

INTRODUCTION TO THE INVENTORY

The intervention of reorganizing and making an inventory of all the documents kept in the Guadagni Family Archives is the result of common interests between the Guadagni Family who owns them, represented in Italy by lawyer Simone Aiazzi, and the Archives Superintendence for Tuscany, represented by its director Paola Benigni. Following the sale of the building (Guadagni villa of Masseto) where the archives were kept, and to facilitate the reorganization of them, the Archives have been entirely deposited in the State Archives of Florence in September 2005. They can already be consulted there.

Before the transfer, files, folders and registers have been summarily numbered and listed, so as to be able to reallocate them on the shelves in the same order they had in the Guadagni Masseto villa of Pontassieve (Florence). When Ottavia Guadagni (1817-1876), daughter of Neri and last descendant of the eldest branch of the Guadagni, died, her husband's family, the Dufour Berte, inherited the Guadagni Archives. In 1938, Guitto Guadagni, great-grandson of Luigi Guadagni, second-born of Donato (1719-1782), and now head of the Guadagni Family, bought the Archives from his cousins Dufour Berte and put them in Masseto.

As we notice from the temporary numbering of the documents, i.e. the ones they were given when they were transferred to the Archivio di Stato ("State Archives") and located in square parenthesis "[...]", next to the final numbering, in the inventory, the Archives had been positioned on the shelves according to their numbering in the 18th and 19th centuries reorganizations. The result was that the first series of files were ordered in a logical way, but the numerous series of registers were assembled in a messy and disorderly fashion, in a casual way, according to the width and height of the available shelves.

During the phase of cataloguing the documents (September 2006-June 2007), we used the two ancient repertories describing the files assembled in collections during the original constitution of the archives. In 1769, Francesco Casini, canon of Santa Maria del Soccorso ("Our Lady of help") Church in Prato, started the first repertory, commissioned by Niccolo' Guadagni (1730-1805), son of Ottavio of the Nunziata Branch. Casini had already distinguished himself in the reorganization of important archives of Florentine families, first of all the Bardi's. An anonymous archivist, working for Neri Guadagni (1790-1862), son of Tommaso, conducted the other one, just before the extinction of Neri's branch, called Santo Spirito, who had inherited the archives of the extinct branch of Nunziata. ("What is interesting is that both Niccolo' and Neri were the last male descendants of their branch, Niccolo' never married and his only brother, Pierantonio, who died 43 years before him, was married but childless. Neri, who only had a sister, lost his wife in childbirth, leaving him with only a daughter who married and so changed her family name, in Dufour Berte. It seems as both Guadagni foresaw the proximate end of

their branch and desired to assemble and put in order the important centuries-old archives of their family, before leaving this world". Note of FCdQ)

“When the Guadagni dell’Opera adopted the Torrigiani surname and fortune, their archives ended up with the Torrigiani’s. So in the middle of the 19th century, the Dufour Berte inherited both the Guadagni of Nunziata and the Guadagni of Santo Spirito Archives, while the Torrigiani had the Guadagni dell’Opera’s. However, Tommaso Guadagni (1743-1814), Neri’s father, had a younger brother, Luigi, who married and had a son, Donato, who had a son, Guadagno, who had five sons, Guitto, Giacomo, Bernardo (my grandfather), Tommaso and Luigi (Tony Gaines’ father), all married with children, and thus the Guadagni Family continued and prospered. So in 1938, as stated above, Guitto Guadagni bought back the Guadagni Archives from the Dufour Berte, and actually, Guitto’s grandson, our cousin Charles Loren Guadagni, owns them even though he deposited them in the State Archives of Florence in 2005, when he sold Masseto. Following Vieri Guadagni’s directives, we will now try to transfer as many of these archives, in their photocopied English translated version, on the Guadagni Family Website as we can, for us all to enjoy.” (FCdQ)

Both of the repertories mentioned above are alphabetical features by topic; the more ancient of the two was drafted following the compilation of the summaries supplied with each file. Nowadays we photocopy them and annex them to the final inventory of the whole archives

The filing of the registers has proved more complex. In different periods, they were marked with three shelf-marks each, without being supplied with connective tools. The numeration of them documents the reorganization efforts happening at different times: the first, with an alphanumeric shelf-marking by pen reflects the 18th century Casini’s intervention; the second, characterized by a pen numeric shelf-marking denotes the intervention of the sons and grandsons of Donato Maria Guadagni (1641-1718), son of Tommaso and forefather of the Santo Spirito branch; the third, distinguished by a stamped numeration, only relates to Niccolo’ Guadagni’s registers. Niccolo’ (1730-1805) was son of Ottavio and last member of the Nunziata Branch. These registers however, seem to belong to a later period than Niccolo’s life span.

Disposing the registers according to their numerical sequence would only give us an approximate chronology. For this reason, we decided to order the registers according to the family person they refer to.

We chose to organize the farm registers in the same way. It was easier because of the rigid organization Casini had already given them. Each farm was identified by a letter of the alphabet. The registers of each farm were arranged in envelopes, shelf-marked by a numeric sequence related to the administrative books, the balances and the business cases. We followed this method even when the original shelf-marks were missing, either because lost or never done.

Today, at the end of the definitive reordering of the documents on the shelves, following the above mentioned structure, we are able to offer a complete evaluation of the Guadagni Archives. From the beginning of our work we put all the information related to the filing of the documents in the computer, in a data bank managed by a program for the description of historical archives, *Arianna 3.1*. In its most recent versions this program is also utilized to present inventories and input them in the website.

With the help of informatics, as we wrote down the descriptive data and the contents of the documentation, we were able to define a “logical” structure for the same, either from the ancient organization of it, or from the nature of the documents themselves. This is how we started our reorganization of the archives. Eventually, when we finished our work, we found out that its principles and hypothesis were valid.

The Guadagni Archives are well preserved and complete in regard to the patrimonial acts and administrative registers, starting from the 16th century, during the economical consolidation of the Florentine branches of the family. The parchments instead have remained in the Dufour Berte Family Archives, who had inherited the entire fund. Maybe, in 1938, when Guitto Guadagni bought back the Guadagni Archives from his cousins Dufour Berte, he thought buying back also the diplomatic fund was too expensive. Maybe it was Giovanni Dufour Berte himself, who had personally put in order the family parchments, who did not offer them to Guitto.

Centuries old Guadagni personal correspondence instead was not preserved. Probably it was thrown away during the 19th century. Proof of it are several folders, titled “carteggio” (“Correspondence”), which we found in the Archives, filled with other types of documents, after the original correspondence kept in them was discarded. What remained of it were only some collections of letters and a few registers of letter books of Niccolo’ Guadagni (1730-1805), son of Ottavio, and of Ottavio himself (1684-1746) and his brother Ascanio Guadagni (1685-1759), both sons of Pierantonio (1629-1709)

To the documents of the Guadagni Archives, already orderly assembled during the precedent 18th and 19th century interventions, we added the loose documentation, which was assembled in about 100 packages, at the moment of the transfer from Masseto to the Florentine State Archives. These documents concern mostly some members of the second-born branch of the Guadagni of Santo Spirito (who is the only one remaining and continuing the family now, and from which we all descend) like Luigi Guadagni (1751-1799) son of Donato (1719-1797) and his mother [*Insabato and Baggio, authors of these “Notes on the Guadagni Family from their Florentine Archives”, make a mistake here: they say Luigi Guadagni’s mother is called “Caterina Catellini da Castiglione”; according to Passerini instead, who published his book on the History of the Guadagni Family in 1872, Luigi’s mother was called CATERINA degli Alessandri, while his wife’s name was Elisabetta CATELLINI DA CASTIGLIONE*]. Presumably these documents come from one of the farms in which the Guadagni lived at the end of the 18th century and the beginning of the 19th century, probably San Donato a Calenzano, because of the horrible conditions in which those papers have come to us, and also of everything else which we archived from that residence. Furthermore, papers closer to us in time, were

kept in cases, trunks and cupboards in the Villa of Masseto; they belonged to Donato Guadagni (1794-1879), son of Luigi, and of his wife *Louisa Lee*, and of his son Guitto Guadagni (1861-1941) and of his wife *Luisa Barlow Hoy*. [*Here Insabato and Baggio make 3 more mistakes: Guitto was the son of Guadagno Guadagni (1833-1905) not of Donato, Luisa Barlow Hoy was Guadagno's wife not Guitto's, and Guitto's wife was Dorothy Schlessinger not Luisa Barlow Hoy*], two ladies (they are speaking of Louisa and Luisa)of the most recent English nobility, who brought documents related to their family patrimony to Florence.

This Inventory of the Guadagni Family Archives is a synthesis of the data introduced during the compilation of the "Archives unit" card of the program utilized for the description of the Guadagni Archives.

We begin by a short introduction to each series, with the annotation of the historical time period and the amount of total archives units of the series. The description of each individual unit includes:

Definitive number

[Temporary number,
eventually old numbers]

Chronological period

Index number
Chronological Consistency

Original Title [integrated]

Assigned Title

Description of the material on which the archive is written.

Eventual copy of it.

Description of its contents.

***State of deterioration of the material.

At the end of the Inventory we put the indexes of the names of people, families, associations and sites mentioned in the text. All the index numbers refer to the number listed on the top left of the cards, the chronology instead refers to the annotation on the top right.