving Branch of the Guadagni Family, as Niccolo' Guadagni, last survivor of the Nunziata Branch, died childless in 1805, and Pietro Guadagni dell'Opera changed his name in Pietro Torrigiani around 1798, and all his descendants kept the Torrigiani surname.

Why was Pietro Guadagni's branch called Guadagni dell'Opera? It is an interesting and fun story which created a new adjective in the Florentine dialect, still used very much nowadays and I myself use it every time a driver cuts me off. In the late Middle-Ages the citizens of Florence decided to build a beautiful and very large cathedral for their city. It was supposed to have a dome, in Italian "Duomo" which also means "Cathedral with a dome". So the Florentines decided to destroy several houses and palaces in the center of the city to build the Duomo and a large square around it. The Committee doing all this was called "L'opera del Duomo" ("The work (committee responsible) of building the "Duomo"). L'Opera del Duomo offered to pay good money to the owners of the houses they wanted to destroy to build the Duomo. One family who owned houses in the area was called "Bischeri". The Bischeri refused to sell their houses hoping the price paid by the Opera del Duomo would go up with time. Instead, at a certain moment, the Opera del Duomo passed a law that all the owners who had not agreed to sell their houses yet would be forced to sell them to the Opera for a very low price. The Bischeri were among them and lost a huge amount of money. So all the Florentines laughed at them and their family name became synonymous of "stupid" because they could have sold their houses for good money at the beginning of the transactions and wanting to "outsmart" the Opera they lost a lot of money. So even nowadays the Florentines tell each other don't be a "bischeri" (pronunciation "beskarow") ("idiotic, retarded, stupid, moronic") don't say or do "bischerate" ("beskaraata") ("idiotic things, stupidities, etc").

At a certain moment, the Opera del Duomo realized they had bought too much land and destroyed too many houses in the center of Florence so they put the empty lots back on sale for a low price. The Guadagni bought a very large lot of the Opera del Duomo, and built a beautiful palace in the Square of the Duomo, larger even than the one of the Archbishop of Florence. So they were called the Guadagni of the Opera del Duomo, soon abbreviated in the Guadagni dell' (of the) Opera. The funny thing is that a minuscule empty corner touching the wall of their palace is still called nowadays "canto



dei (corner of the )”Bischeri”. Which means they built their palace exactly on top of the land which used to belong to the Bischeri. The expression “bischeri” is only used in Florence (by everybody), if you use it in Rome or Venice or anywhere else in Italy, nobody knows what it means.

The main nucleus of the papers of Guadagni of Santo Spirito branch, i.e. the “property notices”, called “Istrumenti e scritture Guadagni (“Guadagni instruments and notices”, ASFi, *Guadagni*, 232-262, inventory which contains the description of the series) is characterized by another type of archives arrangement, with the exterior side of the folders labeled by a printed small card with the Guadagni crest in black and white and the name “Neri” on it. The person who describes the 31 folders making up this series, in a handwritten index actually in the archives, sends back to a 19<sup>th</sup> century compilation of the index itself and thus also of the archival arrangement of the files composing it ASFi, *Guadagni*, 7:”Indice alfabetico di tutte le scritture, contratti, ed altri Documenti esistenti nell’Archivio della Nobile Famiglia Guadagni, compilato nell’anno 1824” (“Alphabetical index of all the notices, contracts and other documents existing in the Archives of the Noble Guadagni Family, compiled in the year 1824”).

The compilation date and the characteristics of the small card make us deduct that this arrangement intervention happened at the time of Neri (1790-1862) son of Tommaso Guadagni. As we stated above his mother had interdicted him from “financial and business matters” but obviously not from taking care of the Family Archives. From characteristics of this index we deduct also Neri’s intervention in the gathering of documents called “Manoscritti” (“Handwritten documents”) ASFi, *Guadagni*, 223-229, which include a hodgepodge of papers some originating from the Nunziata Branch, related mostly to Niccolò (1730-1805) of Ottavio Guadagni, last descendant of that branch.

The reorganization of the Guadagni Archives enabled us to precise the outline of these documentary nuclei. When the Archives were transferred from the Guadagni Villa of Masseto to Florence in September 2005, we gave a progressive and provisory numeration to folders, files, registers and parcels for a total of 1,040 pieces. This number is destined to increase, as many folders contain several registers (for example: farm sales) and many papers of the late 18<sup>th</sup> century or 19<sup>th</sup> century are assembled with no order or reason.

In the organization of these series we kept in mind the division of the Guadagni Family in 2 branches, Nunziata and Santo Spirito, (obviously the archives of the 3<sup>rd</sup> branch, the Guadagni dell’Opera, have been inherited by their descendants Torrigiani and are not mentioned here, note of FCdQ), which started with the descendants of Tommaso Guadagni (1582-1652), son of Francesco (1534-1611).

Francesco had 4 brothers: 2 died in childhood, a third, Tommaso, became an abbot in France, and the 4<sup>th</sup>, Gino, never married or had any children. Francesco’s first wife, Cammilla Giraldi, died a month after their marriage. He remarried, with Laura Bandini, and had 10 children: 4 sons and 6 daughters. One of the daughters, Ortensia,

was made 1<sup>st</sup> Marchese of San Leolino by the Grand-Duke of Tuscany, with the right of passing the marquisate to her brother, if he survived her or one of his descendants otherwise.

Only one of Francesco's sons married, Tommaso, with Maria of Donato Acciaiuoli, and they had 9 children, 5 sons and 4 daughters. Tommaso built the Guadagni Palace of the Nunziata, in Micheli Street, from which his Guadagni Branch got its name. As Tommaso died before his sister Ortensia, his oldest son, Francesco (1627-1696) became 2<sup>nd</sup> Marquis of San Leolino

Francesco never married and obtained from the Grand Duke, that his youngest brother, Donato Maria (1641-1718), would be the next Marquis of San Leolino after him, skipping his brothers Pierantonio (1629-1709) and Vieri (1631-1708).

Pierantonio and Donato Maria were the only brothers of their generation who married and had children, Pierantonio had seven, Donato Maria eight. Pierantonio was upset for being skipped in the title of Marquis of San Leolino, so he bought the Marquisate of Montepescali for himself and his descendants. He and his descendants lived in the Guadagni Palace of Nunziata, built by his father Tommaso. Donato Maria, 3<sup>rd</sup> Marquis of San Leolino, instead bought the Palace of Santo Spirito. At this point the main branch of the Guadagni Family divides itself into two branches, the Guadagni of Nunziata, Marquis of Montepescali, and the Guadagni of Santo Spirito, Marquis of San Leolino.

By the way, the third branch of the Guadagni Family, the Guadagni dell'Opera, were only nobles, not Marquis. However, when they adopted the name of the Marquis Torrigiani in 1798, they inherited name, fortune and title of Marquis. As stated above, the Guadagni dell'Opera are not included in our study, because their Archives were all inherited by the Torrigiani, who are their direct descendants.

The division between the two branches of Santo Spirito and Nunziata also reflects the fight between Donato Maria and his three brothers for the inheritance of their mother Maria Acciaiuoli. Maria Acciaiuoli died on August 20, 1675 (PASSERINI, *Genealogia e storia della famiglia Guadagni... albero genealogico tav IV* "PASSERINI, *Genealogy and history of the Guadagni family... family tree table 4*). Her will can be found in ASFi, *Guadagni*, 13 (v.s. D/2), insert 7-8.

An agreement between Donato Maria and his brothers was finally reached in 1682. ASFi, *Guadagni*, 21 (v.s. D/10), insert 6: "Real estate divisions between the brothers Marquis Donato Maria, Francesco, Vieri and Pierantonio Guadagni (...) made by Giovanni Gualberto Del Rosso, Donato Luigi Viviani, Marco Settimanni, Francesco Cerretani and Giovanni Luigi Arrighetti, arbitrators elected by the Supreme Magistrate (...) in the year 1682"). In the file we can also find inventories of other assets and goods left out of the abovementioned agreement; on that occasion, Donato's brothers gave him documents and contracts from the Family Archives, which certified real estate rights, with the obligation of showing them to them at any moment (*Ivi*, inserts 13, 14 and 15).

When we examine the work of the 18<sup>th</sup> century archivist, we notice that it does not include the period after the 1780s; therefore the last years of the administration of Niccolo' Guadagni (1730-1805), son of Ottavio, are not included. Furthermore not all the Archives papers were inserted in this collection: for example several of Niccolo's letter books, going from 1763 to 1804 (ASFi, *Guadagni*, 210-222), lack ancient shelf marks. A real volume of correspondence is also missing from it, which seems strange if we consider the high cultural level and political and social status of the Guadagni Family.

Casini had conceived a reassessment of the archives according to a univocal system, i.e. in alphabetical order, and inside each letter of the alphabet, in Arabic numerals. His model started with the account books of the farms of oldest possession of the Guadagni (la Luna. Masseto, San Leolino, etc), gathered in folders marked with the letter "A" (A11, A12, A13, etc).

The letter "B" identified the administration books of the family real estate. The most ancient registers were of the year 1481. The letter "C" pinpointed the assets of Maria Acciaioli, Tommaso Guadagni's wife, starting from 1591, and included also the journals, earnings and cash outflow, debtors and creditors of the common patrimony of Maria's sons Francesco, Vieri and Pier Antonio. Then came the envelopes containing files and loose papers thus organized [We are simplifying Casini's construction by listing only the synthetic denominations of the series, and deferring the numeric consistency and the chronological extremes of the documents to the inventory]: "D" (Patrimony files); "E" (Florentine and French Guadagni Memoirs); "F" (Ecclesiastical Benefits); "G" (La Fonte Farm); "H" (Pisa Rent with Leghorn properties); "I" (Inheritance Divisions with Vespucci, Baldovinetti, Del Ruota and other families' papers); "L" (Family Patrimony receipts folders); "M" (Fragmentary, receipts of Montepescali); "N" (Various administration of Florence and inheritance of Ascanio Piccolomini); "O" (Extraneous, Irrelevant); "R" (Guadagni and Altemps tithes and deeds in merit); "S" (Fief of Montepescali and other goods free from any other superior overlord)

The missing letters (P,Q,T,...) do not indicate an omission but positions which remained empty. The 18<sup>th</sup> century arrangements of the archives had often a very rigid organization, fixing the number of series and documentary classes ahead of time. If some of them proved useless, they remained empty. Otherwise, later time discarding or regrouping of documents may have left what appears as gaps in the successive numbering.

In this section of the Archives single documents or groups of them relating to the same matter, were identified, bound if necessary, and inserted in a small jacket. The object of the matter, the date, the shelf mark (alphabetical letter and number) were marked on the jacket. These documents were gathered in envelopes, following a criterion favoring the contents of the act. The summary of the files was inserted inside every envelope, in the order they were archived.

The repertory however does not reflect the sequence of the alphanumeric order, because it was mostly configured as a tool favoring the immediate finding of the - documents and thus it became an alphabetical index of names of people, places and subjects, ASFi, *Guadagni*, 6 mentioned above. We realized it while we were utilizing it for our research.

Several features contribute to characterize the 18<sup>th</sup> century arrangement of the archives. We will briefly examine some of them.

In Serie D, *Patrimony Files*, we can find the most ancient notary deeds and entries: it is a really miscellaneous section, composed of contracts, donations, wills, the most ancient being the one of Vieri Guadagni, son of Matteo, son of Migliore, written in the year 1325, ASFi, *Guadagni*, 14 (v.s. D/3) ins. 5. Another very interesting document, exquisitely political, is the nomination of Migliore Guadagni, son of Vieri, as ambassador and commissary of the City of Florence charged to proceed in the general reform of the government of the City of Pistoia, in 1373, ASFi, *Guadagni*, 14 (v.s. D/3) ins. 9.

However, these are scraps, relicts of the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> century archives, which were mostly lost or scattered. The first two envelopes gather wills and donations of the different representatives of the family from the 14<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup> century in chronological order. In other envelopes we can find documents attesting the divisions of the Guadagni patrimony, in different moments of the family history, ASFi, *Guadagni*, 20-22 (v.s. D/9-D/11). In one of them are assembled the deeds concerning the Guadagni Florence assets, among which, for example, documentation on the houses in via Salvestrina. These were bought by Ortensia Guadagni (died in 1659), and originated the building of the Guadagni Palace of via Micheli (Nunziata) ASFi, *Guadagni*, 16 (v.s. D/5), ins.8-17, now called San Clemente.

Records of certain lawsuits and trials, deriving from hereditary questions and different types of financial obligations, flow into them also.

We will omit the examination of the Genealogical Memoirs, assembled in the “E” marked envelopes, as we have already touched on them before. Instead, we consider worthwhile to pause on a nucleus of documents reflecting the marriage policies of the Guadagni: Series I named *Divise di Eredita'* (“*Inheritance Classifications*”) ASFi, *Guadagni* 74-98 (v.s. I/1-I/25).

These documents testify “family relations” of the Guadagni with two important families, one was one the Piccolomini d’Aragona, one of the most ancient families of the nobility of Siena, the other, of an endogamic type (same social and geographical milieu), with the Florentine Del Ruota or da Ruota.

In 1676, Pier Antonio Guadagni (1629-1709), son of Senator Tommaso Guadagni, married Ottavia Benigna Piccolomini, sister of Lorenzo Piccolomini. Ottavia Benigna (1654-1725) was the daughter of Francesco Piccolomini, Duke of Amalfi, and Emilia Strozzi. R. MUCCIARELLI wrote a book on the large bibliography existing on

the Piccolomini Family, *Sulle Origini dei Piccolomini. Discendenze fantastiche, architetture nobilitanti e celebrazione genealogica attraverso le carte della consorte, "on the Origins of the Piccolomini. Fantastic Ancestors, ennobling architectures and genealogical celebrations through the papers of the "clique""BSSP", CIV (1997), pages 357-376". Lorenzo inherited the fief of Nachod, in Bohemia, from his brother Enea Silvio Piccolomini, Prince of the Holy Roman Empire, who died in 1679. In the following generation, Pier Antonio and Ottavia's son, Enea Silvio Guadagni, named after his uncle Piccolomini, sued his Piccolomini relatives, saying he had the right to be Lord of Nachod, 1681-1722, PASSERINI, *Genealogia e Storia... "Genealogy and History..."* mentioned above pages 109-110. A century later, his nephew Niccolo' Guadagni sued the Piccolomini another time, for the same reason.*

The endogamic marriage between Enea Silvio Guadagni's brother, Ottavio (1684-1746), and Maria Cammilla Del Ruota, is the reason why we find papers from other Florentine families in the Guadagni Archives. Maria Cammilla was the daughter of Cesare (who had been Baptized Niccolo' as a baby), son of Orlando del Ruota and Camilla Rinucci. Cesare was the last male descendant of his branch of the family and universal heir of it. ASFi, *Guadagni*, provv. 85 (v.s. I/25), c.23. The del Ruota Family could boast ancient origins in the city of Florence, in the neighborhood of Santo Spirito-Gonfalone Scala; They are mentioned in the cadastre of 1427 with Iacopo del Ruota, son of Filippo, and his nephews. You can find copy of the cadastre listing of 1427 of Iacopo of Filippo del Ruota in ASFi, *Guadagni*, 97 (v.s. I/24), c.3. Later on, we find the del Ruota members of the three most important offices of the Republic of Florence: the Priorate, the Ward Captains and the Buonomini. ASFi, *Guadagni*, 97 (v.s. I/24) c.5: Bernardo del Ruota, son of Antonio, is elected in the three major offices in the election of 1444; AASFi...same as above, c. 6: Bernardo's son, Giovanni del Ruota, is appointed in the 12 Buonomini. Marchioness Camilla del Ruota and sisters asked for the inscription of the del Ruota Family in the Florentine nobility and they obtained it on February 21, 1752, ASFi, *Deputazione sopra la nobiltà e cittadinanza. "Deputation on nobility and citizenship"*, 4, insert 7.

The del Ruota Family could thus claim an ancient lineage and Cesare del Ruota tried to be admitted in the Order of Malta in 1653 (you had to be noble to be admitted; the Guadagni had already been members of the Order for some generations) we do not know if Cesare was admitted or not. Also Cammilla's two sisters made good marriages: Lucrezia married Carlo Filippo Ughi and Caterina Dante Catellini da Castiglione. With the del Ruota, papers from the Guidotti, Rinucci and Calvanesi Families entered the Guadagni Archives. ASFi, *Guadagni*, 98 (v.s. I/25): da Ruota family documents. In 1600, Cristofano Rinucci's daughter, Donna Cammilla, married Orlando da Ruota. As a dowry she brought him assets originating from a "fedecompresso" of Maria Calvanesi, who wrote her will in 1626 ["fedecompresso" means that in her will Maria Calvanesi left her assets to a person whose name we do not know but who was a "fedecompresso"("guarantor") for Cammilla Rinucci, i.e. the guarantor had to keep the inherited assets until his death and then leave them to Cammilla.]

The Calvanesi brought Baldovinetti papers with them in the Guadagni Archives. ASFi, *Guadagni*, 76 (v.s. I/3): Among these, two folders of remembrances stand out. One of the folders was started in 1443 and continued by following generations until 1588.

Series H and R gather the documents related to the rental in Pisa. On November 16, 1701, after a temporary rental started in May 14, 1694, Marquis Pierantonio Guadagni rented in perpetuity properties in Pisa and in its neighborhood, in the towns of Arena, Metato, Nodica, Botano, Cascine, Ripoli, Parrana, Fauglia, Palaia e Montefoscoli, from Duke Giuseppe Maria Altemps of Rome. Angelica de' Medici, daughter of Cosimo, son of Giulio, had brought these assets in dowry to her husband Pietro Altemps in 1625. At Duke Pietro's death, the assets were inherited by his son from a second marriage, Giuseppe Maria. However, Cristina Altemps, Pietro's and his first wife, Angelica's daughter, married to Ippolito Lante della Rovere in 1644, had taken her father's will to court. ASFi, *Guadagni*, 106 (v.s. R/1).

In addition to all kinds of contracts, appraisals and reports on the condition of the properties, questions related to the exemption of the appraisals, copies of the deeds of the Altemps and documents related to lawsuits like the one concerning the pretended short-life of Ruberto Altemps' point of view against Ottavio and Ascanio Guadagni, there are also two large format administration registers, leather bound. The first of them starts at the time of the temporary rental. It is the ledger... which will be used for the transaction of the rental of Duke Giuseppe Maria Altemps' properties in Pisa and other transactions and rentals. 1694-1705. ASFi, *Guadagni*, 554.

A register, today kept in the Dufour Berte Archives, also refers to the rental of the Pisa properties. It is leather bound and titled "Campione nel quale sono delineate e descritte tutte le piante de beni stabili dell' Illustrissimo e Eccellentissimo Signor Duca Giuseppe Maria Altemps di Roma, tanto di quelli posti nella citta' di Pisa quanto nella sua pianura (...) consegnati (...) All' Illustrissimo Signor Marchese Pier Antonio Guadagni di Fiorenza (...) ("Sample survey listing and describing all the drawings and diagrams of the properties of the most Famous and Excellent Duke Giuseppe Maria Altemps of Rome, both located in the city of Pisa and in the surrounding countryside, delivered to the most Illustrious Marquis Pierantonio Guadagni of Florence (...))" ADB, s.n.

Casini assembled the documents on the fief of Montepescali in the series "S". His method seems a bit wavering as in the first folder he filed records concerning the county of San Lorino (i.e. San Leolino) ASFi, *Guadagni*, 107 (v.s. S/1). The Maremma fief (Montepescali) had been bought by Pierantonio Guadagni (1629-1709), son of Tommaso, following the relinquishment of it by Lelio Tolomei's family: the vicissitudes of this fief fit well in the general policies of infeudation of the areas on the fringe of the Maremmas. In the time frame of a century it changed owners several times: the city-state of Siena sold it as a fief in an even-out sale to Orso Pannocchieschi d'Elci in 1624. Orso sold it to Girolamo Tolomei in 1631. ASFi, *Guadagni*, 109 (v.s. S/3), ins. 3. On March 31, 1696, Lelio Tolomei sold the fief to Pierantonio Guadagni, keeping for himself however the title of Marquis of Montepescali. ASFi, *Guadagni*, 109 (v.s. S/3), inss. 10-12. In 1716,

the fief returned to its original seller, because Pierantonio failed to pay the credits he owed Tolomei for it; between 1720 and 1723, with the Grand Duke's authorization, Count Tommaso Federighi tried to take possession of the feudal and allodial properties of Montepescali, however, Pierantonio Guadagni's son, Ottavio (1684-1746), was able to get it back.

Beyond these personal vicissitudes, the greatest interest regards the documents relating to the long question of the borders between the Grand-Duchy of Tuscany and the State of Piombino, which passed between Montepescali and Buriano. Piombino was an independent country, ruled by the Appiani dynasty who were made Princes in 1589, which was part of the Holy Roman Empire, between 1398 and 1815. So the Guadagni Archives have an accumulation of technical reports, letters, decrees and orders and representations of this disputed border territory, which for a while belonged to the Guadagni. ASFi, *Guadagni*, 120 (v.s. S/14) and 121 (v.s. S/15). The history of Montepescali is recounted in the recent history book: *Montepescali: storia arte archeologia*, (*"Montepescali: history art archeology"*) by M. S. Fommei, Grosseto 1997.

I am inserting in the Guadagni Archives a letter to the family concerning and partly repeating the above. I think it is an interesting summary of Italian history which did not originally belong to the Romanelli Inventory of the Guadagni Family Archives.

Dear Guadagni cousins and friends,

As you remember, Ortensia Guadagni (died in 1659) was made 1<sup>st</sup> Marquis of San Leolino del Conte, often abbreviated in San Leolino, by the Medici Grand-Duke of Florence. At her death, her nephew Francesco Guadagni (1627-1696) inherited the Marquisate and became the 2<sup>nd</sup> Marquis of San Leolino. Francesco was granted by the Grand-Duke that his youngest brother, Donato Maria, would inherit the Marquisate at his death, thus skipping the brothers in between, Vieri and Pierantonio. Grieved by it, at the death of his brother Francesco, Pierantonio (1629-1709) bought the Marquisate of Montepescali, in Val di Bruna, from Marquis Lelio Tolomei of Siena, and was invested with it by Grand-Duke Cosimo III. In the introduction to the Guadagni Archives, author Rondinelli mentions the many papers concerning Montepescali that are assembled in the Guadagni Archives and explains why. I was greatly surprised in reading that Montepescali was on the border between the Grand Duchy of Tuscany and the State of Piombino. Piombino is now a sea resort of about 35,000 inhabitants in Maremma, South of Florence. I never knew that it had been an independent country for 407 years! And I pride myself in being knowledgeable in Italian history...! So I did a research and I enclose underneath what I found. The Guadagni Archives are really a perpetual source of new and exciting knowledge for me!!!!

Between 1398 and 1805, Piombino was an independent country, ruled by the Appiani dynasty who were made Princes in 1589. It was part of the Holy Roman Empire. So the Guadagni Archives have an accumulation of technical reports, letters, decrees and orders and representations of this disputed border territory, which for a while belonged to the Guadagni. ASFi, *Guadagni*, 120 (v.s. S/14) and 121 (v.s. S/15). The history of

Montepescali is recounted in the recent history book: *Montepescali: storia arte archeologia*, (*“Montepescali: history art archeology”*) by M. S. Fommei, Grosseto 1997. In the map below, Tuscany is called Kingdom of Etruria. It was the name Napoleon gave it. It was renamed Grand Duchy of Tuscany after his fall.

Before finishing to analyze the 18<sup>th</sup> century arrangement of the Guadagni Archives, it is necessary to examine the family accounting registers, which start in the 15<sup>th</sup> century. The series begins with accounting documents of 1481, concerning the patrimony of Simone Guadagni's (1411-1480) children, Tommaso (1454-1533) and Francesco (1464 - ?), ASFi, *Guadagni*, 341 (v.s. B/35).

In this rich sequence of administrative books, thanks also to the studies of art historians like Riccardo Spinelli, we were able to track down the diary of the construction of the Guadagni Palace of Nunziata. ASFi, *Guadagni*, 391 (v.s. B/132) “Giornale (“Diary”) 1636-1643” and 392 (v.s. B/133) “Debitori e Creditori”(“Debtors and Creditors”) 1636-1647.

The unprecedented and un hoped for discovery of the other two accounting registers related to the construction of the palace, i.e. the register of debtors and creditors and the one of the manufacturers provided wealth of information. ASFi, *Guadagni*, 393:”Libro della fabbrica (“Book of the Construction”) 1636-1642”.

In the Archives of the Santo Spirito Branch of the Family, descending from Donato Maria Guadagni (1641-1718) who bought the Palace in Santo Spirito Square in 1683, and from whom all the actual Guadagni descend, the documents backing up and making the inventory of the accounting registers are organized as the ones of the patrimony folders “*Instrumenti e scritture Guadagni* (“*Tools and records of the Guadagni*”)” mentioned above. The final arrangement of these folders was made in the years 1820-1824. During that period, Neri (1790-1862), son of Tommaso Guadagni, had been interdicted by his mother from “financial and business matters”. Pietro Pannilini was chosen as his tutor. In that period an inventory or rather a catalogue, was compiled, with the same characteristics as Casini's (alphabetical index of names, places and subjects).

If we look at the contents, we realize that these papers also include documents from common ancestors, often in copy, as the will of Ulivieri Guadagni (1452-1541), son of Simone, made in 1536, ASFi, *Guadagni*, 232, ins. 1. From an Archives point of view, the chronological order organized by the 19<sup>th</sup> century arrangement, cannot completely conceal the trace of a preexisting arrangement in which the contracts, for example, were classified by a series of elements (place name, date, internal number, alphabetical letter) , which were written in the shelf mark (for example: “Number 1 – Florence – 1618 –“; “.n. 18 – Masseto – 1629 – L).



Furthermore, in this series we find the documents concerning the only Guadagni who held important ecclesiastical offices, i.e. Bernardo (1674–1759), son of Donato Maria, and great uncle of ours as his brother, Neri Andrea, (who brought the body of Saint Faustina from Rome to Florence), was the great-grandfather of our great-grandfather Guadagno. Bernardo became a Discalced Carmelite under the name of Giovanni Antonio, became Bishop of Arezzo, then Cardinal Priest of San Martino a Monti in 1731, and died in 1759 considered a saint by many. He was born in Florence on September 14, 1674, got his doctorate in *utroque iure* on May 3<sup>rd</sup> 1696, already Florentine canon, he was nominated Bishop of the Diocese of Arezzo on December 20, 1724 (ASFi, *Guadagni*, 242 and 247). His ecclesiastical career in the high hierarchies was tied with being related to the Corsinis: his mother Maria Maddalena Corsini was Cardinal Lorenzo Corsini's sister. Lorenzo Corsini became Pope Clement XII. Cfr *Hierarchy catholica Medii et recentioris Aevi* (“*Catholic Hierarchy from the Middle Ages and more recent Ages*”), Padua 1952, vol. V, pages 97-98.)

Another series of documents assembled by this unknown 19<sup>th</sup> century archivist are the envelopes named “Scritture diverse” (“Various entries”) (13 files marked A-P). Among them, the envelopes marked B and C are related to the administration of the treasury of the Grand Duchess Vittoria della Rovere, kept by Neri Guadagni (1749-1784), son of Donato, including letters, bills, invoices for the expenses of a trip to Vienna, and shelf-mark registers. It is a case, rather frequent in the archives of the nobles, where we find “office documents”, connected with the running of public offices or with political and administrative charges held by members of the families (like rough drafts of important documents, memoirs, sometimes official correspondence).

We will conclude by a methodological observation: as we noticed above, the same “surname” does not only indicate the closely related family, but also the lineage, the dynasty, a group of families descending from the same ancestor. Thus we will point out that the Guadagni Archives described in this inventory are not the only custodian of the Guadagni documents. The Guadagni dell’Opera branch, whom we have already mentioned above and whose name derives from their palace built on the land bought from “L’Opera del Duomo” society, have their archives in the Torrigiani Family Archives. Alessandro Guadagni (1545-1625), son of Filippo, built the Guadagni dell’Opera Palace. Filippo (1504-1556) was the brother of Iacopo (1497-1569) from whom all the actual Guadagni descend and whose archives we have just analyzed, both are children of Olivieri Guadagni (1452-1541). The last member of the Guadagni dell’Opera branch, Pietro Guadagni (1773-1848), inherited the large fortune of his maternal uncle, Cardinal Luigi Torrigiani, with the obligation of adopting the Cardinal’s family name and coat of arms, cfr. L. BORGIA, *I Torrigiani. L’Archivio, la famiglia*, in *Archivi dell’aristocrazia fiorentina. Mostra di documenti privati restaurati a cura della Sovrintendenza Archivistica per la Toscana fra il 1977 e il 1989*, catalogo della mostra (Firenze, Biblioteca Medicea Laurenziana, 19 ottobre- 9 dicembre 1989), (“*The Torrigiani. The Archives, the family*, in *Archives of the Florentine aristocracy. Exhibit of private and restored documents, by the Tuscan Archives Superintendence between 1977 and 1989*, catalogue of the show (Florence, Medici Laurenziana Library, October 19 – December 9, 1989”) pages 197-203, in particular pages 198-200.

We are also going to mention the Guadagni who moved to France in the second half of the 15<sup>th</sup> century, exiled as anti Medici, and settled there. They assembled such a large fortune that when they wanted to indicate a person who was very wealthy, the French would say “*riche comme Gadagne*” (“*As rich as a Guadagni*”) PASSERINI, *Genealogia e Storia...* (“*Genealogy and History...*”) mentioned above, pages 73-91. Tommaso Guadagni (1495-1550) of Ulivieri, brother of abovementioned Iacopo (Guadagni of Nunziata and Santo Spirito) and Filippo (Guadagni dell’Opera, then Torrigiani), started the French Gadagne d’Hostun. We find them in Avignon and then in Lyon until the half of the 17<sup>th</sup> century. At the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century a French genealogist, Hippolyte de CHARPIN-FEUGEROLLES, direct descendant of Thomas II de Gadagne (1495-1544), studied the history of the Guadagni in France, in his book on the Florentines in Lyon, “*Les Florentins a’ Lyon*”, Lyon, 1894.

The French Guadagni did not lose connection with their Florentine relatives and origins: in the Guadagni Archives we can find letters attesting their relationships and common financial interests. ASFi, *Guadagni*, 36 (v.s. E/1), ins. 25: “*Lettere scritte da’ Signori Guadagni di Francia al Signor Marchese Pierantonio (di Tommaso) Guadagni di Firenze, molte delle quali tradotte sono in nostra lingua. 1688-1691*” (“*Letters written by the French Guadagni to the Marquis (of Montepescali) Pierantonio Guadagni, son of Tommaso, several of which have been translated in Italian. 1688-1691*”). These letters, coming from Lyon, were written by Count of Villeneuve and Baron of Aureuil, and in reality they last until 1694.

The most famous of the French Guadagni, who held important political and military positions, was Guglielmo Guadagne (“*Guillaume de Gadagne*”). His astounding military career took place under four French Kings (Henry II, Charles IX, Henry III and Henry IV): a copy of the research of the proof of his nobility, for the nomination of Knight of the Order of the French Crown of the Holy Spirit, which took place in Florence in 1595, is still kept in the Guadagni Florentine Archives; a long list of Florentine nobles attest the ancient lineage of the Guadagni Family, the holding of the most important political positions in the Florentine Republic by Guglielmo’s ancestors, and their long uninterrupted “*noble way of living*”. These include Baccio Valori son of Filippo, Knight Ricasoli son of Pandolfo, Knight of the Militia of San Jacopo della Spada (“*Saint James of the Sword*”) Senator Averardo de’Medici son of Raffaello, Apostolic Protonotary and Vicar of Cardinal Alessandro de’Medici Antonio Benivieni son of Lorenzo and Baccio Aldobrandini son of Giovanni., ASFi 39 (v.s. E/4) and 45 (v.s. E/9).

We conclude by highlighting how the Guadagni Archives conserve a heritage of useful information for multiple studies and research in regard to the most various areas of interest, mostly for the long historical period going from the 16<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The Nobility Archives recount the history of the families who wrote and assembled these documents and of their patrimony. We believe that if they are conserved in adequate institutions, with modern research tools available, their value will be appreciated to the outmost by everybody.