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GUADAGNI

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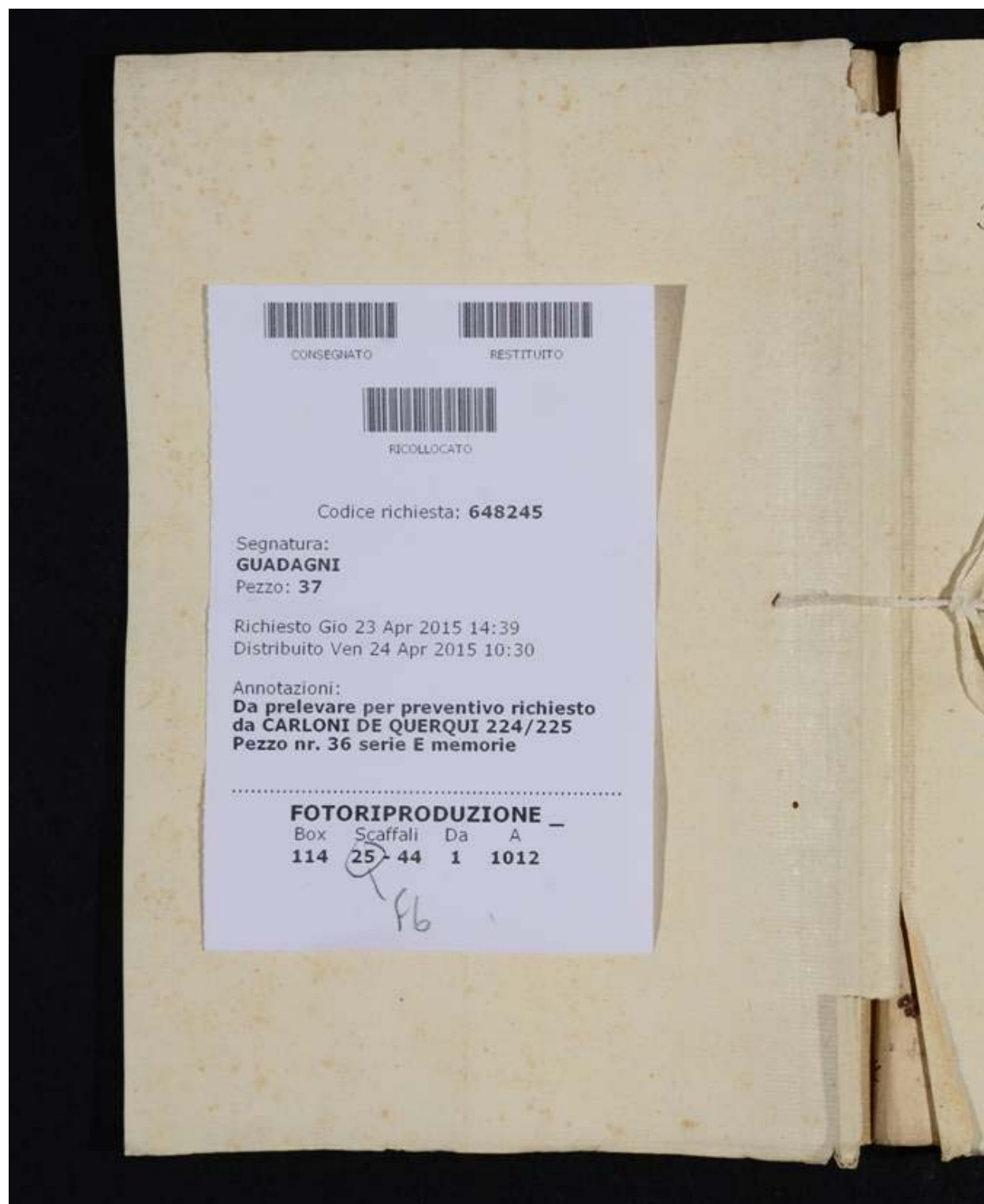
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Piece #.36 series E memoirs

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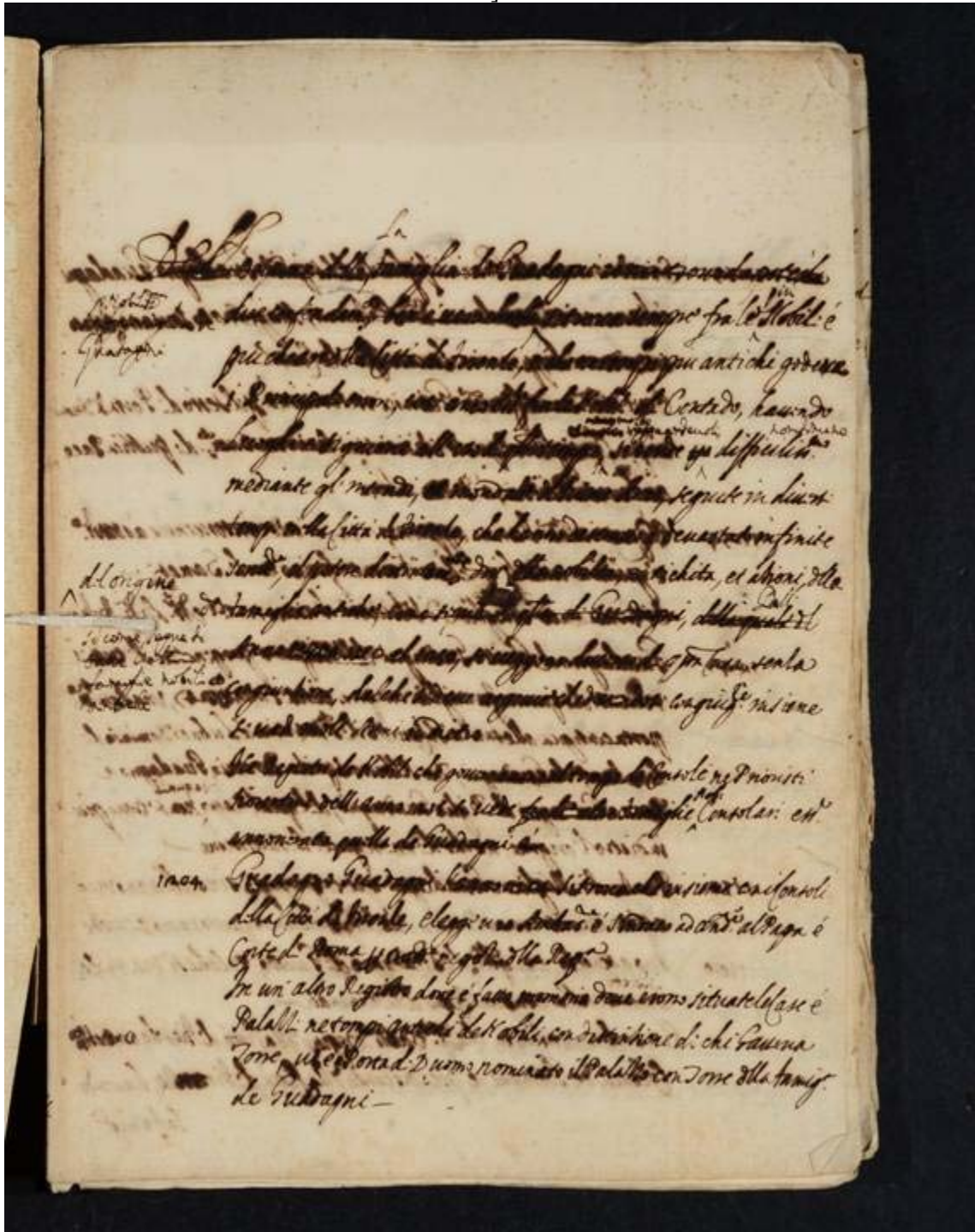
E 2. N. 4.

*Memorie della Famiglia Guadagnà descritte dal Sig.
Francesco Rondinelli al Sig. Tommaso Guadagni dall'an-
no 1150. al 1639.*

E 2. N. 4.

**Memoirs of the Guadagni Family from the year 1150 to the year 1639,
described by Mr. Francesco Rondinelli to Mr. Tommaso Guadagni.**

[The pages of this 17th century document are not numbered. We will add a number to each page to make it easier to locate them in the document.]



About the origin of the Guadagni Family we can say that they were among the noblest and most famous of the City of Florence and the most ancient to enjoy the most important offices of the whole County, leaving powerful marks of their presence, having localities and dominions and adding many others to them, sometimes according to very difficult operations, during different times, in the City of Florence, showing infinite capacities and actions.

From what follows, we can see that the members of the Guadagni Family married members of the noblest and most important Florentine families.

In the Registers of the Nobles who governed the City of Florence, the Guadagni are listed as Consuls and Priors since the year 1204 and they are one the great Consular Families.

1204 Guadagno Guadagni is listed among the consuls of the City of Florence, and he elects an Ambassador to go to the Pope at the Court of Rome regarding political negotiations. He is mentioned in another Register where they list ancient Houses and Palaces of the Nobles who govern Florence and the “Palace with Tower of the Guadagni Family” is mentioned next to the “Door of the Duomo”.



Middle-Age palace with tower, Florence

[illegible]

1253 We can see also that Gianni, son of the above mentioned Guadagno Guadagni, in the year 1253, is mentioned as one of the twelve “Elders”, he became a magistrate and was elected a Consul, and he built the roof of Porta del Duomo (“Door of the Dome”) and created institutions of “Public peace” versus the Cities of Lucca and Prato and the representatives of the City of Pistoia.

1254 In the year 1254, we see him intervene by helping and guiding also the people that fought against Siena.

1223 Panza and Migliore, sons of Ulivieri were “Elders” in the year 1221.

1243 Guadagno son of Guitto Guadagni, ancestor of all this family (unknown to Passerini), buys ca. in the year 1124 (or 1247?, unclear), next to the door of the walls of the Castle of San Martino a Lubaco, a dominion of the Guadagni Family from Alberto, father of Braccio Guadagni and Panza Guadagni, sons of Giglio Guadagni, from whom we cannot go further backward in their origin, to find the ancestors of these.



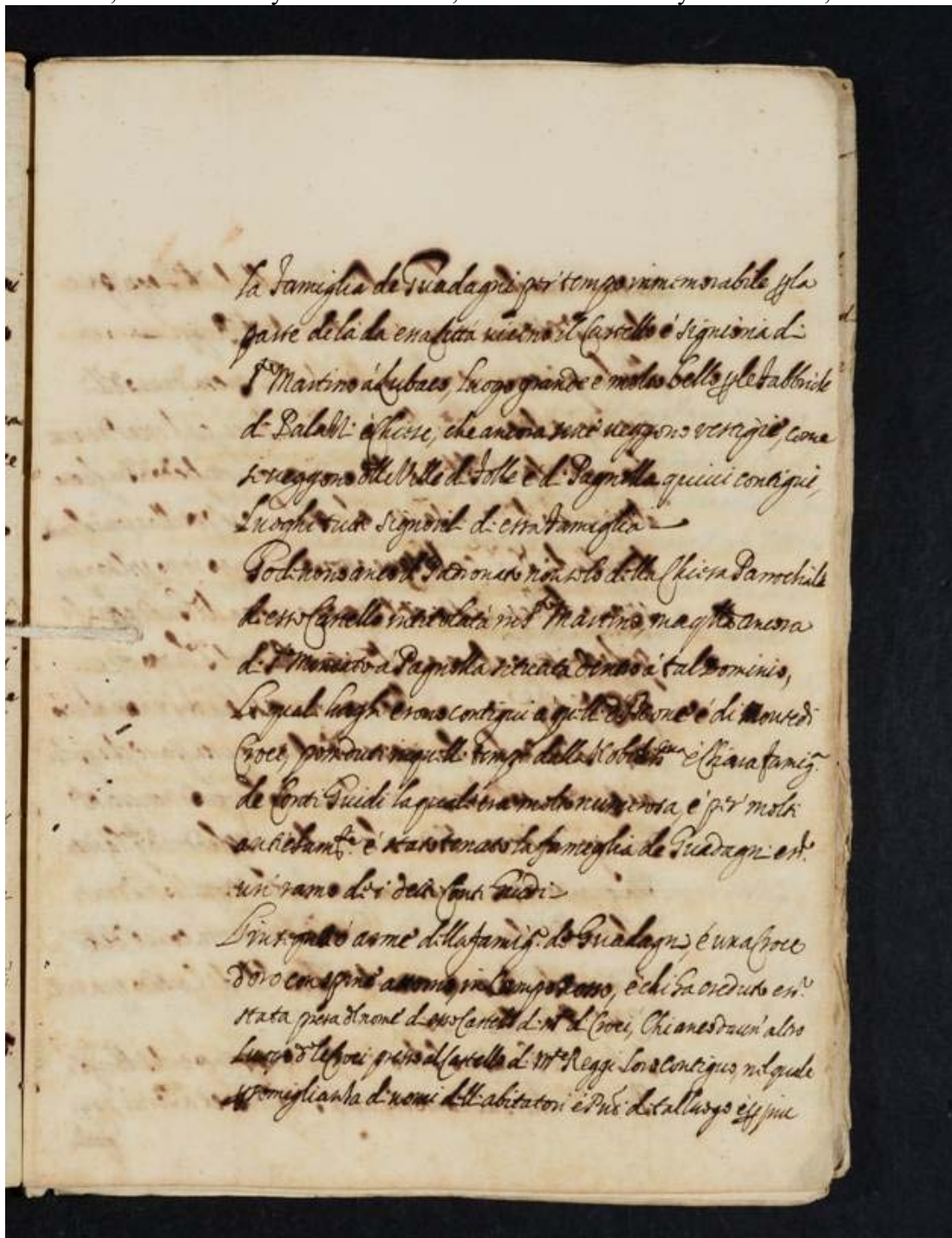
The actual very ancient “Pieve” (“Church”) of San Martino a Lubaco, near Masseto; ruins of important early Middle Age fortifications were recently discovered by archheologists close to the Pieve. They probably belonged to the Castle of San Martino a Lubaco, first fortified dominion of the Guadagni Family, according to this inedit 17th century history of the Guadagni by Mr. Francesco Rondinelli [The Rondinelli are an ancient Florentine Family, Rondinelli Street is next to Tornabuoni Street, the most elegant street of Florence].

1150

Panda son of Migliore Guadagni continues his branch until the year 1300, but as we will say further on, not even this branch can we find attached to the one of Guadagno son of Guitto, or maybe in a very indirect way to relatives of the above.

1100

However it is believed that the Guadagni Family have their origins in the City of Fiesole, ancient colony of the Romans, and close to the City of Florence,



as from immemorial times the Guadagni Family belong to that city (Fiesole), near the Castle is the Lordship of San Martino a Lubaco, in a large and extremely beautiful locality, containing several palaces and churches, of which even nowadays (17th century) we can find remains as we see in the villas of Folle and Pagnolle, gentlemanly residences of the Guadagni Family.



Pagnolle, Fiesole

In San Donato, they have not only the Parish Church, which takes its name of San Martino from their castle, but also San Miniato a Pagnolle, close to their Dominion; these places are nearby Monte di Croci (Mountain of the Crosses), whose owners in those times were the very noble and famous Family of the Counts Guidi, who were very numerous and for several ancient times it was believed that the Guadagni Family was a branch of the Guidi Counts.

The Family Crest of the Guadagni is a golden cross with thorns, on a red background, and it is believed by some that it originates from the name of the Castle of “Monte di Croci”, others from another locality named “delle Croci” (“of the Crosses”), near the close Castle of Monterecci, in which the similarity of the names and several ancient contracts between the Guadagni and the people of Monterecci, make us believe that the Guadagni were also lords of Monterecci.

[illegible]

However the most common opinion, which was adopted by one of the Guadagni ancestors, was that in the year ca 1100, as the Guadagni were among the several other Italian Nobles who went with Goffredo di Buglione (Italian translation of Godfrey of Bouillon) to conquer the Holy Land (Palestine) from the Moslems (First Crusade), they chose a symbol similar to the ones of the other knights around them, i.e. the Cross of Our Lord with the thorns around it, with the red background for the Blood of Jesus Christ. Even the “Last Name” of the Guadagni (which means “Gains” or “Earnings” in English) comes from the verb “Guadagnare” (to “gain” or “regain” for Christendom the “Holy Place” where Jesus died).

However I don’t intend to add in this first part of my work, says Francesco Rondinelli, any other information than the one I received, without intention of enlarging it unnecessarily.



Knights of the First Crusade (1096-1099)

As the quality and the splendor of the Guadagni Lineage are plentiful by themselves, I don’t need to add what might belong to other families. The Guadagni Family was always among the first not only of the County but also of the City of Florence.

They build their houses out of the suburb of Porta Balla sul Canto, which goes to Via de’ Servi (“Servi Street”), where today (17th century) there is the great and famous Hospital of Porta Nuova (“New Door”) and on the other side there is the Basilica of Santissima Annunziata with the Convent of the Servite Fathers, with whom the Guadagni Family had several strong contacts from the year 1200 to the year 1320 or 1380, during which period the Family lost the above Palace to the friars, because of hereditary successions.



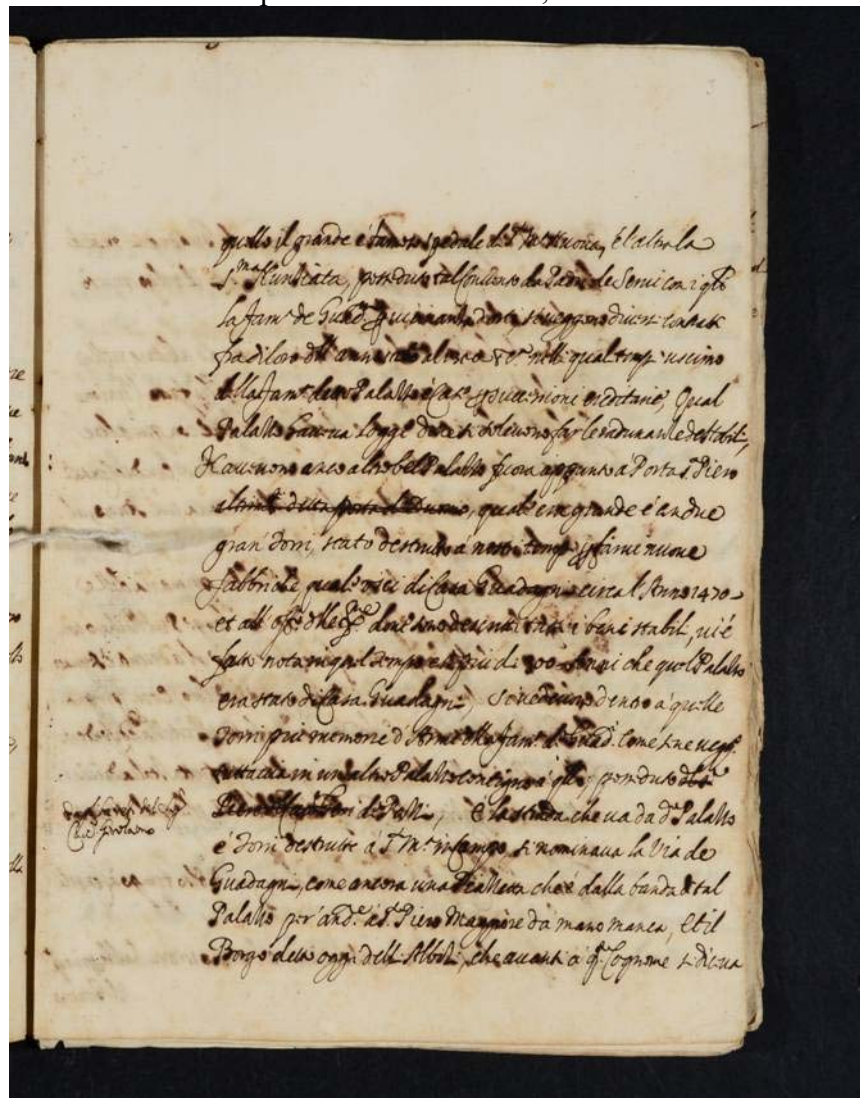
Porta della Balla (“Door of the Balla”), or Porta Bella (“Beautiful Door”) of the Duomo of Florence



Via de' Servi (“Servi Street or Street of the Servants”), Florence, starting from the Duomo.



Hospital of the New Door, Florence



For the Gallina Palace, laws and decrees regulated the nature of the buildings. The road from outside the city arrived to Porta S. Piero (S. Piero's Door), which was large and had two big towers and was destroyed in our times to make new buildings like the Guadagni houses in the year ca. 1470, and in the offices, among the registers of all the buildings, they noticed that for over 200 years the above palace was owned by the Guadagni Family and you can see in those towers more historical artifacts and family crests of the Guadagni Family. You can also see some of them in another neighboring palace, owned by the Pazzi, and the street going from the Palace with the destroyed towers, to the Church of Santa Maria in Campo was named "Guadagni Street", like also a small square going from the side of the above palace to the left of the Church of San Piero Maggiore and the "Borgo" (ancient name for "street") nowadays known as "degli



Church of Santa Maria in Campo, Florence

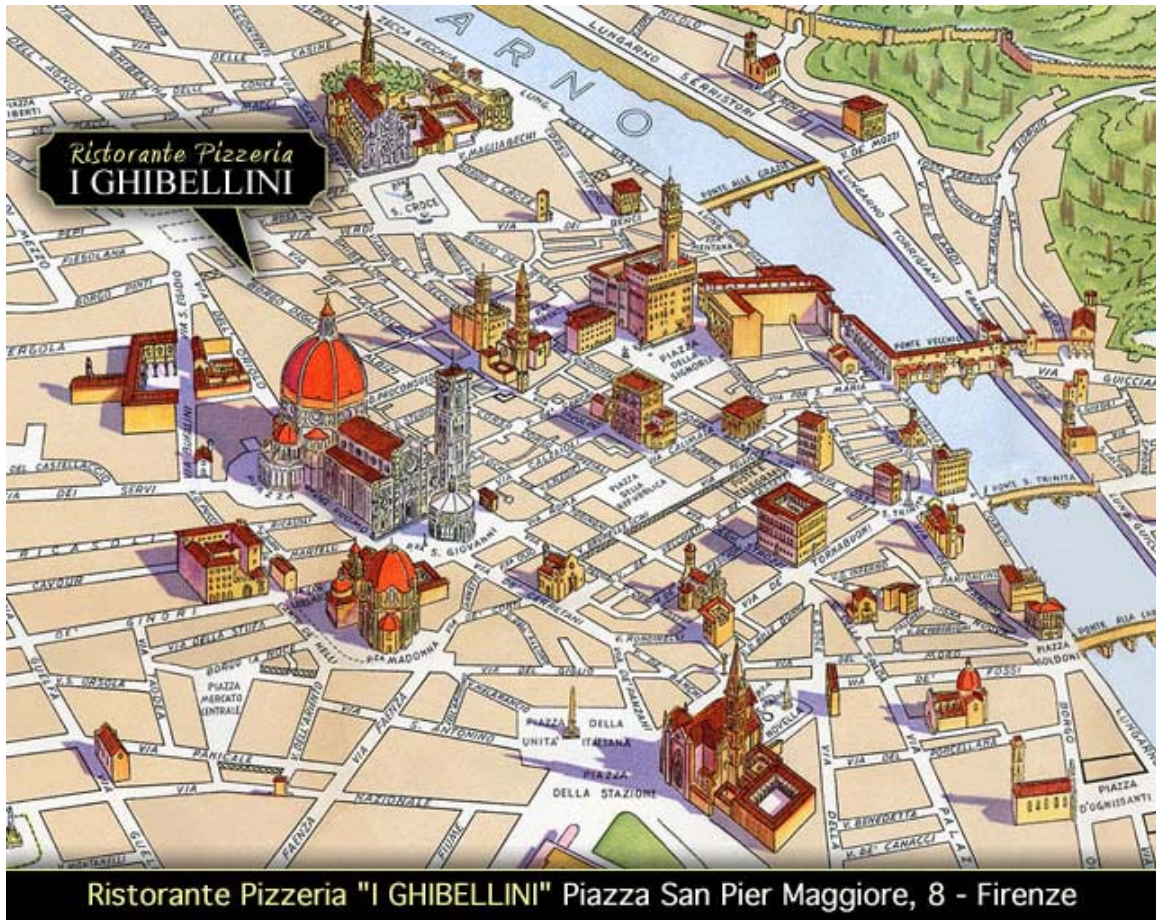
Albizzi" (the Family who helped Bernardo Guadagni arrest and put in jail Cosimo de' Medici), used to be named "Borgo of San Piero", and before then "Borgo of the Guadagni", but while Guadagni Street kept its name, the above borgo changed in "Borgo San Piero".



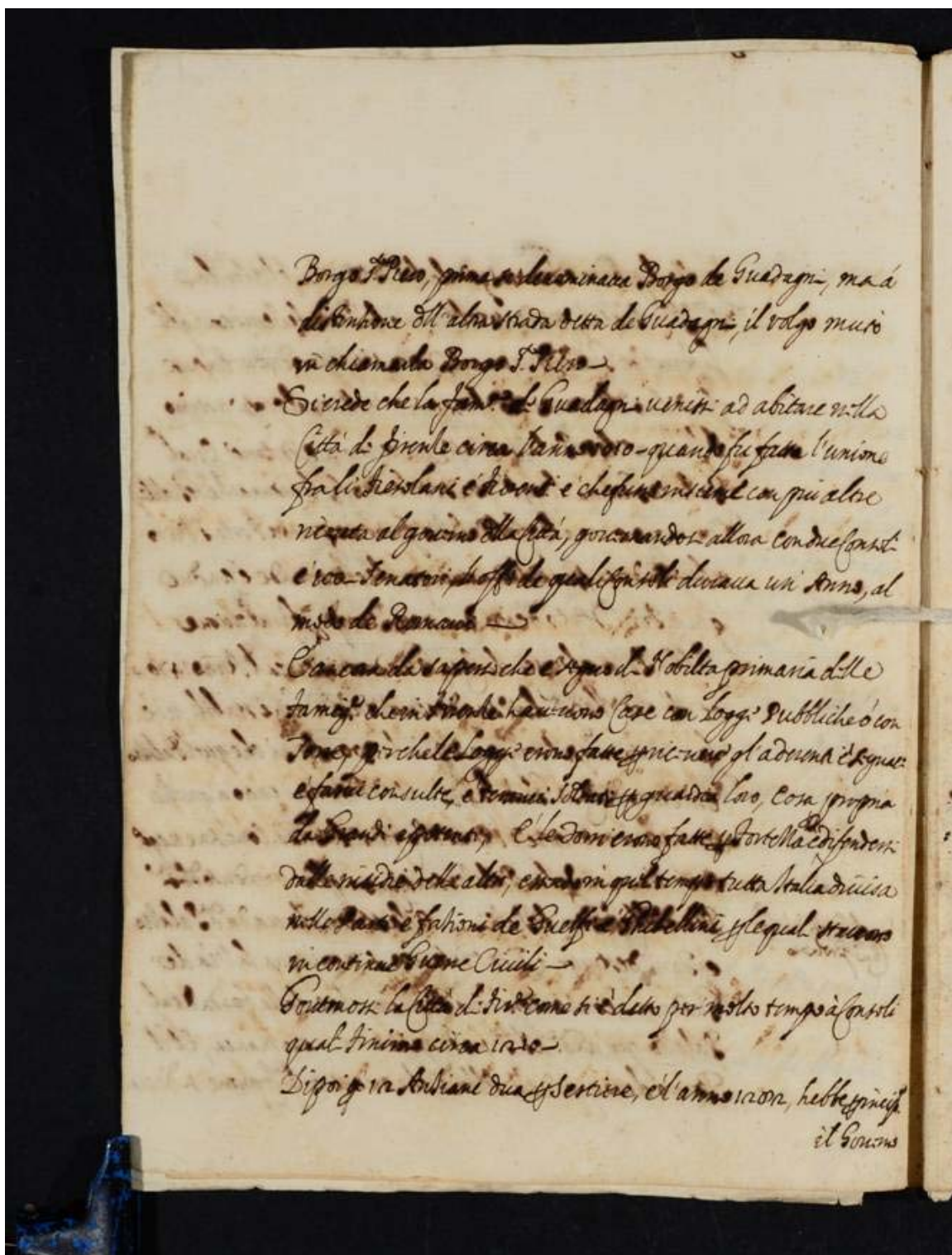
Borgo degli Albizzi, Florence, aka Borgo of the Guadagni



Borgo degli Albizzi, Florence, aka Borgo of the Guadagni, by night.



In the above map of the center of Florence, the black arrow of the location of the Restaurant-Pizzeria “I Ghibellini” (“The Ghibellines”) indicates the Square of San Pier Maggiore and “Borgo degli Albizzi” (“Albizzi Street”) which as Rondinelli wrote above used to be named “Guadagni Street”. So the Medieval Guadagni Street was a few blocks from the Duomo and from the location of the future Guadagni dell’Opera Palace. We can also see that at the beginning of Borgo degli Albizzi (aka Borgo dei Guadagni) where the black arrow points, a little on the left there is “Borgo Pinti” close to where the “Nunziata” Guadagni Palace will be built a few centuries later.



It is believed that the Guadagni Family came to live in the City of Florence around the year 1010, when there was the union between the "Fiesolani" (inhabitants of Fiesole) and the

“Florentines” and that this happened together with several other participations of the Guadagni in the Government of the City (of Florence).

Historical parenthesis on the remote origins of the Guadagni Family, by translator FCQ based on Historians Rondinelli and Passerini’s informations on the origins of the Guadagni.

We (Historian Francesco Rondinelli) believe the Guadagni Family came and lived in the City of Florence around the year 1010 when the cities of Fiesole and Florence united and they formed the Government of Florence, together with several other families.

1100 *However it is believed that the Guadagni Family have their origins in the City of Fiesole, ancient colony of the Romans, and close to the City of Florence, as from immemorial times the Guadagni Family belong to that city (Fiesole),*

Also Historian Passerini in “History of the Guadagni Family” states:”Some historians say the Guadagni originated from Fiesole and came to Florence when the latter conquered the former at the beginning of the 12th century. The oldest information on the Guadagni family state that they lived in the Parish of San Martino a Lubaco, in the diocese of Fiesole. The church was located in a place called Croce alla Spina (Cross near the thorns) and from it came the Guadagni crest: a cross full of thorns [both traditions, the 1st Crusade and the Church of San Martino a Lubaco are true and complement each other]. Some people say that the Guadagni were “Lords of the towns of San Martino and Pagnolle, both in the diocese of Fiesole”, i.e. they were already nobles in Fiesole.

[Note of FCQ, the translator. The fact that the Guadagni were an important family of Fiesole, several centuries more ancient than Florence, (the two cities are only a few miles apart, Florence is in the valley of the Arno River, Fiesole is located on the slopes of the nearest hill, at a brief walking distance from Florence) according to what historians Rondinelli and Passerini state in the sentences above, [and that would explain why Masseto, Le Fonti, Villa of the Lune and most of the Guadagni properties, with the exception of Montepescali in Maremma, bought by our great-uncle Pierantonio Guadagni 3 centuries ago and the Marquisate of San Leolino, given by the Grand-dukes of Tuscany to the Guadagni ca 4 centuries ago, are located near Fiesole and not near Florence,] before becoming also one of the main families of Florence and the most important family of Lyon, makes me want to study briefly the history of Fiesole, where our Guadagni ancestors lived, fought, enriched themselves, married and had children, before the union of Fiesole with Florence around the year 1010.

[The area of the City of Fiesole has been inhabited from at least as early as the Bronze Age (around 2000 B.C.). This means that the history of the Guadagni Family does not start in the year 1080, which Passerini rightly calls the first proven date of their family history, but 3000 years earlier, i.e. around 2000 B.C. The Guadagni were probably already noble and famous before Florence was even founded. As far as I know we don’t have any information on our Guadagni ancestors before the year 1000, but at least we know they existed in Fiesole and were important in the Government of that city. I don’t know if I will find anything earlier than the First Crusade or if anybody else will. A brief history of Fiesole follows:

“Traces of later settlements have been found through the successive Iron Age, when the Etruscan civilization reached its height (roughly from the 8th – 4th centuries B.C.). The Etruscans (This is a people and civilization of ancient Italy, mostly in Tuscany, among whom the Guadagni Family started and grew, 4000 years ago), who spoke a different language from the Italic and Latin populations in the Italian peninsula, were strongly integrated with Greek culture, this is probably why Pierantonio liked to study Greek, the language of his early ancestors, organized their territory into city-states and developed a rich and complex economy. Thus Fiesole, origin of the Guadagni Family who probably participated in its growth and fought in its army, first grew up around the sites of the earliest hilltop settlements. The town itself, marked by an imposing defensive wall that runs for more than 7,500 feet around the two hills, dates from the Hellenistic period (late 4th early 3rd century B.C.). Fiesole’s geographic position made the town strategic for the traffic travelling along all the main roads between southern and central Etruria to the South (covering large parts of presentday Tuscany, Umbria and Latium) and the Etruscans in the area of the Po valley (Lombardy and Northern Italy)].



Hill of Fiesole (above and below)





Roman theatre of Fiesole (built 2000 years ago); it is still used. Our Guadagni ancestors probably sat on these stone seats with their families 2000 years ago.



Arches near the Roman theatre



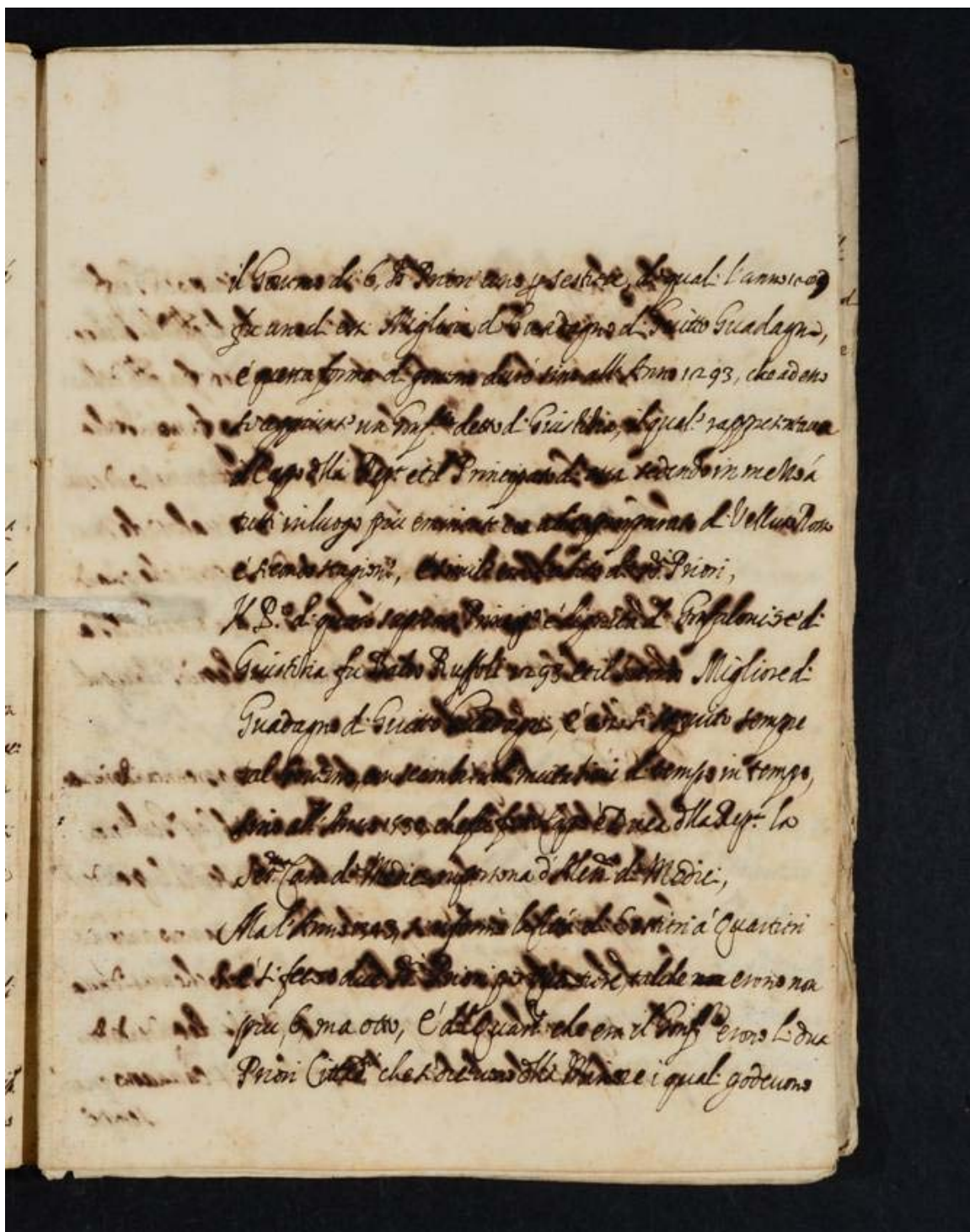
Etruscan tomb painting of dancers.

Let's go back to Rondinelli: The Government of the City of Florence, united with the City of Fiesole was made of two Consuls and 200 Senators; the Consuls were in charge for one year, like in the time of the Romans.

We also know that the members of the Nobility had Houses with Public "Loggias" (Covered porches and terraces) and Tower, and that the Loggias were made so that the members could meet and discuss problems, and keep their own personal private guards to protect themselves, as noble and powerful families did, and the towers were built to defend themselves from the ambushes of the others, as in those times, all of Italy was divided in parties and factions of Guelphs and Ghibellines, who were in continuous civil wars against each other.

As it was said for a long time, the City of Florence was governed by Consuls until the year 1210.

After that, around the year 1212, started the Government of 6 Priors, each one for a session; in the year 1219, Migliore Guadagni, son of Guadagno son of Guitto, was one of them.



This form of Government lasted until the year 1293, when a Gonfalonier of Justice was added to the Government. He represented the Head of the Republic and the Sovereignty of it. He was always sitting in the most important seat of the meeting, with the coat of red velvet, according to the seasons of the year, similar to the costumes of the Priors.

On September the 1st of 1293, the Gonfalonier of Justice was Balzo Ruffoli, the second Gonfalonier of Justice was Migliore Guadagni, son of Guadagno, son of Guitto. The following years there was a regular changing of Gonfaloniers until 1530 when the Medici Family took over and became the Dukes of the Republic with Alessandro de' Medici, who was the first ruler.



Alessandro de' Medici (1510-1537) called “the Moor”, the first Duke of Florence, was the son of Lorenzo II de' Medici, grandson of Lorenzo the Magnificent and of a servant of African descent. Some historians say he [might have been](#) the illegitimate son of Medici Pope Clement VII.

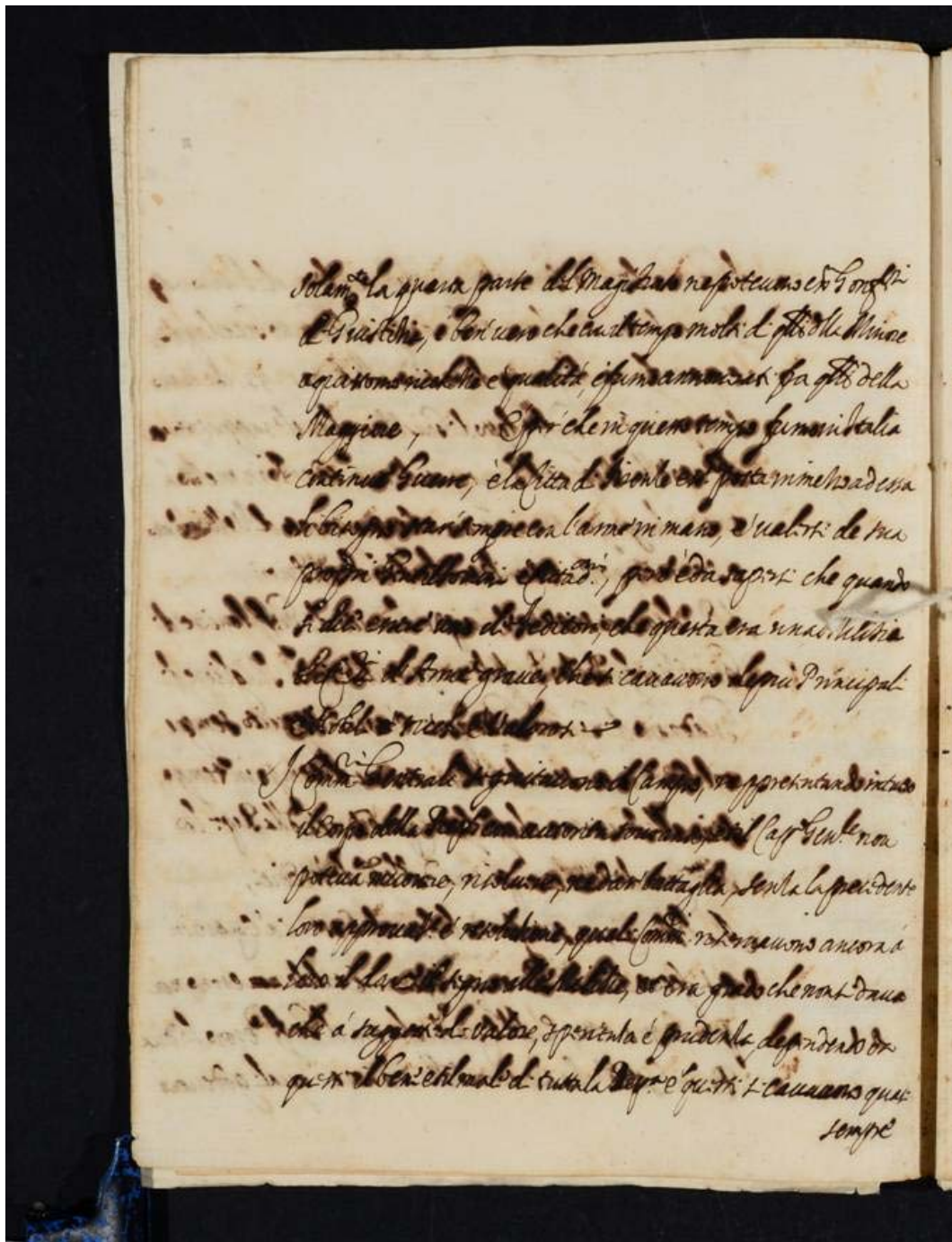
But in the year 1343, the City was enlarged from Sestini to Quartini and they added two more Priors, so the Priors were eight instead of six, and of these, the Gonfalonier was replaced by the two Priors of the City, whoand enjoyed only the fourth part of the Magistrature and they could not be Gonfaloniers and Judges, and as time went by several of those of minor capacity and quality were killed by those of Major ones, also because during that period there were continuous wars in Italy and the City of Florence was put in the middle of it.



Florentine Medieval Priors by artist Piero son of Cosimo.

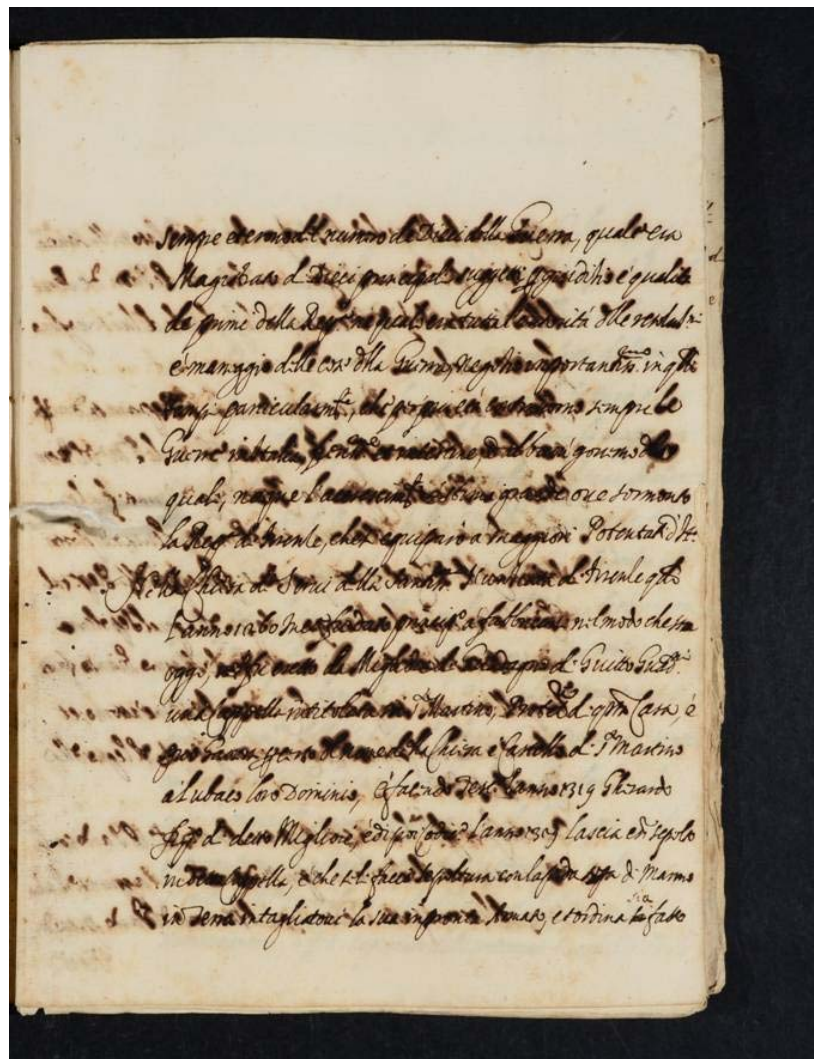


Florence during the Renaissance: Fiesole is on the hill on the left; you can see Palazzo Guadagni dell'Opera just behind the Duomo on the right, Borgo degli Albizzi, aka Guadagni Street, runs from top to bottom between the Duomo and Palazzo Vecchio, Palazzo Guadagni d'Hoogvorst is located on the Lungarno between the two bridges on the left. Florence is still completely surrounded and protected by its powerful walls and towers [Guadagni dell'Opera Palace was being built and Palazzo Guadagni d'Hoogvorst was **not** owned by **them yet**].

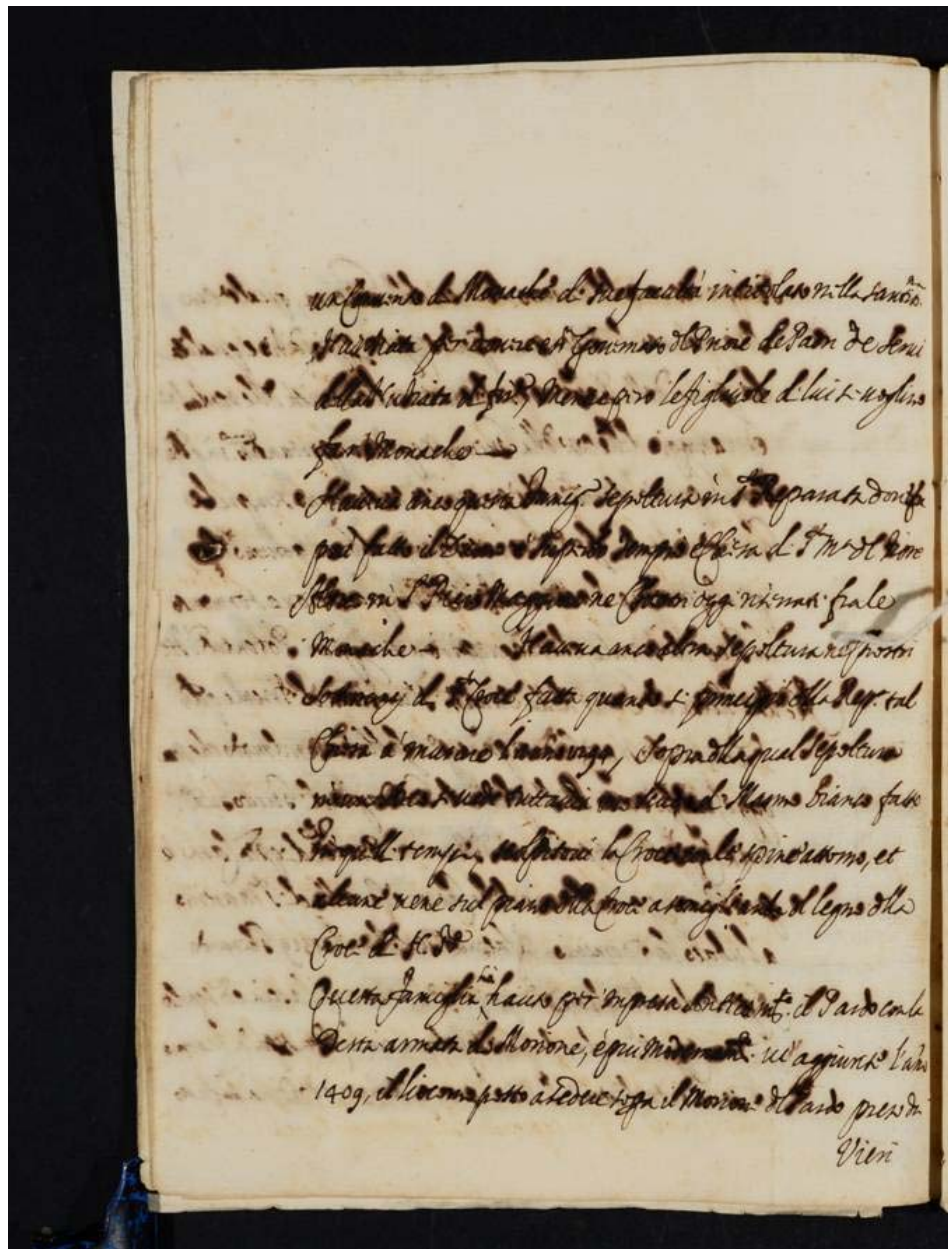


You used to live “with a weapon in your hand” and you had to guard yourself from your own Government members and fellow citizens, and when you say somebody is your debtor, this would cause you countless hassles, in which mostly would fall the most important and brave Nobles.

The Central Commanders guided the field, representing the Body of the Republic in all harmony, the General Captain could not move, including fighting a battle, if the President did not give him soldiers, and these Commanders did not move until their chief gave them the signal, and this supreme command was not given to the one with the most valor, wisdom and prudence, even though the good and the bad of all the city depended on him, and so always greater messes are caused by the Ten of the War, when the Magistrate of the Ten Main Citizens judged and qualified the first of the Republic as he has done all his life long in handling the things of the War and very important agreements, mostly in those times, from which the Italian wars have always started, caused by outbursts and antagonisms, from which one is blinded in the decisions of the important moments.



The Republic of Florence was one of the most powerful states of Italy.....[hard to read] In the year 1260, Migliore Guadagni, son of Guadagno son of Guitto, built a Chapel dedicated to San Martino ("St. Martin"), protector of the Guadagni Family, attached and annexed to the Church and Castle of San Martino a Lubaco, their dominion, and in the year 1319, Gherardo Guadagni, son of the abovementioned Migliore, writes his will, and then in the year 1329 is buried in the abovementioned Chapel of San Martino, and he wants to be buried with a marble sculpted statue with his footprint carved in it and he orders to build a convent of nuns dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary with the obligation of the Father Prior to accept Gherardo's daughters in it in the case they wanted to be Nuns.



4 pictures of ancient Guadagni Church, Palaces and Street



Church of San Martino a Lubaco, Fiesole



Old Guadagni Palace with the two towers on the left of the above picture, now called "Palazzo degli Albizzi", next to San Piero's door of Florence.



Old “Guadagni Street” on the left of the Church of San Pier Maggiore, Florence.



Old Palazzo Guadagni, now called Palazzo de' Pazzi, at the corner of Borgo degli Albizzi (used to be called Borgo Guadagni), two blocks from Palazzo Guadagni dell'Opera and the Duomo of Florence.



The Church of San Pier Maggiore in the 18th Century before it was demolished by the Grand-Dukes of Tuscany because it was unstable. Guadagni Street is on the left of the Church.



What is left of the facade of the Church of San Pier Maggiore now, originally built between the years 1000 and 1300, after the Grand-Dukes demolished it in 1783, because it had become unstable. The Arch is the only remains of it. Houses and stores have been built in the remains of the church, which is now deconsecrated.

They say that the tomb of Gherardo Guadagni was dug where later on they built the Duomo aka Church of Santa Maria del Fiore (St. Mary of the Flower), Cathedral of Florence, not in San Pier Maggiore or outside the walls where the nuns are. The magistrates of the City of Florence made another tomb for Gherardo under the Cathedral and walled up its entrance. On this new tomb Gherardo Guadagni is sculpted wearing his armor and on his shield in white marble they sculpted the “Cross with thorns” (Crest of the Guadagni Family) on it and some traces sculpted on the marble Cross make it look like the wooden Cross of Jesus Christ.



Dome of the Cathedral of Florence, under which Gherardo Guadagni is buried, wearing his sculpted white marble armor with the Guadagni Crest on his shield. Immediately on the right of the Dome, behind it, you see the Guadagni dell'Opera Palace.

The Guadagni family has a Family Crest of the “Leopard” with a helmet, holding with his paw the shield with the crest of the Cross with Thorns, adding in the year 1409 a “Unicorn”

sitting on the helmet of the Leopard, by Vieri Guadagni son of Vieri (our direct ancestors), when he was Commander in Chief on the battlefield together with Knight Salviati, in the name of the Republic of Florence against King Ladislaus of Naples. In 1409, the Florentine Army, led by Vieri Guadagni, defeated the army of King Ladislaus of Naples, titular King of Jerusalem and Sicily, titular King of Hungary and Croatia, titular Count of Provence and Forcalquier, the most powerful ruler in Italy.

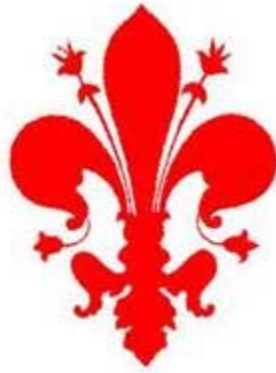


King Ladislaus of Naples (1386-1414)



Crowning of King Ladislaus of Naples

With his victory, Vieri recuperated many provinces King Ladislaus had taken from the Pope and gave them back to the Pope, and he entered the City of Rome triumphantly with the insignia of Florence (Florentine Fleurdelys).



Florentine Fleurdelys



Pope Gregory XII (1406-1415)



Louis II of Anjou, French King of Naples and Sicily (1377-1417)



Florentine soldiers (on the left) fight with the Florentine Red Fleurdelys on their shields.



In this painting of St. George and the Dragon, Artist Raphael dresses St George in the costume of a 15th Century Florentine Knight. We can imagine it is our ancestor Vieri Guadagni attacking and defeating the army of Ladislaus, King of Naples.

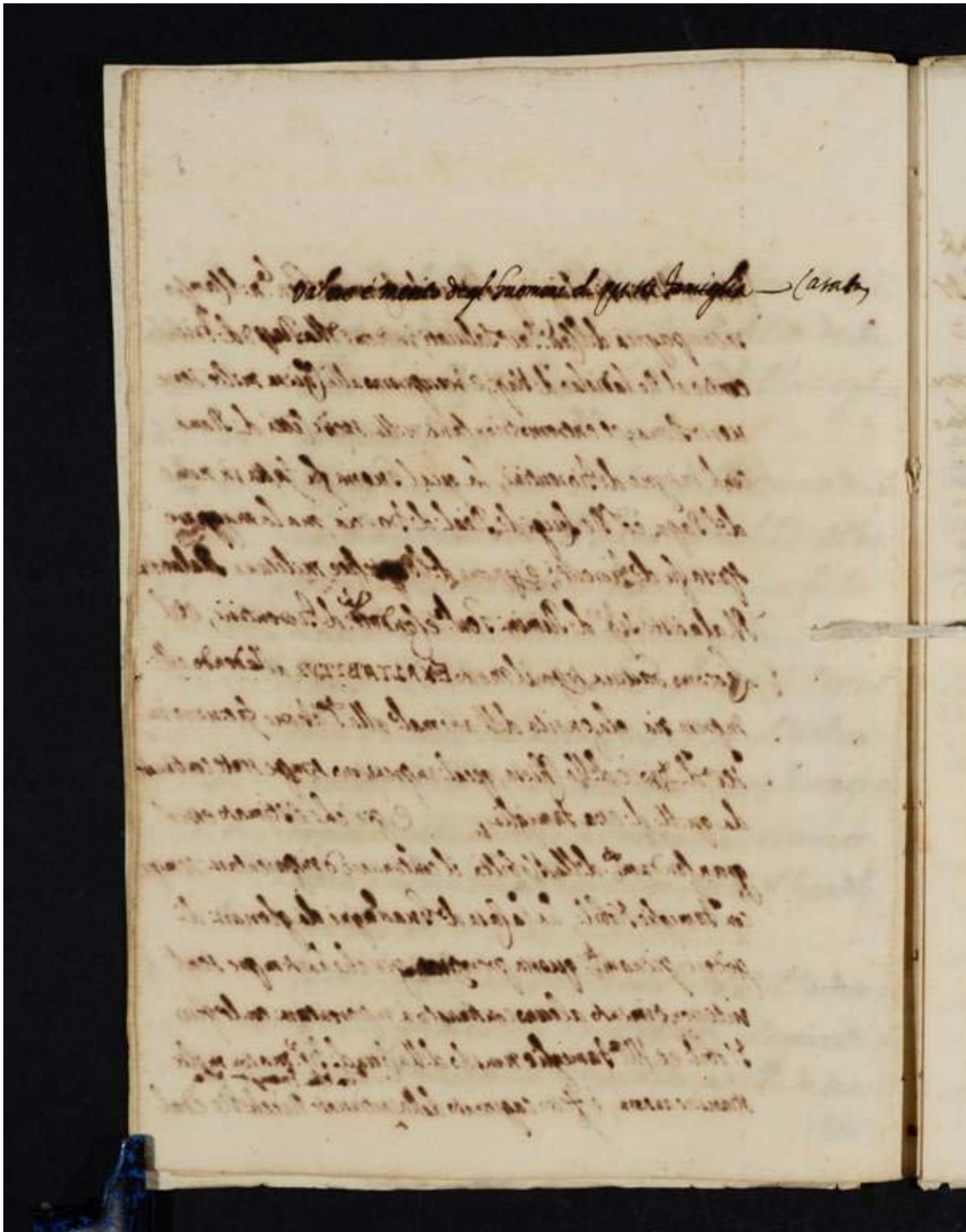
Piero di Vico Guadagni giunse a Roma con Ben. n. Malaspina
 in compagnia del Card. Jac. Salutati in nome del Papa & del Re di
 Francia al Re Ladislao di Napoli, e occuparono alla Chiesa molte terre
 verso Roma, et entrò in trionfo nella stessa città di Roma
 con l'ingegno di Fioravanti, la qual impresa fu fatta in nome
 del Papa, col Re Luigi di Reale di Francia, ma la maggiore
 spesa fu di Fioravanti, e il nome di Papa fece militare Malatesta
 Malatesta sig. di Rimini. Per questo Fioravanti di Fioravanti, et il
 Cosimo Sansone per il motto EXALTABITUR alludendo all'
 impresa già, che ornata dell'animale alla t'azione facciano in
 ser. d. Dio, e della Chiesa, quel'impresa non fu mai continuata
 da quella di una famiglia, e per che è stimato empi-
 gran fondam. della nobiltà, il continuare d'imparentarsi sempre
 con famiglie nobili, la casa di Guadagni da gloriarsi di
 godere pienamte. questa prerogativa per che ha sempre sent-
 intimento pimento alcuni contrasti a imparentarsi con lo più
 nobili et ill. famiglie nobili della città di Firenze, ma con molte
 straniere anora, e per le ragioni della continuata ricchezza ed al

The war was made in the name of the Pope and of King Louis of France, but Florence sustained most of the expenses, and Malatesta Malatesti, Lord of Rimini was the general commander of the Florentines, and so Vieri added to the Guadagni Crest the Unicorn holding the "motto" EXALTABITUR " (God) will be exalted" on his horn, referring to his pious work of fighting for

God and for the Church, and as an engagement for the members of the Guadagni Family to continue doing the same in the future.



Because the continuous marrying with Noble Families is considered the great foundation of the Nobility, the Guadagni Family can be proud of fully enjoying this prerogative, because without any interruptions they have continued to marry with the noblest and most glorious families not only of the City of Florence but also with many foreign families [as Italy was divided in several different independent states in those times, foreign families could also mean families from Rome, Turin, Milano, Lucca, Bologna, Naples and so forth, not necessarily from France, England or Germany]



Page 12 (only one line is written at the top of the page)

as a consequence of the continuous wealth and value and merits of the members of this Guadagni Family (Dynasty).

THE END