

Quercato da noi della verità, adora, che gl'huomini, e  
donne della medesima nobilita, per la via de' guadagni sono  
giunti, e uenuti a questa città, come conueno a gentili  
huomini Fiorentini, secondo il costume de' altri  
nobili, et hanno fatto azioni nobili, e contratto Matri-  
monij con le più antiche, e più nobili famiglie Flo-  
rentine. Impercio che si è ritenuto affermarsi hauere  
questo Casato figlio di Gran. Guadagni eugino  
di di. I. di. Filippo. di. di. Botone e sua mari-  
tata a. Salustio nipote uterino dell' I. I.  
Carlo. de' Medici. e dell' I. I. Carlo. Salustio nipote  
consobino. Lucretia figlia del med. Gran. nel  
secondo luogo. e sua. Maria maritata a Andrea dell'  
I. I. famiglia de' Medici. Vincentio di Filippo Gua-  
dagni eugino del d. I. Guglielmo suocero preso  
moglie la famiglia figlia d' Agnolo di Girolamo Gua-  
ciardini e della d. I. Caterina de' Medici nipote della  
sua me. del Carlo. Medici, e sua nonna paterna  
per sorella dello fel. nome di Leonora Sapa. e la  
sua nonna e materna per nipote del med. Sapa. e sua  
d. I. La. Alessandra figlia di Filippo Guadagni eugino  
e sua cugina d. I. Guglielmo suocero preso moglie  
la Maria figlia di Simone del Nero, e della figlia  
Lucretia Gualterotti sorella da canto di madre d. I.  
I. I. Carlo. de' Medici. Lucretia per moglie  
figlia d. I. I. Filippo Guadagni eugino d. I. I. Guglielmo

As we investigated on the truth of the statement that the men and the women of the abovementioned noble family of the Guadagni got married and marry as it is appropriate to Florentine gentlemen, following the tradition of the other nobles, and have married noble people, of the most ancient and noble Florentine families,

the witness affirmed that he saw Cassandra, daughter of Francesco Guadagni, cousin of Guglielmo Guadagni, Lord of Boutheon, marry Antonio Salviati, “uterine” nephew (blood related



Antonio Salviati

nephew, not by marriage) of the Very Eminent Cardinal de' Medici, and of the Very Eminent Cardinal Salviati, nephew by marriage of Lucrezia Guadagni, daughter of the abovementioned Francesco Guadagni. Lucrezia Guadagni married Andrea of the Very Eminent Family of the Medici, distant cousin of Ferdinando de' Medici, Grand-Duke of Tuscany. Vincenzo Guadagni (1546-1601), son of Filippo Guadagni, cousin of the same Guglielmo Guadagni, Lord of Boutheon, married Cammilla Guicciardini, daughter of Agnolo Guicciardini, son of Girolamo, and of Contessina Ridolfi, niece of “good



Cardinal Ridolfi (on the left) with Dionisio of San Casciano (fresco)

memory” i.e. “late” Cardinal Ridolfi, and her paternal grandmother was the sister of late Pope Leo the Tenth (X) and her maternal grandmother was niece of the same Pope Leo X.





Pope Leo X de' Medici (1475-1521)

Alessandro Guadagni (1545-1625), son of Filippo, cousin of the same Guglielmo Guadagni, Lord of Boutheon, married Maria del Nero, daughter of Simone del Nero and Lucrezia Gualterotti, half-sister, through her mother, of Pope Leo XI de' Medici.



Pope Leo XI de' Medici (1535-1605) He was Pope for 27 days, from April 1 to April 27, 1605, when he died.

Lucrezia Guadagni, daughter of Filippo (1504-1555), uncle of Guglielmo Guadagni, Lord of Boutheon, married the Eminent Doctor of Law Bernardo Ricasoli, of the Parish of Santo Stefano (?).





Maria Guadagni (+1591), daughter of Filippo married Giovanni Mannelli. And the son of Jacopo Guadagni (1497-1569), Francesco (1534-1611), also cousin of Guglielmo, married Laura, daughter of Pierantonio Bandini, and before her Cammilla, daughter of Giovanni Giraldi.

Giovanna, daughter of Tommaso Guadagni (1495-1543), and sister of Guglielmo Guadagni Lord of Boutheon, married Lorenzo Antinori, Elena Guadagni, also daughter of Tommaso and sister of Guglielmo married Lorenzo Capponi. Filippo Guadagni, uncle of Guglielmo, married Maddalena, daughter of Francesco Bandini and of Ginevra, daughter of Alamanno Salviati. Jacopo Guadagni, uncle of Guglielmo, married Lucrezia, daughter



Piero Capponi, son of Gino, in 1493 in the lower center, with the red hat (Jacopo Guadagni's brother-in-law) of Gino Capponi and of Caterina Strozzi, sister of Filippo Strozzi, father of Piero Strozzi, Marshall of France (1510-1558). And Andrea, daughter of Ulivieri Guadagni (1452-1541), uncle of Guglielmo, married to Neri Ardinghelli, natural son of the late Cardinal Ardinghelli, Ginevra, daughter of Ulivieri Guadagni married Giovanni Popoleschi, The same Ulivieri married the second time with Caterina, daughter of Francesco Minerbetti,



Minerbetti Family Crest

and the first time with Oretta, daughter of Tommaso Giovanni, paternal grandmother of Guglielmo Guadagni. And then there's Tommaso, son of Ulivieri Guadagni, father of Guglielmo, who married Peronette, daughter of Guglielmo Berti, maternal grandfather



Piero Strozzi, Marshall of France

Both Piero Capponi (above) and Piero Strozzi are closely related to our direct ancestors, Gino Capponi and Filippo Strozzi, so we, or our descendants, might inherit some of their looks.



[illegible]

of Guglielmo Guadagni and of Claudia Gianfigliuzzi, maternal grandmother of Guglielmo Guadagni. Simone Guadagni son of Vieri, great-grandfather of Guglielmo, married Ginevra, daughter of Vanni Castellani, following the habit of the Guadagni Family to choose for their sons wives who are always of the most noble Florentine families, like the **Buondelmonti, Minerbetti, Terramano, Macchiavelli, Cavalcanti, Rinuccini, and their descendants.**



Castle of Pergolato, a Tuscan Medieval Castle in the Chianti District, built by the **Buondelmonti Family** on the foundations of a Roman settlement in the 10<sup>th</sup> century. They ruled the surrounding area as Imperial governors.



**Minerbetti** Palace in Florence





Niccolo' **Machiavelli**



Guido **Cavalcanti**



**Rinuccini Palace in Florence**

Our witness declared he has known the majority of the abovementioned men and women who contracted the above written marriages and has read and seen the public writings about them and so he knows it is the truth.

Questioned later on as to the place, times and other witnesses proving the truth of what he testified, he answered by repeating what he said above. On the 4<sup>th</sup> article, he starts by what he said above with examples and he finishes by proving the noble status of the family.

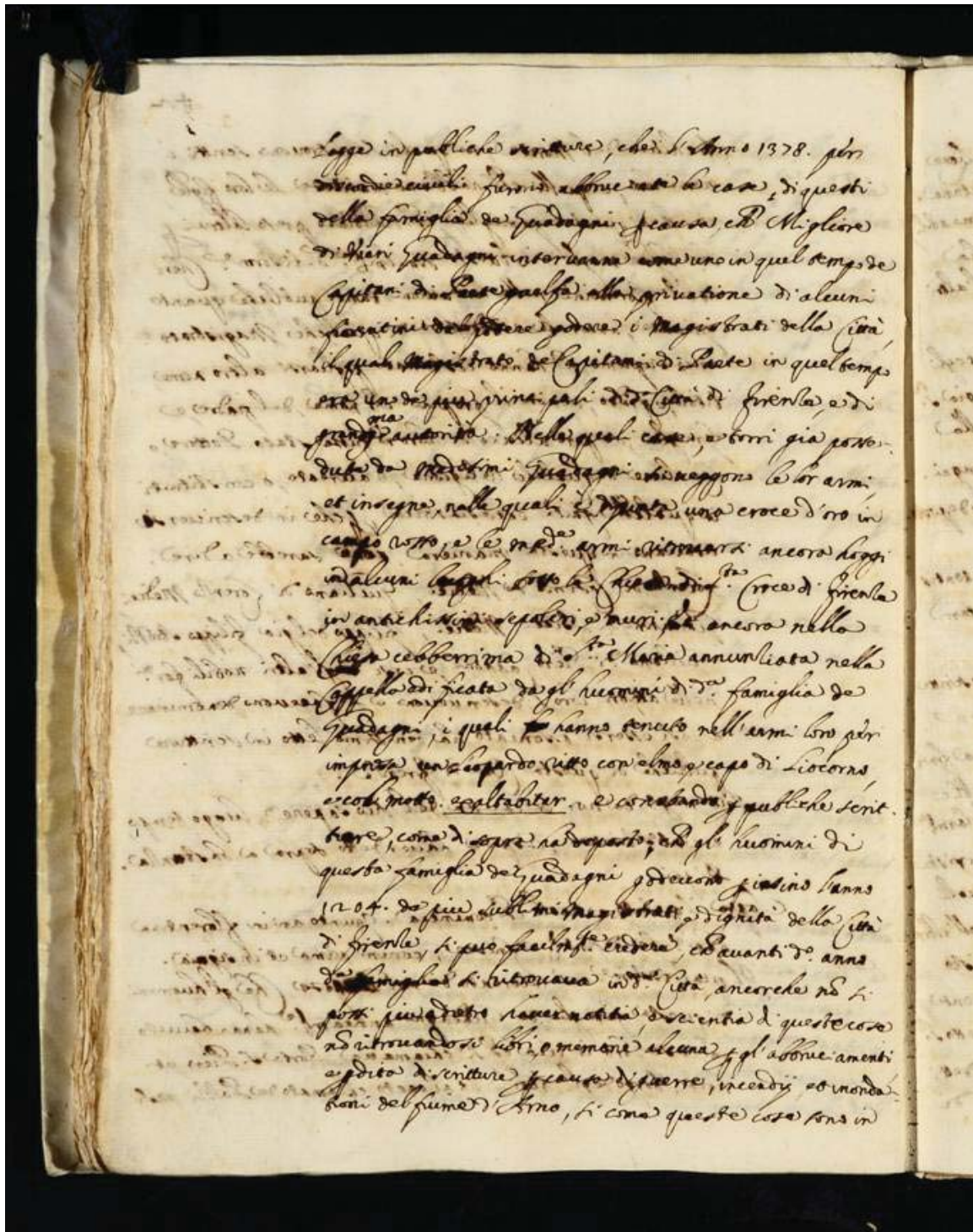
On the testimony we asked him to give us, he declared he had abundantly witnessed on the preceding article with which Florentine noble families the gentlemen of the Guadagni Family had united in marriage, and these facts clearly appear in public documents, and books and archives in which you can see their names and their family crests and from which families they chose their wives. Having also a vision among the Florentine nobles of their public and private actions, even though for some supreme magistrate they have used another name, if not their own, their father's or their Family's, if then some of them were Doctors, or Knight of some religion, or with a degree, or with an ecclesiastical title, that in describing in some ancient way, as for example "Lorenzo de Medici, Giuliano of Lorenzo de Medici, Giovanni di Bicci de Medici, Filippo of the late Filippo Strozzi, Giuliano of Piero Capponi and so for other nobles who described themselves by their actions and were named after them, and thus it was observed and read in public documents of this City of Florence.



[illegible]



On the 5<sup>th</sup> article, he begins as he arrived in Florence from Rome and ends with crests and emblems. This witness, which we looked for and found, states that the men of this ancient Guadagni Family had their houses in an address called Porta San Piero and another in Borgo degli Albizzi, and in a square named de' Pazzi and you can read in public documents that in the year 1378 the houses of these members of the Guadagni Family were burnt because of Migliore, son of Vieri Guadagni, who intervened in those times like a captain of Parte Guelfa ("Guelph Party", for the Pope), in depriving some Florentine citizens of the power to have Magistrates in the City, like the Magistrate of the Captain of Parte (not only "Parte Guelfa"), in those days it was one of the most important in the City of Florence, having great authority.





In those houses, maybe already owned by the Guadagni because they have their crest and enblem, i.e. a golden cross on a red background (“Official description of the Guadagni Crest in a public document of the year 1595”, fcdq) and the same crests can be found even today in some places in very ancient tombs and also in the very famous Church of Santissima Annunziata, in the side chapel by the men of the Guadagni Family who have their crest held by a Leopard erect with a helmet on its head with a Unicorn on top of it and the Motto “Exaltabitur” “I shall be exalted” [“If I do my duty to the best of my capacity”, created and added to the Crest by Vieri Guadagni (1369-1426). Vieri chose the Motto in 1409, when he was sent as field commissary against Ladislao King of Naples. By his motto, Vieri intended that he was to be exalted by his loyal behavior”], (underlined in the official document of the Government of the City of Florence, see photo-reproduction of it just above, 10<sup>th</sup> line from the bottom, undersigned by its ruler, Grand-Duke of Tuscany Ferdinando I de’ Medici, to the King of France Henry IV of the House of Bourbon, whose wife, Maria de’ Medici, was officially escorted from Florence to France by Guglielmo Guadagni’s nephew, her cousin Guglielmo Guadagni II. Let us remember that *everything* written in this document of the year 1595 which I am translating is official and legal, undersigned by the Government of Florence and its Grand-Duke and accepted by the King of France who made Guglielmo Guadagni “Knight of the Cross of the Holy Spirit”, on the basis of its truthfulness as “proof of the nobility of the Guadagni Family”). (“The Guadagni Crest is even today on top of the Guadagni Chapel, on the left side behind the main altar of the Basilica of Santissima Annunziata”, fcdq)

Checking in public documents, as the witness stated above, we see that the men of this Guadagni Family had since the year 1204, several public magistrates and dignity conferred by the City of Florence, so we can easily believe that before that year the Family was already in the City even though we cannot have information of it before that year, not finding books or any memoirs because of the destruction of these documents due to wars, fires, and floods of the River Arno, of how these things happen in the history of the City.



Guadagni Crest visible on top of the Guadagni Chapel, on the left side behind the main altar of the Basilica of Santissima Annunziata, Florence. The “Nunziata” Guadagni Palace takes its name from the Basilica, located two blocks from the Palace.



Close-up of the same. The Crown of Marchese is visible on top of the Guadagni Crest.



Fresco of the “Resurrection” by famous Florentine Mannerist artist Agnolo Bronzino (1503-1572) above the altar of the abovementioned Guadagni Chapel. Artist Bronzino was the official Court painter of the Medici Family. His portrait figures influenced the course of European court portraiture for a century. Below are some other masterpieces of his.





Grand-Duchess of Tuscany Eleonora of Toledo(1569- with her son Giovanni (1544-1545)



Lodovico Capponi 1533-1614) his son, Bernardino, was Ortensia Guadagni (1<sup>st</sup> marchese of San Leolino)'s brother-in-law.



Lorenzo de' Medici the Magnificent(1449-1492) – great-nephew of Vieri Guadagni (1369-1426).





Questioned on how he knew these things, and on what he testified concerning the Family crest and emblems in the aforementioned places, and the ones he knows very well also about the space, time and witnesses, he testified he had an abundance of all the above information.

On the 6<sup>th</sup> article he testified that the same Guadagni men in this City of Florence have enjoyed all honors and degrees in a sublime and supreme way, as he witnesses above, and they still enjoy in our times (year 1595) and as nobles they are able and capable to be admitted and received everywhere there would be a need to prove the nobility as in the society of the Knights of St. John Hospitaller (Knights of Malta), in the Militia of St. James of the Sword and in other Christian militias and Orders.



Knight of Malta



Self-portrait of artist Velasquez in his uniform of Militia of St. James of the Sword, aka Order of Santiago.





Knights of Malta in the Siege of Acre – 1291



Ucles Monastery, parent and headquarters of the Order of Santiago, Province of Cuenca, Spain.

This witness declared to have met the Religious Friar Pietro Guadagni Knight of the Jerusalem Order (Knights of Malta), who, during the attack and capture of the Fortress of St. Elmo in the Island of Malta was captured by the Turks and then freed, enrolling again in the Christian Army, captured again by the Turks, freed again and even though by now he was limping, he was made Captain of a Christian Galley and then General of his Order in Tuscany and Lieutenant of the Priory of Pisa: I also heard it said that Guglielmo, son of Tommaso, son of the above,

Guglielmo Guadagni sig.<sup>ro</sup> di Botone Seneschal di Lione  
già simile a <sup>già</sup> questa religione <sup>già</sup> solitaria.  
E gl'huomini di questa famiglia de Guadagni sono abili  
a ogni cosa, e sono competenti in qualunque  
militia odiana, o religiosa, o civile, come gl'altri  
gentili huomini di Firenze, come sopra ho detto.  
Qual costume? interogato in causa di suo sapere, et egli  
rispose, che per la cosa già detta conoscere d. Gio:  
de Piero, et affermo haver visto prima scritta nella  
nobiltà, o antichità di questa famiglia de Guadagni.  
Dal luogo, tempo, e continenza, et non haver sopra detto  
di poi.  
Sopra il detto antichità, et cominciata a dipingere, et de contentis  
in per insertis antichità, et finis. gradus q. directam  
lineam.  
Il qual costume? interogato di nuovo, disse. Questo costume  
int. detto antichità, et stato, et esser uero, e  
notorio, e di quello eterna pubblica voce, e fama fra  
gli nobili, e senatori fiorentini, et apparire in publici  
libri, o sentenze di questa città di Firenze, o particolarmente  
in un certo libro in lingua uulgare chiamato Priorista  
cominciato l'anno di nostra salute 1281. nel qual  
libro, memorie pubbliche, e costumi. libro, anelli altri  
e gl'huomini di questa famiglia affermi haver visto  
il nome de gl'huomini di questa famiglia ordinatamente  
e tredici gradi, e linea tratta dagli ascendenti di detto S.  
Guglielmo Guadagni sig.<sup>ro</sup> di Botone, et oltre a detti  
tredici gradi, non far haver notizia, o scienza di

Guglielmo Guadagni Lord of Boutheon and Seneschal of Lyon was for a long time Knight of the Jerusalem Order (Malta), and the men of this Guadagni Family are able and competent in whatever Christian Militia or Order, just as much as the other Florentine gentlemen as I have stated above.





Fort St. Elmo, Malta



The Knights of Malta defend the island against the Turks in 1565 (as we know, Pietro Guadagni was there)



Ottomans attack Malta – 1565

When the witness was questioned on the sources of his knowledge, he answered he knew the things because he knew Brother Pietro (Guadagni), and he added that he had excellent knowledge on the nobility and ancient history of this Guadagni Family. Concerning the place, time and other testimonies he answered he had already talked about it before.

The Seventh Article starts with Latin quotations “**Septimo si te contentis in paginsertis articulis**”, and finishes: “**Gradus & divertam lineam.**” (“*Seventh article says: “If you are satisfied with inserted and added contents... change the degree and the direction of your knowledge expectations”*”)

The witness sustains he researched the deposited truth. The things described in the seventh article have been and are true and well known and are commonly believed and famous among the most noble Florentine senators, and can be read in public books and documents of this City of Florence and mostly in a certain book in “vulgar, uncultured language” (means Italian instead of Latin) called “Priorista” started in the year 1281. In these kinds of books and public memoirs which the witness read, at the beginning of the history of this family, orderly and in straight line he found 13 generations of ancestors of said Guglielmo Guadagni Lord of Boutheon, and beyond the abovementioned 13 generations (all before the year 1595), we can obtain information and knowledge on this family and on these men in the good times and in the losses of the bad times.



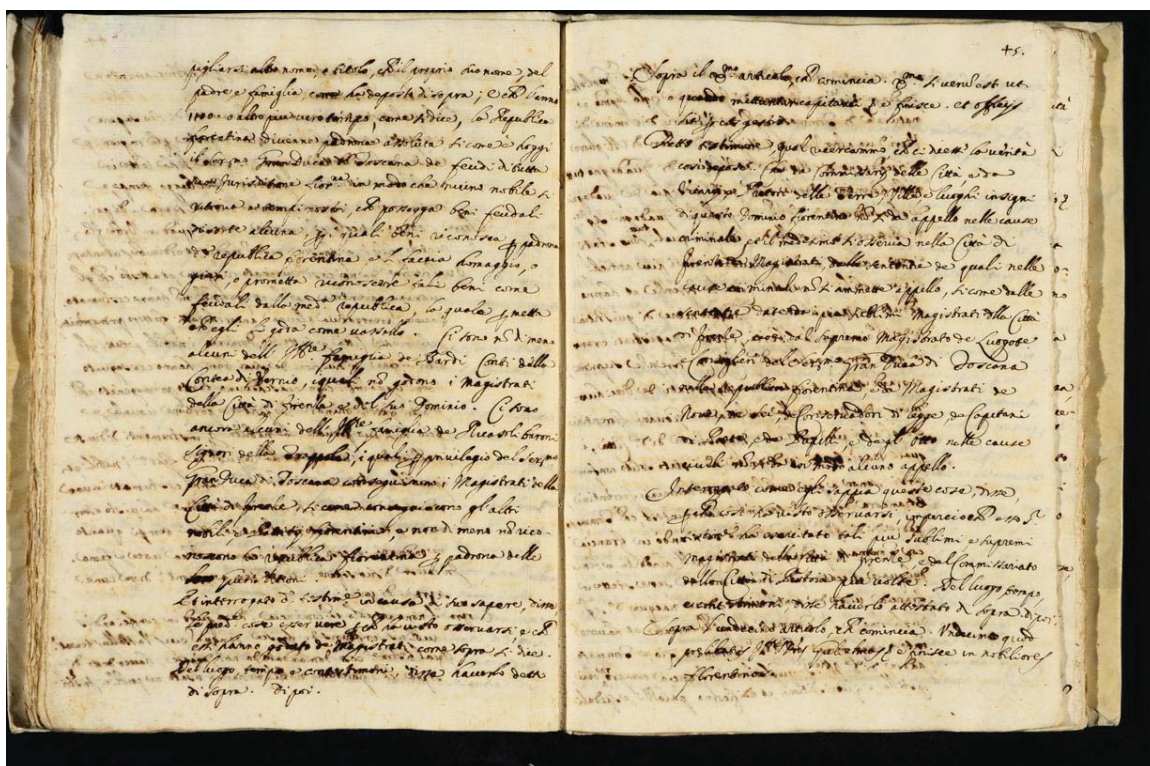
questo famiglia, e suoi padroni, e l'abbenimento e  
 perduto delle ventura.  
 Dal qual testone si cerchiamo di cavare di suo sapere,  
 e risposte, e sapere se esso gl'ha deposte gl'ragioni e  
 cause da lui dette di sopra, e se l'ha letto in  
 pubblica scrittura. *Intorno.* Del luogo, tempo, e  
 compagnia, e luogo, e tempo, e compagnia.  
 Sopra l'ottavo articolo et comincia. Deo quod in Urbe flo,  
 rentes filij et fratre. eidei iudicis et ordinibus utuntur.  
 Qual testone da noi così vicariato usasse, et atteso che gl'  
 nobili e gentili non hanno costume  
 nuova prerogativa alcuna, anzi che tutti fossero primogeniti,  
 che in ogni cosa e fatto suo dominio i nobili potuti gl'  
 altri in fare e in disporre de suoi beni hanno conseguito  
 i beni uguali. E così ciascuno, tanto primogenito et  
 gl'altre gentili minori a parte e porzione uguale, e  
 siccome per più provare la nobiltà e instrumenti di diu  
 e di fatto e di diritto della repubblica fioro i nobili et  
 ignobili, e tutti de loro beni hanno costume in uno  
 medesimo modo, e si cominciano a scrivere la uista e  
 tutte le ventura e tenimenti e beni e cose che sono sempre quanto  
 di loro ne videro, e per la pubblica usce e fama.  
 Incanto di suo sapere usasse sempre, e di più come  
 sopra. di loro e di  
 Sopra il nono articolo et comincia. Non quod in conspectu  
 publicis scripturis de fratre. tanquam eius Vassallus teneat.  
 Qual testone con domandato da noi, usasse, e aver detto di  
 sopra et di più, e non hanno usato ne publici testi



From the above witness we looked for the causes of his knowledge and answers, to know what he witnessed, the reasons and the causes of what he testified above and which he read in public writings. Questioned on places, times and co-witnesses he answered he had already said all this above. After that, on the 8<sup>th</sup> article, which starts: “Octanse quod in Urba flo, rentire filli (You can see in the City..)” and ends “eius modis, et ordinibus utentes qualches ordine (“their way of doing, of the members of any order”) by us interrogated he answered and affirmed that Florentine men, noble and not noble are not used to have any prerogative even though they were the forefathers, because in this City and all its dominions, the nobles and everybody else in making the divisions of their goods, they divided them equally, whether they were the eldest or not, each one had the same share, and so we cannot prove the “nobility” of anyone on the share of inheritance he got, because they were the same in all the Florentine Republic, And noble and not noble followed the same usage, both in ancient times and nowadays.” Questioned on places and times of his knowledge he answered as above.

The 9<sup>th</sup> article starts: “Non quod in conficiendis publicis semprinis (“Not what happens in public affairs...”)

The above witness questioned by us, answered the same way as above, i.e. that the Florentine nobles were not used in public places take for themselves other name or title than their own, their father’s or their Family’s, as he stated above;



Page 44b (on the left).

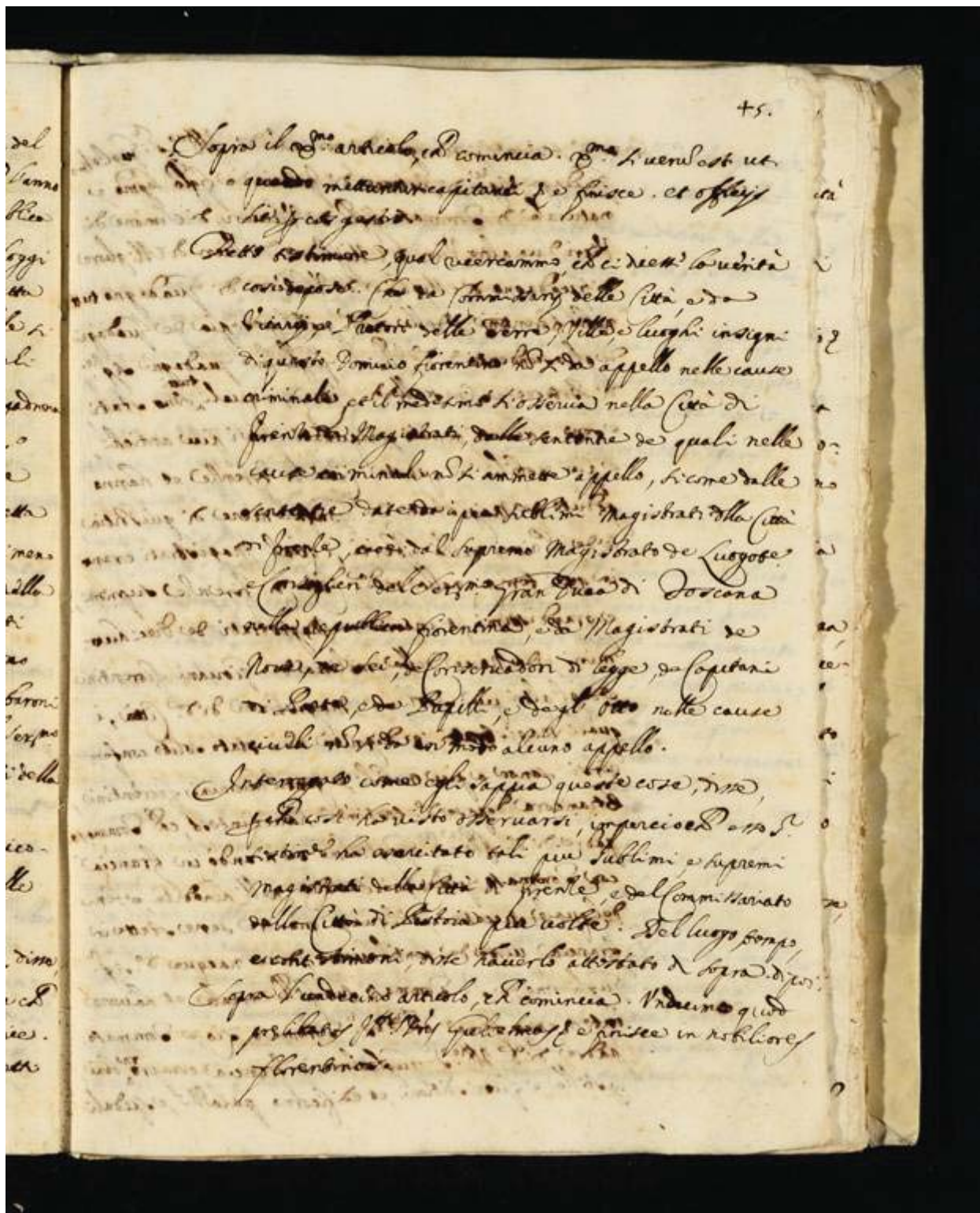
and that in the year 1100, or some more precise time as they say, the Florentine Republic became absolute master, as the Serene Grand-Duke of Tuscany is nowadays, of all the fiefs of the Florentine Jurisdiction, in a



way that no noble of our times, owning Feudal fiefs from anywhere, can exempt himself from acknowledging the Florentine Republic as owner of his goods, and doing homage of them to it, or swearing, or promising to recognize his goods as fiefs of the same Florentine Republic, who allows him to enjoy them as a vassal.

There are however some members of the very eminent Bardi Family, Counts of the County of Vernio, of whose dominions the Magistrates of Florence are not allowed to enjoy. There are also some members of the very eminent family of the Barons Ricasoli, Lords of the “Drappola (?)”, who, by privilege granted by the Very Serene Grand-Duke of Tuscany, became Magistrates of the City of Florence, as the other Florentine nobles, without however recognizing the Florentine Republic as master of their fiefs.

Questioned on the origin of his knowledge the witness said they are true and he can prove it and that the Ricasolis had magistrates as stated above. Of places, times and co-witnesses he answered what he said above.



On the 10<sup>th</sup> article which starts with: "Si veni est ut quando mitteantur capitani" ("If the moment has come to call the captain...") and ends: "et offerat ...gestis" ("and propose him to do great deeds").

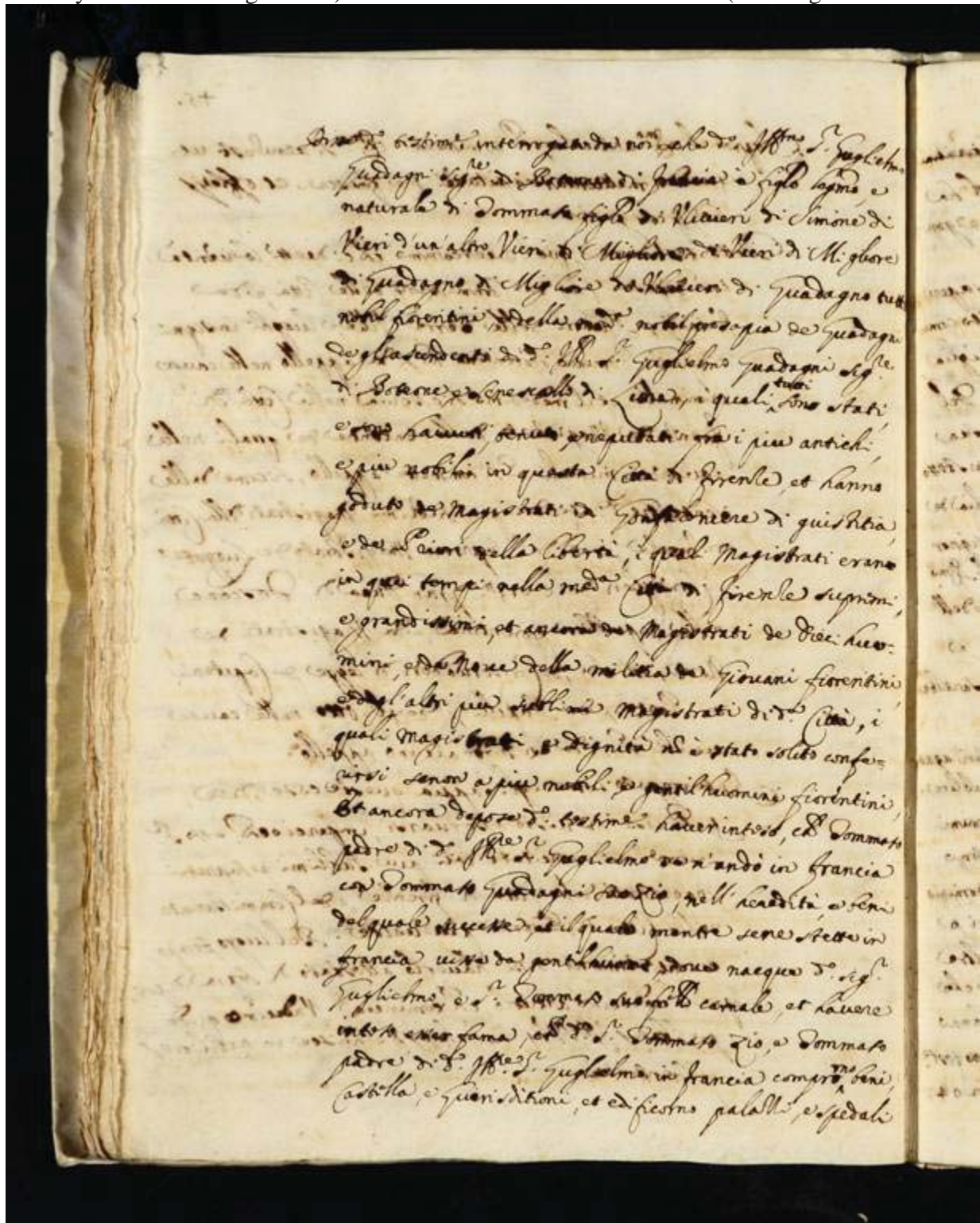
When we ask the witness if he had told us the truth, this was his answer. That he has been commander of the cities, and of the garrisons of the territory, of the villages, of the castles and famous places, of this Florentine Dominion. They call on him for the Court of Appeals on criminal cases, and also in the City of Florence by the magistrates in the sentences of criminal cases where appeal is allowed, as for the sentences issued by the Supreme Magistrates of Florence i.e. by the Supreme Magistrate of the Lieutenant Counselors of the Very



Serene Grand-Duke of Tuscany, and in the Florentine Republic and by the Magistrates of the Six, by the custodians of the Law, by the Captains of the Door, by the Pupils and in similar cases where there is no appeal.

Questioned on how he knew all these things, he answered that he has seen how things are done and so he himself has worked with the most supreme and sublime magistrates of the City of Florence, and often with the Commissary of the City of Pistoia. For a long time and with witnesses, he said he had testified this.

On the 11<sup>th</sup> article which starts with: "Undecimo: Prelibati Illustrissimus Don Guglielmo" ("Eleventh: On the best very eminent sir Guglielmo") and ends: "in nobiliores florentinos" ("Among the Florentine nobles")



Questioned by us, this witness tells us that the very Eminent Guglielmo Guadagni, Lord of Boutheon in France, is the natural and legitimate son of Tommaso Guadagni, son of Ulivieri, son of Simone, son of Vieri, son of another Vieri, son of Migliore, son of Vieri, son of Migliore, son of Guadagno, son of Migliore, son of Ulivieri, son of Guadagno, all Florentine nobles of the noble family of the Guadagni, all ancestors of the Very Eminent Guglielmo Guadagni, Lord of Boutheon and Seneschal of Lyon, who were and still are considered among the most ancient and noble of this City of Florence, and they have been elected Magistrates and Gonfalonier of Justice, and Priors of the Freedom, in those times said Magistrates were superior and really important in this City of Florence, and they were also Magistrates of the Ten Men, and of the Nine of the Militia of the Young Florentines, and among the most sublime Magistrates of the City, whose Office of Magistrate and related dignity was usually only granted to the most noble Florentine gentlemen. The witness also testified that he heard that Tommaso Guadagni, father of the Very Eminent Guglielmo, went to France with his uncle Tommaso Guadagni, whose properties he inherited and lived as a gentleman during his stay in France. In France two sons of his were born, the Eminent Guglielmo and Tommaso and the witness heard that in France both Guglielmo's Uncle Tommaso and his father Tommaso bought properties and castles, and they built magnificent palaces and hospitals both in the City of Lyon and in that of Avignon.



bellissimi nella città di Leone et in quella d'Auignone.  
 E sapendo questo essere stato edificato da medesimi della  
 famiglia de' Guadagni. Del luogo tempo e conte-  
 stimon affermo haver detto di sopra.

Interrogato di poi se si avenga come alcuna all'Offe. sig.  
 Guglielmo pred. rispose di no. E le cose sopra deposte  
 atteste che la mera uerita et da cinquanta anni  
 sopra gli altri generali consueti interrogato rispose  
 ben detto.

Fatto a' xxj. del mese d'Ottobre 1595.

Il sottoscritto, chiamato dal gran Consiglio Senatore S. Piero  
 della nostra apposta Senatura fiorì al detto come sopra di noi  
 e consiglieri in questo negotio eletto ricercato  
 diligentemente e diligentemente esaminato il quale promette  
 di congruamente scriver per lui le scritture necessarie  
 corporali con le mani autografe da noi che dia la  
 dovuta risposta et assisto nel modo che segue cioè  
 Sopra il primo articolo et comincia. La nostra famiglia et agnatis  
 dei Guadagni, e finiti et reputati palam et publice.  
 Il qual costume così ricercato sopra et la famiglia chia-  
 mata de' Guadagni in questa città di Firenze da longhi-  
 vimo corso di tempo in qua dal quale non è memoria d'  
 huomini in contrario e stata et è prodigia nobile et  
 antica, e già eximia nobili e più antiche famiglie di questa  
 città comunemente narrata, tenuta e reputata per antica

And he said that what he testified above was the pure truth. He is fifty years old and he answered very well in comparison to the other average generals.

October 21, 1595

The Very Eminent Francesco, son of the Very Eminent Senator Piero Capponi, Florentine Senator, as above, and then Lieutenant and Counselor in this business, selected, scrutinized, sworn in and finally diligently and secretly examined on the above subject (i.e. “nobility of the Guadagni Family”), had him kiss with his mouth the Holy Scriptures”, while touching them with his hand, asked by us if he was telling the truth, he answered and testified as follows i.e. On the Tenth Article which starts: “Decimo an familia et agnatio de Guadagnis” (“10<sup>th</sup> on the family and Ancestry of the Guadagni” and finishes: “et reputatur palam et publica” (“and it is known privately and publicly”). Such testimony testified that the family named Guadagni in this City of Florence from an extremely ancient time, so ancient that nobody remembers otherwise, has been and is a noble and ancient family, and among the most noble and most ancient families of this City, commonly respected, known and acknowledged by all the Florentine nobles, patricians and senators, and everybody in this City considers them noble and gentlemen.



Senator Piero Capponi bought the above Villa of Marignolle from the Medici Grand-Dukes and lived in it.

About the co-witnesses he mentioned himself and then the Very Eminent Averardo of the Medici Family and then Pancrazio Rucellai, the Very Eminent Baccio Valori, Cristofano Carnesecchi

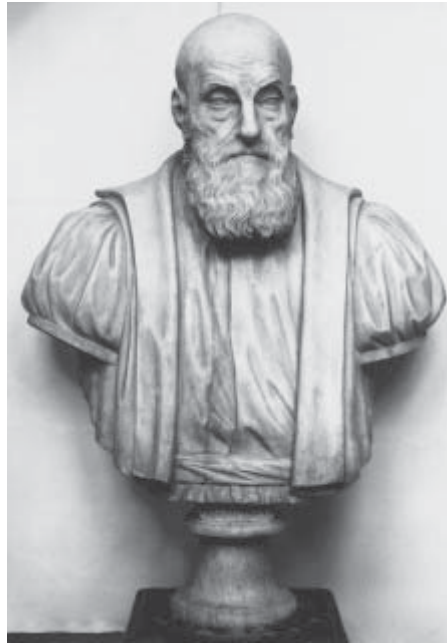


Averardo de' Medici



Loggia Rucellai, Florence





Baccio Valori



Andrea Carnesecchi, grandson of Cristofano Carnesecchi

4  
li tiene e reputa da tutti i nobili e Sacerdoti fiorentini  
e Senatori fiorentini, e gli ha onori di quella gl' ha  
visti e sentiti reputati e conosciuti per nobili e gon-  
tili uomini.

In causa di suo sapere interrogato noi, disse sapere  
essere più degno di quella, e visto e sentito comu-  
nemente tenersi e reputarsi in medesima famiglia  
et uomini di quella come sopra ha detto. Del  
luogo nella città di Firenze, e dal tempo di sua  
memoria in qua. De quali uomini disse di se stesso  
essere dell' gl' S. Francesco dell' gl' famiglia de  
Medici, e di Lanfranco Rucellai dell' ecc. signor  
Baccio Valori, Cristofano Cornaschi, e del. S. S.  
mondo Francesco Martelli, Vittorio Joppone, e dell'  
mondo Lorenzo Niccolini, e Piero Alamanni, e  
d'altri Sacerdoti e Senatori fiorentini, e lungo sarebbe  
devenire i nomi loro. Dopo

dopo il secondo articolo, e comincia. Secundo an uiri agri-  
tionis fuerint et finitae, et rationem palam et publice.  
Et tribuit. Danti così, ueritate disse, et gl' uomini  
di questa famiglia de' Guadagni sono stati, e sono  
abili et come tanto in d. e. e. e. in tutto il suo dominio  
e conseguire tutti i supremi e grandissimi honori e  
Magistrati, e come gl' altri nobili et antichi d'altra  
famiglia nobili fiorentine hanno conseguito, e che  
gl' istessi di questa famiglia de' Guadagni hanno  
ottenuto anche supremi honori e gradi, e che otto test.  
hanno da testimoniare publicamente. Et l' Anno 1504.



Questioned on how he knew all the above, he said he knows all of the above, because he had commonly seen and heard the above mentioned family and members of it thus considered and acknowledged. The locality is the City of Florence and the time as far back as he can remember.

About the co-witnesses he said he was one of them, and then there was Averardo of the Very Eminent Medici Family, and Pancrazio Rucellai, the Very Eminent Baccio Valori, Cristofano Carnesecchi, the Very Eminent Monsignor Lodovico Martelli, Bishop Joppenda, very Eminent Lorenzo Niccolini, and Piero Alamanni, and other Florentine Nobles and Senators, whose names it would take too long to list.



Piero Alamanni



Piero Alamanni's Ruggero Castle in the Chianti Region.

Over the Sixth Article our witness said that the men of this Guadagni Family were and are able to attain the most supreme and greatest honors and offices as well in Florence as in all its Dominion, as the other noble and ancient members of other Florentine noble families have attained, and that the members of this same Guadagni Family have attained similar supreme honors and offices and that the witness has well seen public records of it in the public registers of the year 1204.





[Passerini states: "On May 15, 1204, Guadagno exercised his public authority by assigning Tignoso Lamberti as ambassador to the Roman Curia ("the Pope"). At the time he was one of the three Prior of the Arts, who governed the Florentine Republic together with the consuls. We don't have any document describing the political constitution of our old Florentine republic at that time so we must limit our knowledge of it to the papers concerning that century which are still available (one of them being this page of the Proofs of the nobility of the Guadagni Family" which we are translating) and to suppositions. We find the first consuls around 1160 (the consuls had the executive power like the President of the U.S.A. They were often two to avoid the dangers of the dictatorship of one). They were in charge of governing the city. But we don't know how many there were, often there were two, however, sometimes there were more, as many as twelve. They were all picked among the wealthy families of the city, who later became part of the aristocracy.]

Who was Tignoso Lamberti? Both the "Proofs" and Passerini mention him in relation to Guadagno's activity as a Prior at the beginning of the 13<sup>th</sup> century. We find his biography in Dizionario Biografico of the Italians Volume 63 (2004).

He belonged to a wealthy Florentine family, his father being Lamberto [He was called "Lamberti", son of Lamberto, like the "Guadagni", sons or descendants of Guadagno – Tignoso *Lamberti* and the *Guadagni* descendants of Guadagno were more or less contemporary so the beginning of the 13<sup>th</sup> century seems to be the historical time when family surnames started being added to people's names, at least in Florence, for well known families). Tignoso was born around the years 1170-1175. The first information we have about him is in the years 1203-1204. He was a banker and a very important person in Florence. In 1204 he was one of the Consuls of the City, while Guadagno was Prior of the Arts.

In those years Florence was trying to transfer the seat of the Archbishop of Fiesole inside the city walls. The city of Fiesole, a few centuries older than Florence, sits on a hill, near Florence, but outside Florence's city walls, and is much smaller and unprotected than Florence.



Florence in the Middle-Ages, surrounded by walls; the brown wide line going from right to left almost at the top is the Arno River, with bridges going over it.

The City had decided to move the Bishop of Fiesole from Fiesole to the Convent of Nuns of San Pier Maggiore, in Florence. However the nuns did not want to leave the convent and asked protection from the Pope Innocent III. The Pope decreed that if the City of Florence did not allow the nuns to remain in their convent, the Government of Florence would be excommunicated (i.e. each member of it, including Guadagno, would be cut

off from the Catholic Church and bound to hell) and no neighboring cities were allowed to trade any more with Florence or the Florentines.



Actual remains of the Church of San Pier Maggiore in Florence. The church was unstable and closed 2 centuries ago and parts of its walls and arches were incorporated in newly built houses and buildings (see picture above).

Guadagno then sent Tignoso as Ambassador to the Pope to make peace with him on the moving of the Bishop of Fiesole to Florence and to ratify a Treaty of Florence with the City of Siena. The Pope accepted the Treaty of Florence with Siena, but refused to budge from his decision on the Convent of San Pier Maggiore. The Bishop of Fiesole remained in Fiesole, the nuns kept their convent and the Government of Florence was not excommunicated any more.



Pope Innocent III

In 1215 the City of Florence was governed by 12 Consuls and the Senate, whose members were chosen among the noblest families of this City of Florence, among whom was the Guadagni Family, from the area of the Duomo.

It is the year 1221. Migliore, son of Ildebrandino was part of the Council of the Elders. He had the same honor in the year 1253. Gianni, son of Guadagno, was one of the twelve Elders. In 1281, Pierotto, son of Guadagno and younger brother of Gianni, was the guarantor of the Guelphs in the peace made by Cardinal Latino between the Guelphs and the Ghibellines.

It is the year 1290. The same Pierotto together with 25 “buonomini” (“Good men”) was elected to promise the amount of 60,000 “lire” for the Fortress of Laterina, for which they elect the “best and richest” Florentines, and the same year he is in charge of recuperating the goods of the Republic of Florence.



It is the year 1289. Migliore Guadagni, brother of Gianni and Pierotto and son of Guadagno and our direct ancestor as is his father Guadagno, was among the elected priors, such sublime office was attained by **seventeen** members of this Guadagni Family.

It is the year 1293. The same Migliore attained the supreme and greatest office of Gonfalonier of Justice. He was the **second Gonfalonier in the History of the City of Florence**, from the election and creation of this office, which was as important and powerful as the one of “Doge” in the Republic of Venice or Genoa, two independent Sea or Maritime Republics (“Supreme Head of the Executive”) and in those times (year 1293) it had **more power** than the office of Doge of Venice or Genoa has today (year 1595, 3 centuries later). From his Office Migliore obtained privileges and exemptions from the Republic of Florence.



Palace of the “Doge” in Venice (above and below)



See size of the onlookers.



Palace of the “Gonfalonier of Justice”, Florence (Ghibelline, for the Emperor, battlements, in the shape of a “V”) on top of the tower, Guelph, for the Pope, battlements, in the shape of a square, everywhere else).



In the same year 1293, the Republic of Florence appointed the same Migliore Guadagni public speaker to arrange the peace treaty with Pisa, which he was able to conclude. A year later, in 1294, Migliore was appointed with other five men, to review the reasons dictating the policies of the Republic of Florence. In 1295, he was appointed again to the deputation of the Captain together with the sublime Priors, In the year 1296, the Republic of Florence appointed him Ambassador to Pope Bonifacio VIII.



Pope Bonifacio VIII by artist Giotto (Basilica of Saint John Lateran, Rome, Italy).

In the years 1304 and 1306, Matteo, Pieraccio, Migliorozzo and Filippone all of the Guadagni Family, were “feditori”, fighting mounted on horses; in “those days” (I presume with the invention of the cannon and the musket, things had changed in 1595) only the most powerful and richest citizens of Florence were appointed “feditori”.

In the year 1308, Filippone Guadagni, son of Migliore “del Panda (?)”, was “Gonfaloniere” of the Gonfalone of Porta San Piero (“Flag-bearer of the Flag of the Saint Piero’s Door (of the City of Florence).



Flag-bearer of the flag of Porta San Piero, in the year 1250.

In 1312, Filippone Guadagni was killed in the battle against Holy Roman Emperor Henry VII. In the same militia was also Francesco de' Medici, from then on called Francesco of the Band (i.e. della Banda). In 1313, Matteo, son of Migliore, Pierotto Miglioruccio son of Zato, Dotto and Bartolo sons of "Migliore del Panda", Giovanni and Neri sons of Benedetto Guadagni, were condemned by the same Holy Roman Emperor Henry VII as "Primates" (not "Apes" but "Very important and wealthy "enemy" citizens") and then, as we believe, given back to their original state ("not very important enemies of the Holy Roman Empire"?) in the year 1325.





ART.  
COM

Holy Roman Emperor Henry VII (In Latin: “*Dei Rex Henricus VII*” – “God’s King Henry VII”)  
Migliorotto was flagbearer of the Gonfalonier of the Vaio, in

tempo che alla città soprastava pericolo di guerra  
 & senza di Castuccio. Ed. anno 1342. D. Migliore fu  
 uno del consiglio. E l'anno 1343. Migliore di Vieri  
 Guasagni fece la pace con la famiglia degli Storti  
 a contemplazione del Duca d'Atene. E l'anno 1344.  
 D. Migliore fu dato ostaggio appresso Mastros della  
 scala mediante la compra della città di Lucca. E  
 l'anno 1344. Fu gli altri fucili della repubblica fior.  
 & divennero generali delobriani. E l'anno 1363. fu  
 creato capitano di guerra: E l'anno  
 1372. fu creato uno de' duci della guerra con grand.  
 autorità & superiorità, il qual magistrato de' dieci era  
 commissario generale della guerra, ed l. facciosa dalla  
 repubblica fior. E l'anno 1372. mentore egli sedeva  
 gonfaloniere propose una legge, che alcuno più prin-  
 cipi famiglia di quella città non potesse per dieci anni  
 conseguire grand'alcuna nella città o del dominio,  
 al cui parere niuno contraddisse. E l'anno 1373. il  
 D. Migliore fu creato informatore sotto nome di oratore  
 & compose i fatti della città di Piatria. E l'anno 1376.  
 essendo gonfaloniere di giustizia fu il principale alla  
 moderazione della legge prima fatta contro i Savonaroli fio-  
 rentini, il qual Migliore fu uomo di somma prudenza  
 e giudizio. E l'anno 1381. fu commessa a Vieri di Mi-  
 gliore di Vieri la cura delle cose di Volterra città di Vol-  
 terra, la quale in quel tempo si era acquistata, il che



the time the City was threatened by a danger of war from Castruccio, in the year that Dotto, son of Migliore was a member of the Council. It is the year 1343. Migliore, son of Vieri Guadagni, made peace with the Family of the Aliotti, following the advice of the Duke of Athens.

It is the year 1344. Migliore is given as a hostage to Mastino della Scala, through the acquisition of the City of Lucca.



City of Lucca, in the center, still surrounded by its Middle-Ages walls and towers.



Statue of Mastino della Scala

Mastino also means “Pit Bull” and della Scala means “of the ladder” so the Middle-Ages statue represents “Pit bull of the ladder”. Mastino della Scala was the Lord of Verona and other cities in Northern Italy. Mastino’s famous uncle was named Can Grande della Scala (“Big dog of the ladder”).

It is the year 1344. Amongst other things, Migliore was appointed by the Republic of Florence commander of 3,000 crossbowmen.

In 1363, he was elected War Captain by the City of Todi.

In 1372 he was appointed one of the Ten of the War with very large authority and superiority; as Magistrate of the Ten he was General Commissary of the Wars fought by the Republic of Florence. In the year 1372, while he was Gonfalonier of Florence, he proposed a law by which some of the most important families of Florence during the following 10 years could not attain any important office in the City or its Dominion and nobody opposed his idea.

In 1373, Migliore was created reformer under the name of “Public Speaker” and he arranged agreements in the City of Pistoia.



Pistoia, Italy.

In the year 1373, Migliore was Gonfalonier of Justice and he was the main moderator of the law *against* the Florentine “Primates” (Richest of the rich). Migliore showed great caution and judgement in the debate against the very rich and powerful. A few years earlier, in 1361, Vieri, son of Migliore son of Vieri was appointed to take care of the situation of the City of Volterra, who had just been acquired by Florence, inheriting by it privileges and exemptions.



City of Volterra







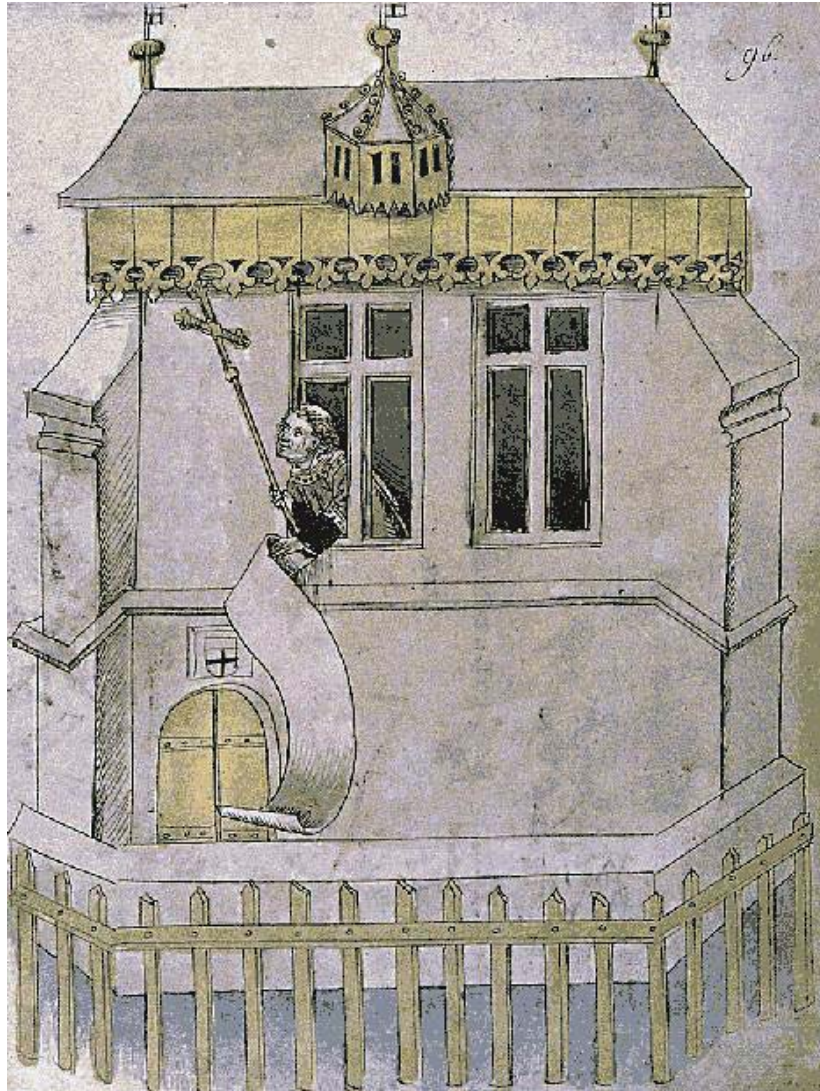
It is the year 1382. Migliorello, son of Guadagno, was sent by the Republic of Florence to fortify the fortresses and the towns of the Jurisdiction of Florence. It is the year 1411. Vieri, son of Vieri, was appointed Ambassador of the Republic of Florence together with Rinaldo degli Albizzi to (anti)Pope John XXIII.



Election of Antipope John XXIII

A year later, in 1412, Vieri was again appointed Ambassador by the Republic of Florence, to the new Pope Martin V.





Pope Martin V's election. He was from the Roman Family of Colonna, but he was elected Pope in the Council of Constance (Germany) by a conclave of only 23 cardinals and 30 delegates. However his family, the Colonnas, are related to us. The grandmother of the actual Prince Colonna di Stigliano, my age, is a Torrigiani Guadagni.

It is the year 1434. Francesco, son of Vieri Guadagni was a "Balìa", very important office in the Government of Florence. From the year of the Siege of Florence on, the men of this Guadagni Family have attained the most sublime and supreme offices of the Lieutenantcy and Counselors of the Grand-Duke of Tuscany in the Florentine Republic, and all the other offices which used to be given to the most ancient Florentine nobles and senators, the witness himself testified he saw that some of this same family of the Guadagni have attained similar offices.

Questioned on how he knew these things, he answered he has seen and read all these facts in the public records and memoirs of this City of Florence since as far as he can remember.



The Siege of Florence (10-24-1529 to 8-10-1530) by artist Giorgio Vasari (1511-1574)



Cosimo I de' Medici, 1st Grand Duke of Tuscany







Our witness answered that this was the truth and that the men of this Guadagni Family in this City of Florence have lived and live according to the habits of the Florentine gentlemen and have performed noble actions and have married women of the noblest and most ancient families of this City of Florence and to men of the same they have given their daughters in marriage as much in very ancient times as in modern times (end of the 16<sup>th</sup> Century). Cassandra, daughter of Francesco Guadagni (1534-1611 – still alive when the Senate of Florence wrote this document on the “Proofs of the Nobility of the Guadagni Family” in 1595), cousin of Very Eminent Guglielmo Guadagni, Lord of Boutheon, was married in 1595 (the year this document was written) to Antonio Salviati, blood-nephew of the Very Eminent Cardinal de’Medici, and nephew-by-marriage of the Very Eminent Cardinal Salviati, and Lucrezia, also daughter of Francesco Guadagni, was



Cardinal Anton Maria Salviati (1537-1602), uncle by marriage of Cassandra Guadagni



given in marriage to Andrea of the Very Eminent Medici Family. Vincenzo Guadagni (1546-1601), son of Filippo Guadagni (1504, 1555 – younger brother of our direct ancestor Jacopo Guadagni and founder of the Guadagni dell'Opera-Torrigiani Branch), cousin of the Very Eminent Guglielmo Guadagni, married Cammilla, daughter of Agnolo Guicciardini and Contessina Ridolfi, niece of Cardinal Ridolfi, son of another Contessina de'Medici married Ridolfi, daughter of Lorenzo de'Medici the Magnificent and sister of Pope Leo X.



Contessinea de'Medici Ridolfi, daughter of Lorenzo de'Medici the Magnificent, and mother of Cardinal Ridolfi and great-grandmother of Vincenzo Guadagni's wife.



Pope Leo X Medici, paternal great-great-uncle and maternal great-uncle of Vincenzo Guadagni's wife, Cammilla Guicciardini.

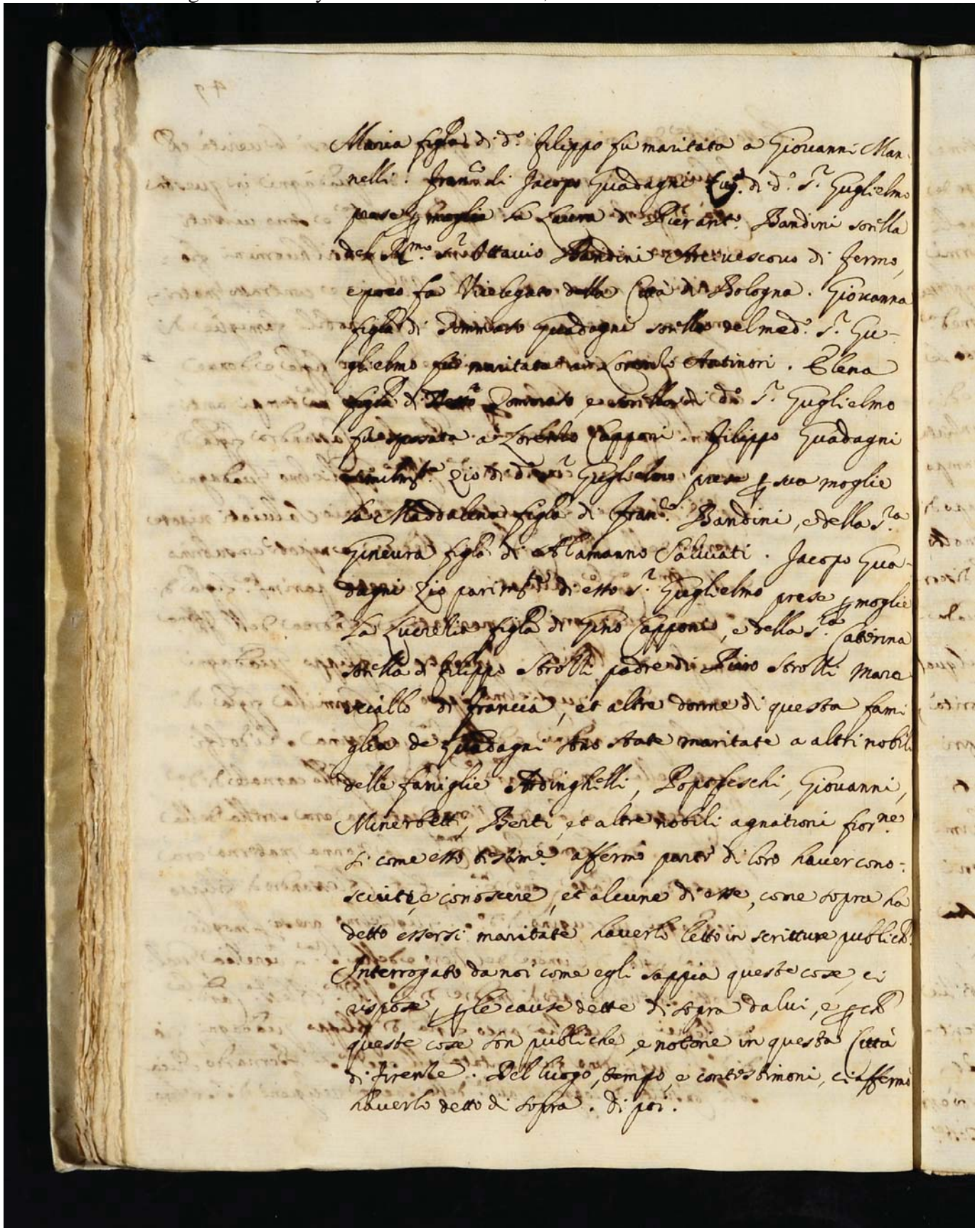
And Alessandro Guadagni (1545-1625), son of Filippo Guadagni, brother of our direct ancestor Jacopo Guadagni, also cousin of Very Eminent Guglielmo Guadagni, married Maria, daughter of Simone del Nero and Lucrezia Gualterotti, half-sister of Pope Leo XI



Pope Leo XI



Lucrezia Guadagni, also daughter of Filippo Guadagni and niece of our direct ancestor, Jacopo Guadagni, and cousin of the Very Eminent Guglielmo Guadagni, married the Very Eminent Bernardo Ricasoli, Consultor of the Law and Knight of the Holy Order of Santo Stefano,

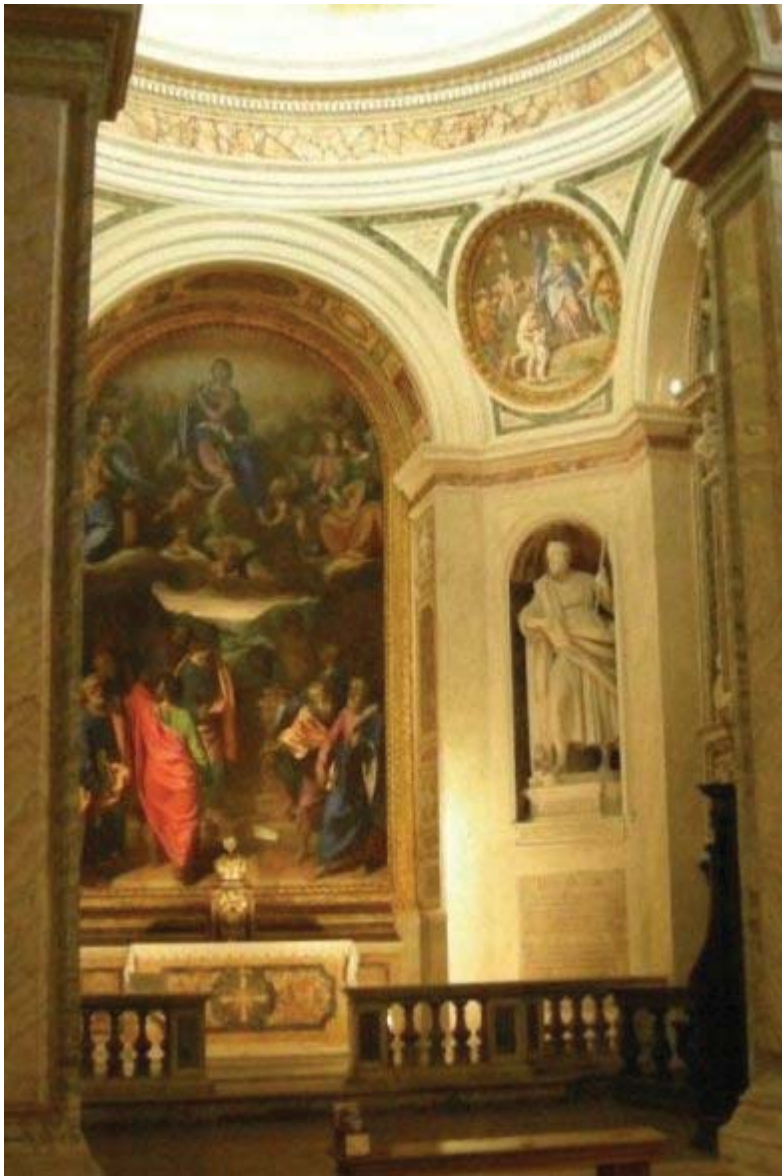


Maria Guadagni, another daughter of Filippo Guadagni, was married to Giovanni Mannelli.



Francesco Guadagni, son of Jacopo and our direct ancestor, and cousin of Guglielmo Guadagni, Lord of Boutheon, married Laura, daughter of Pierantonio Bandini, sister of the Very Eminent Ottavio Bandini, Archbishop of Fermo, who will be elevated to Cardinal in 1596, a year after this document was written, and a short while ago (from Feb.24, 1593 to May 19, 1595) was Vice-legate of the City of Bologna.

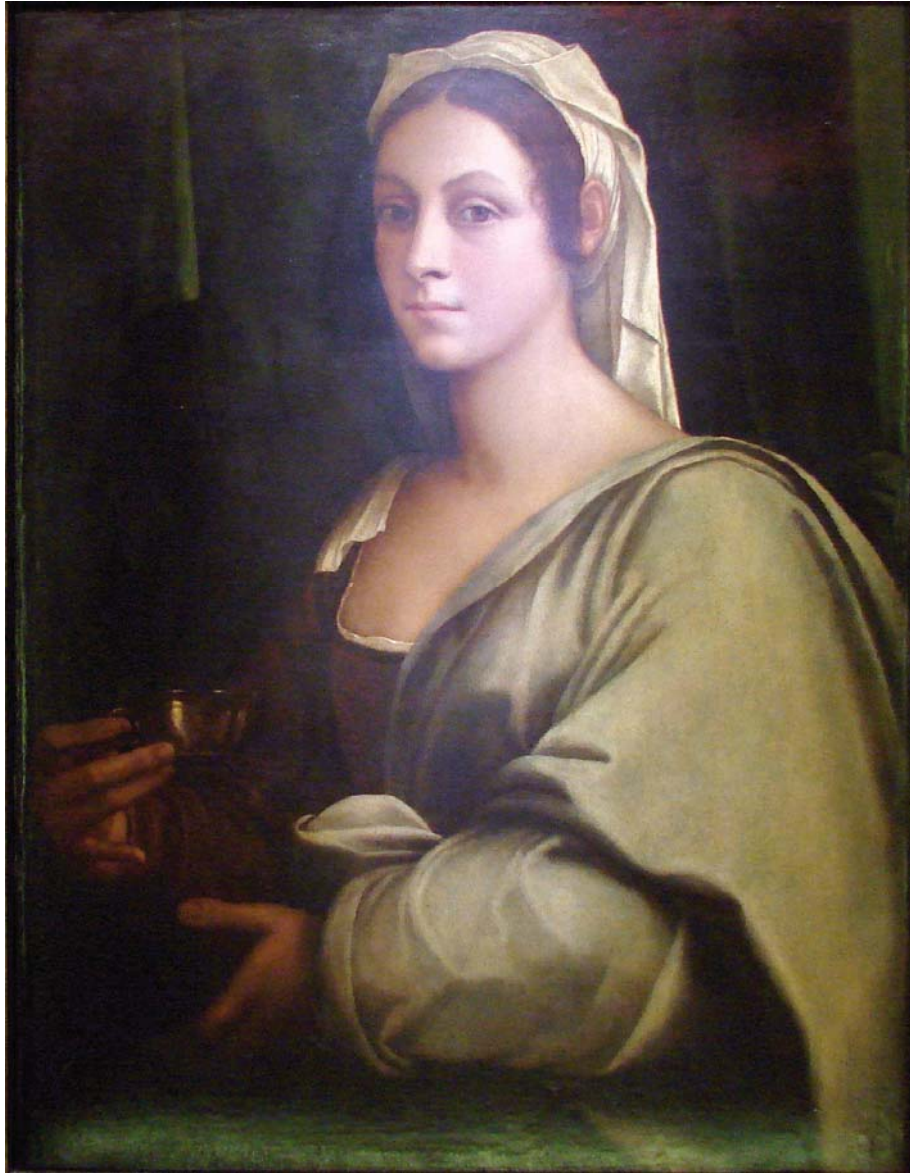




Bandini Chapel, in the Church of San Silvestro, one of the oldest in Rome. Michelangelo and his Roman poetess friend, Vittoria Colonna, would meet in it.



Michelangelo Buonarroti (1475-1564)



Vittoria Colonna (1492-1547) by artist Sebastiano del Piombo.





Vittoria Colonna drawn by Michelangelo himself



A crucifix which Michelangelo drew for Vittoria Colonna



Giovanna, daughter of Tommaso Guadagni and sister of the same Very Eminent Guglielmo, married Lorenzo

Antinori. Elena, also daughter of Tommaso Guadagni and sister of Guglielmo Guadagni, married Lorenzo Capponi.

Filippo Guadagni (1504-1555), uncle of Guglielmo, married Maddalena, daughter of Francesco Bandini and Ginevra Salviati, daughter of Alamanno Salviati. Alamanno Salviati gave Michelangelo, who was 29 years old, 1,000 ecus to purchase the marble in Carrara for the tomb of Pope Julius II. For 8 months Michelangelo lived in Carrara buying the marbles and planning the tomb with no other income but the money our ancestor Alamanno gave him. Eventually the Pope changed his mind and had Michelangelo paint the Sistine Chapel for him.



The ceiling of the Sistine Chapel by Michelangelo.



Jacopo Guadagni (1497-1569), our direct ancestor and also uncle of Guglielmo, married Lucrezia, daughter of Gino Capponi and of Caterina, sister of Filippo Strozzi, father of Piero Strozzi, Marshal of France. Let us notice that the Guadagni were marrying daughters and sisters of the most important people in the History of Florence of those times, they themselves being among those most important people, like Gonfalonier Bernardo Guadagni, who arrested Cosimo the Elder de' Medici, and eventually saved him from being murdered by Rinaldo degli Albizzi's son, Ormannozzo, and sent him into exile with a safe escort, after having invited him to dinner in his Florentine palace, changing the history of Florence and the world by it.

Filippo Strozzi (the "Younger"), uncle of Jacopo Guadagni, tried to stop the rise to power of Cosimo I de' Medici, future Grand-Duke of Tuscany, together with Baccio Valori, but they were defeated by the Medici forces, supported by Spanish troops, in the Battle of Montemurlo, on August 1, 1537. Filippo Strozzi was captured and imprisoned in the Fortress of San Giovanni Battista in Florence, where he died, by suicide or killed by order of Cosimo de' Medici. Also Cosimo de' Medici was related to the Guadagni, through Lorenzo de' Medici the Magnificent. So we have Guadagni relatives on both sides fighting and killing one another trying to gain supreme power in Florence.

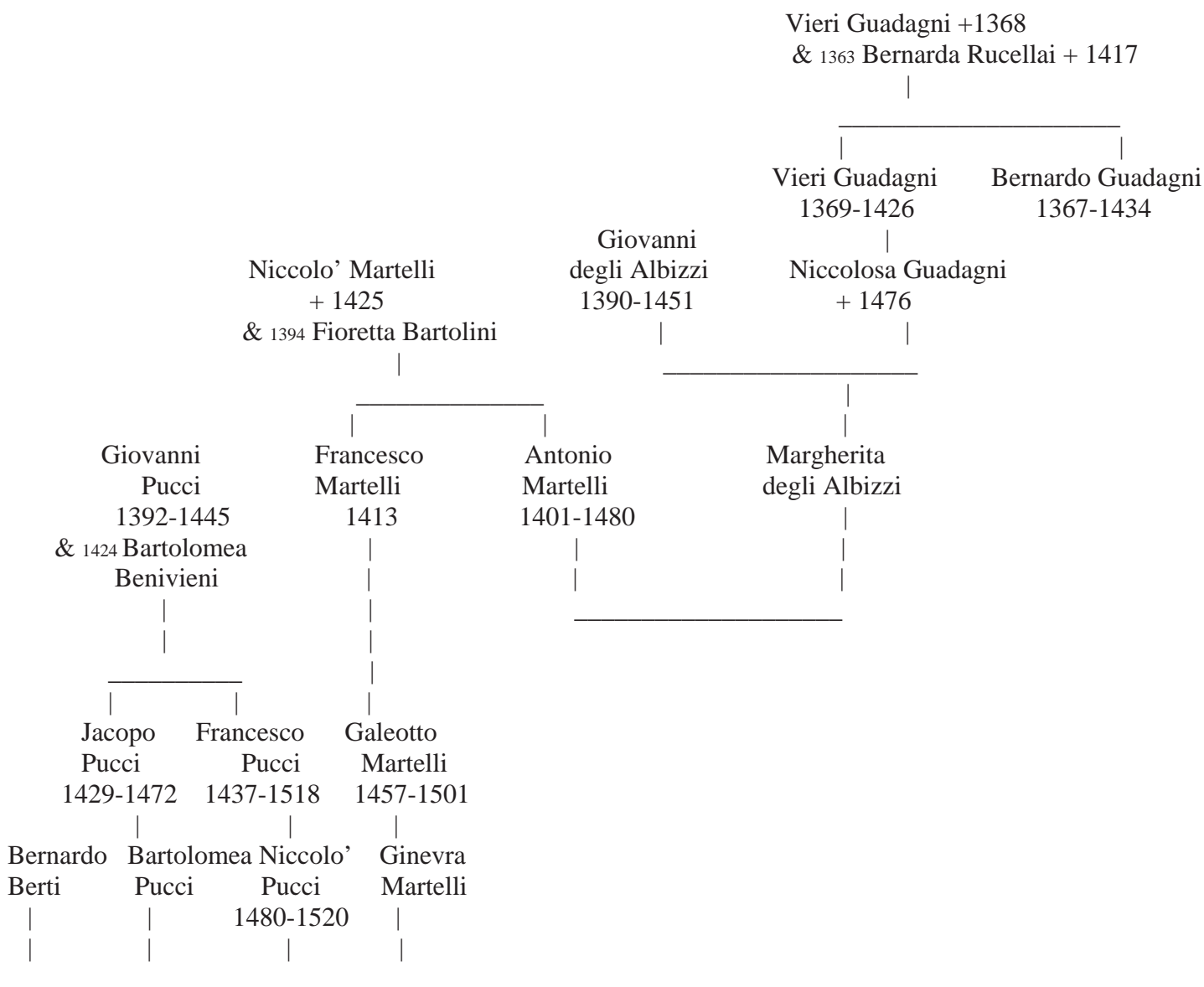
Other women of this Guadagni Family were married to other nobles of the families of Ardinghelli, Popoleschi, Giovanni, Minerbetti, Berti and other noble Florentine families. Renaissance Florentine sculptor Sivio Cosini executed the monument to Ruggero Minerbetti in the Basilica of Santa Maria Novella in Florence.



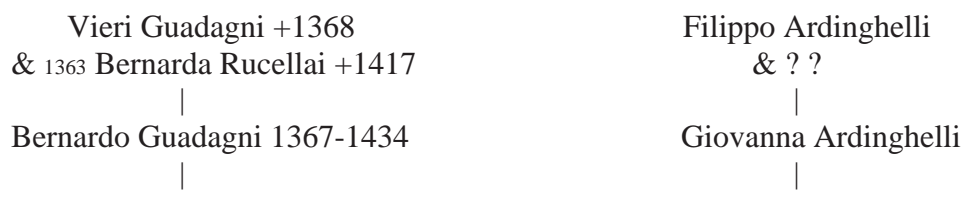
Basilica of Santa Maria Novella, in Florence

Florentine painter Casini (17<sup>th</sup> century) painted the portrait of Genovessa Popoleschi, mother of Lorenzo, bishop of Fiesole, in the Church of Santa Maria in Campo.

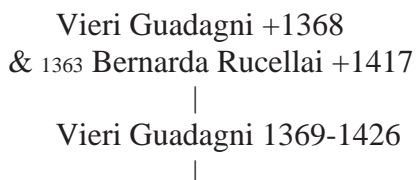
Relationship of our direct ancestor Vieri Guadagni with Bernardo Berti.



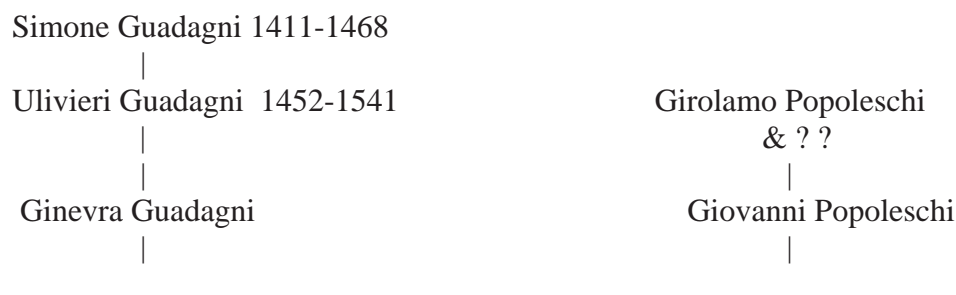
Relationship of our direct ancestor Vieri Guadagni with his daughter-in-law Giovanna Ardinghelli



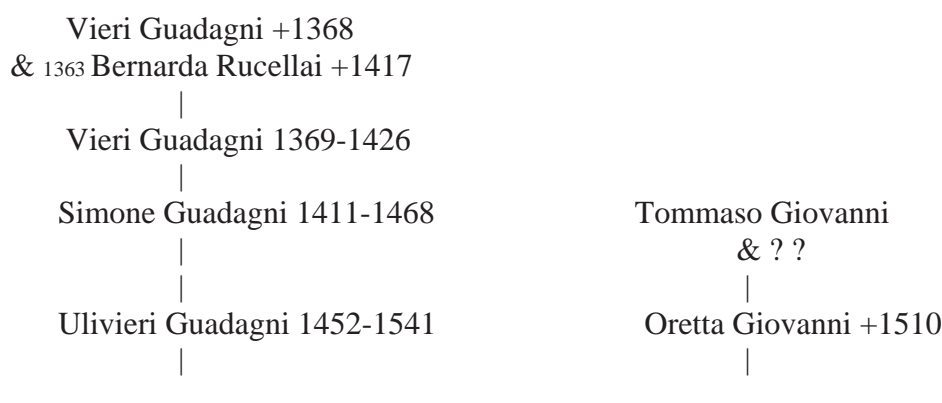
Relationship of our direct ancestor Vieri Guadagni with Giovanni Popoleschi, our great-great-great-uncle by marriage



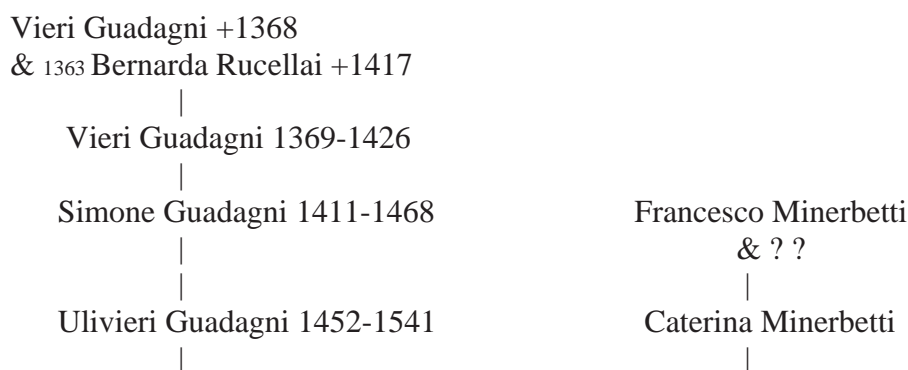




Relationship of our direct ancestor Vieri Guadagni with Oretta Giovanni, his great-grand-daughter by marriage



Relationship of our direct ancestor Vieri Guadagni with Caterina Minerbetti, his great-grand-daughter by marriage



[Caterina was Ulivieri's second wife, his first being Oretta Giovanni; he had 10 children from Oretta, including our direct ancestor, Jacopo Guadagni, as well as Filippo, ancestor of all the Guadagni dell'Opera and Torrigiani, and Tommaso, ancestor of all the French Gadagne and father of Guglielmo Guadagni, Lord of Boutheon and Seneschal of Lyon, for whom this "Proof on the Nobility of the Guadagni Family" was written by the Senate of Florence in 1595 and sent to the King of France Henry IV, and one daughter, Andrea, from Caterina Minerbetti, who will marry Neri Ardinghelli, already related to us as you see from the above second family tree.]

Our witness also testified that he had known and presently knows some of these Guadagni women married with Florentines from noble families and that he read about them in public official documents. Questioned by us on where his knowledge of everything he testified came from, he answered that what he said was publicly known and notorious in this City of Florence. He added that he already testified above on localities, times and co-witnesses.

Sopra il quarto articolo, che comincia. 4.<sup>o</sup> an finis brumena  
seu exemplat & finisce, probatione nobilitatis ipsius  
familie.

Il testamento da noi accettato, che si via d'in-  
brenti, o mandanti publici di memoria de tempi  
passati. gradi. matrimonij, & hanno contratto gl'hu-  
mini di questa famiglia da guadagni, & per apparire  
gradi, o titoli alcuni, & altri. Li sono presi, pered i  
nobili fiorentini mai hanno esordito pigliarsi, o altri  
civili, o titoli alcuni nelle azioni loro tanto publiche  
quanto private, ma solo in denominarsi, ponevano  
solo il nome loro proprio di suo padre e famiglia, nel  
modo che usavano i Romani come per esempio Giovanni  
di Luca de' Medici, Lorenzo di Cosimo, & Cosimo di  
Giovanni Medici, Giuliano di Piero Sforza, Alessandro  
di primo Ballo, Jacopo di Alamanno Caluati, &  
cosi degli altri fiorentini, a quali occorreua  
darsi uero nelle azioni loro.

Intorno a questo della prova del suo sapere affermo,  
haver visto ne publici instrumenti esseri così osservato.

Del luogo, tempo, & autorità di loro, & avere detto a  
bastanza. di più.

Sopra il quinto articolo, che comincia, tam in florentino  
hac urbe & finisce. int. coram arma et insignia.

Chiercato da noi, & ci apparisce la verità. Qual testimone  
afferma gl'huomini di questa famiglia da guadagni (come



On the 4<sup>th</sup> article which begins with “Instrumenta sin exempla” (“information with no examples”) and ends with “Probationi nobilitatis ipsius familia” (“Proofs of the nobility of his family”). The abovementioned witness testified that before the existence of papers or public documents of memoirs of past times on the marriages done by the men of this Guadagni Family, no nobility title or status which they could have boasted of can be found because the Florentine nobles have never had the habit of boasting of any title in their public or private actions, but only of using their own name, of their father and of their family, following the customs of the Romans, like for example Giovanni son of Bicci de’Medici, Lorenzo son of Cosimo, Cosimo son of Giovanni Medici, Giuliano son of Piero Capponi, Alessandro son of Cosimo Pazzi, Jacopo son of Alamanno Salviati.



Alessandro de’Medici (1519-1537), called “The Moor”, was the son of an African slave, Simonetta, who had been freed, and of an uncertain father. Most sources name as his father Lorenzo II de’Medici, ruler of the City of Urbino, others say Pope Clement VII de’Medici, Lorenzo II’s older brother.



Lorenzo II de’Medici, duke of Urbino (1492-1519) and grandson of Lorenzo the Magnificent, our cousin.

Pope Clement VII was his brother, so he was also our cousin and so was Duke Alessandro. Lorenzo was the ruler of Florence from 1513 until his death in 1519. In 1516, his uncle, our cousin, Pope Leo X de' Medici, made him Duke of Urbino, which he was until his death in 1519. Pope Clement VII de' Medici, born in 1478, was his fourteen years older brother. Lorenzo II married Madeleine de la Tour in 1518.



Madeleine de la Tour (1498-1519); she was Lorenzo II de Medici's wife, Duchess of Urbino, and the mother of their only child, Queen Caterina de' Medici of France (and stepmother of Duke Alessandro?) She died of plague very soon after Caterina's birth.

In 1519 Lorenzo II de' Medici's daughter, Caterina de' Medici was born, future Queen of France, and mother of three Kings of France, her husband died in a joust accident, her three sons, who all became successively King of France, died young and without heir, the first two of disease, the last one murdered.



Our cousin, Caterina de' Medici, Queen of France and mother of three Kings of France

Guglielmo Guadagni, Lord of Boutheon and Seneschal of Lyon, strenuously fought at her side to protect her, who was his cousin, and her three sons. At the death of Queen Caterina's last son, King of France Henry III, her second cousin, through her French mother, Madeleine de la Tour d'Auvergne, and her late sons second cousin through their common great-grandfather Charles d'Angouleme, Henry IV, became the next King of France and he married another Medici, cousin of Caterina, Maria de' Medici, who was escorted to France, at Maria's request, by Guglielmo Guadagni Junior, famous Knight of Malta.





The Knight of Malta standing under the canopy on the left is probably Guglielmo Guadagni Junior, in his Knight of Malta uniform, escorting his cousin Maria de' Medici from Florence to France to join her husband by proxy Henry IV, King of France, by famous artist Peter Paul Rubens. Maria traveled by ship from Tuscany to the Southern French port of Marseilles to meet King Henry IV in Lyon. However the Turkish pirates were still very dangerous in the Mediterranean Sea. That is why Maria de' Medici requested to be escorted to France and protected during her trip by her cousin Guglielmo Guadagni, famous Knight of Malta and experienced fighter against the Turks. From the marriage of our cousin Maria de' Medici and King Henry IV of France will descend 7 Kings of France: Louis XIII, Louis XIV, Louis XV, Louis XVI (beheaded during the French Revolution), Louis XVII (died of physical abuse as a child from his jail-keeper during the French Revolution), Louis XVIII and Charles X (sent into exile by the Second French Revolution in 1830).

Before marrying our cousin Maria de' Medici, King Henry IV had married Margaret of Valois, daughter of our cousin Queen Caterina de' Medici, thus becoming the Florentine Queen of France's son in law, before becoming her cousin by marrying Maria de' Medici. Eventually he had no children with Margaret and his marriage with her was annuled in 1599, with an agreement that allowed her to maintain her title of Queen.



A miniature of King Henry IV (1553-1610) and Margaret of Valois (1553-1615), made in December 31, 1571.

They were the same age. Her mother Queen of France Caterina de' Medici kept the miniature in her prayerbook. It seemed the artist made her fatter than she really was. She was 19 at the time and so was her husband.





Detail of ex-Queen Margaret of Valois invited to the Coronation of her cousin Maria de' Medici, as Queen of France and wife of her ex-husband King Henry IV, by artist Peter Paul Rubens (see whole painting below).



Coronation of our cousin Maria de' Medici as Queen of France by artist Peter Paul Rubens (the 5<sup>th</sup> lady standing upfront from the left is Margaret of France, and the beaming gentleman in the upper right window is King Henry IV of France).

However King Henry IV will be stabbed to death by Ravallac the following day May 14, 1610.

The new King, Henry IV, wanted to knight Guglielmo Guadagni Senior Knight of the Holy Spirit and so requested from the Senate and the Grand Duke of Florence, Ferdinando I, son of Grand Duke Cosimo I de' Medici, the document on the "Proofs on the Nobility of the Guadagni Family".





King of France Henry IV, who knighted Guglielmo Guadagni “Knight of the Holy Spirit” as soon as he received the “Proofs on the Nobility of the Guadagni Family” from the Senate of Florence, and his wife, Queen Maria de’ Medici, our cousin, and their children. Also King Henry IV will be murdered, by a fanatical Catholic, Ravaillac (as King Henry IV had been raised Protestant by his mother (who was poisoned by Caterina de’ Medici, Queen of France) and he converted to Catholicism only when the City of Paris refused to open its doors to a Protestant King) [Those were tough times for European monarchs...!].



King of France Henry IV, 57 years old, has just been stabbed by Ravaillac and is dying in his carriage. Ravaillac, on the right, is apprehended by the guards.



Francois Ravaillac, murderer of the King, brandishing his dagger. He was repeatedly tortured before being put to death, so as to reveal the names of any accomplices, even among the King's acquaintances or relatives, but was able to keep silent until he died.

Pope Clement VII chose the nineteen-year old Alessandro to become the first Duke of Florence in 1529. Florence had been a democratic or oligarchic Republic since its foundation, where every citizen was equal and titles of nobility like Count, Baron, Marquis, Duke, did not exist as there was no Princely or Kingly ruler that could bestow them on anybody. As we know, the head of the Republic of Florence was the "Gonfalonier" who was elected, and his children could not inherit his title by birth like the children of a King, an Emperor or a Grand-Duke. That is why, as we often read in this document, the Florentine Senate was proud to repeat that the Florentine citizens called themselves "Cosimo son of Giovanni", "Bernardo son of Vieri", not adding any title to their name, or their father's, or their family's. They compare themselves to the Romans of the Roman Republic where all the citizens were equal in status. Bernardo Guadagni and Rinaldo degli Albizzi feared that the Medici had in mind to change the Republic of Florence into a Medici Grand-Duchy, and that is why they arrested Cosimo de' Medici the Elder and sent him into exile (Ormannozzo degli Albizzi was even willing to murder him).

Pope Clement VII at that time was at odds not only with the Florentines who had driven out the Medici Family in 1497, but also with the Holy Roman Emperor Charles V. To solidify the allegiance that the papacy owed to the Holy Roman Empire, Alessandro de' Medici was named Duke of Florence and promised the Emperor's daughter, Margaret.





Holy Roman Emperor Charles V, by artist Titian



Margaret Duchess of Florence, wife of Alessandro de' Medici and illegitimate daughter of Charles V.



22 year old Emperor Charlers V and his lover Johanna Maria van der Gheynst at the birth of their baby Margaret, future Duchess of Florence and wife of Alessandro de'Medici.

In August 1530, after the end of the siege of Florence, which was defended by the Guadagnis, Michelangelo and many other Florentine heroes, but fell because a traitor, Malatesta Baglioni, opened the doors of the city to the enemy, Pope Clement VII made Alessandro de'Medici the first reigning Duke. Supported initially by the best families, Alessandro became an absolute prince, overthrowing the city's republican government.

Alessandro's situation grew worse when his protector and benefactor Pope Clement VII died in 1534. Resistance against Alessandro's reign grew among the Florentine exiles. In June 1536, however, Holy Roman Emperor Charles V visited Florence and married his daughter Margaret to Alessandro, consolidating the Duke's position. Nonetheless one year later, Alessandro was murdered by his own cousin Lorenzino de'Medici, who fled to Venice and was hailed among exiles as the "New Brutus". Brutus was the Roman who murdered self-proclaimed Dictator Julius Caesar to restore the freedom to the Republic of Rome in March 44 BC.





Pope Clement VII (1478-1534) de' Medici by artist Sebastiano del Piombo, in 1526. He was Pope from 1523 to 1534 when he died.



Lorenzino de' Medici (1514-1548) called "Lorenzaccio" ("bad Lorenzo") by Alessandro's friends.



Lorenzaccio murders Alessandro after inviting him to a small party at his house



Cosimo I de' Medici first Grand-Duke of Tuscany, at 19 years old, by artist Pontorno.



When Alessandro was killed, as his only son was illegitimate, Cosimo de' Medici (1519-1574), son of Medici warlord Giovanni dalle Bande Nere and a cousin of ours, Maria Salviati, from a different branch of the Medici Family, ran to Florence where he was greeted as the new Duke (later the Emperor crowned him as the first Grand-Duke of Florence).

Toward the end of July 1537, the exiles, led by our great-great-uncles Baccio Valori and Filippo Strozzi and other famous Florentines, marched toward Florence to oust the new Medici ruler and restore the Republic of Florence. However Cosimo was helped by Spanish troops sent by the Emperor and defeated the exiles at Montemurlo. As we know both of our great-uncles were captured, imprisoned, and Baccio was sentenced to death and beheaded on August 20, Filippo suicided himself or was killed by Cosimo's order.

When the Medici regained power, our direct ancestor Ulivieri Guadagni (1452-1541), who had been a hero, despite his old age, during the Siege of Florence, retired from public life. Even though the Medici asked him to accept a public office, he refused. He died, very old, on October 11, 1541.

Our direct ancestor, Jacopo Guadagni (1497-1569), who had also defended Florence during the Siege, reacted differently from his father, Ulivieri. He accepted the new regime of the Medicis. He was given many positions by Cosimo. He was even assigned to the Magistrature of the Eight, which was very important at that time. He was a member of it in 1539, 1552, and 1563. In 1561, he was elected senator. He died on August 7, 1569.

If we read the lives of our ancestors during the Medici Grand-Duchy we see they have always held very important offices and positions, greatly contributing to the wealth and expansion of the Grand-Duchy of Tuscany.

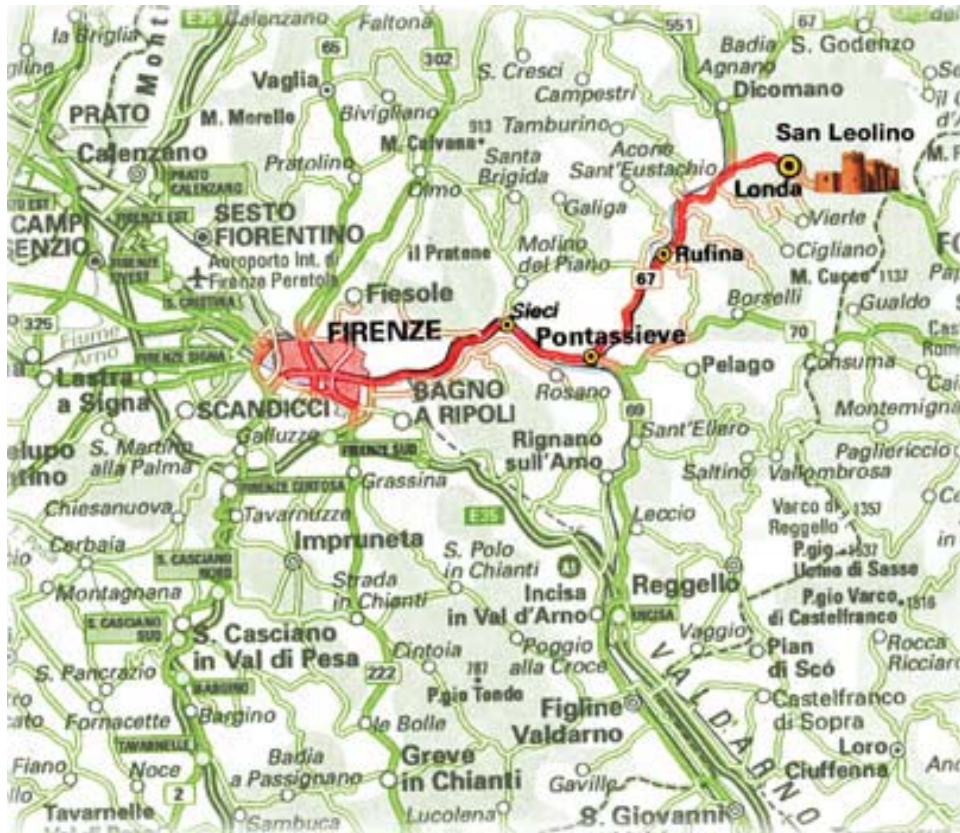
In 1634, Ortensia Guadagni (daughter of our direct ancestor Francesco Guadagni, son of the above mentioned Jacopo) was appointed chambermaid (i.e. lady in waiting) of Vittoria della Rovere, Grand Duchess of Tuscany. She had supervised Vittoria's education when the latter was a child. Her service was so dear to the Grand Dukes that, despite the fact that she was a woman, she was assigned the Marquisate of San Leolino del Conte, with its town and parish, and the parishes of Sambucheta, Vierle, Bucigna and Varena. It extended over an area with a circumference of eight miles, containing a total of 300 houses and 1,272 inhabitants. Ortensia had the duty of maintaining an army of 69 men, at the service of the Grand Duke. On February 21, 1652, Ortensia obtained another favor from the Grand Duke. A certificate granted that, at her death, the marquisate would pass to her brother Tommaso, our direct ancestor, and then to his first born descendants.

Our cousin Charles Migliore Guadagni is the actual 12<sup>th</sup> marchese of San Leolino del Conte.

Our great-uncle Pierantonio Guadagni (1629-1709), older brother of our direct ancestor Donato Maria, bought the Marquisate of Montepescali, in Southern Tuscany, and was invested with it by Grand Duke Cosimo III.

Map of Florence (“Firenze” in Italian) and the Guadagni castle and marquisate of San Leolino, near Londa, on the far upper right. We also notice the town of Pontassieve on the road from Florence to San Leolino. As we know the Guadagni Villa of Masseto, “cradle of the Family”, is near Pontassieve.

## How to arrive



### by car:

**From Florence:** go through the SS. N 67 in direction of Pontassieve , Rufina. In Contea take the deviation to Londa. In Londa pass through the bridge, turn on the left following the indications of Vierle. After about 3 Km at the junction for Vierle-San Leolino, follow the indications for Parrish and Castle of San Leolino. After about 1 Km turn on the left on an uneven road following the indication San Leolino.

**From Mugello:** go through the SS.N 551 first and then SS N 67 in direction of Borgo San Lorenzo, Vicchio, Dicomano. In Contea take the deviation to Londa. In Londa pass through the bridge, turn on the left following the indications of Vierle. After about 3 Km at the junction for Vierle-San Leolino, follow the indications for Parrish and Castle of San Leolino. After about 1 Km turn on the left on an uneven road following the indication San Leolino

### The closest highway exits are:

- In Incisa: about 35 Km
- Firenze Sud: about 40 Km
- Barberino del Mugello: about 45 Km

### by train

The nearest Railways Station is Contea, linked with Londa by a bus service. The frequency of connections between Florence and Conta is about 1 train per hour. The travel takes about 1 hour .

The distance between Florence and San Leolino is 40 Km, about 24.85 miles.





Marquisate of Montepescali (Middle-Ages walls of the town of Montepescali, above, and view of the town on a hill surrounded by the territory of the Marquisate, below)



Questioned on where he learned all this, the witness answered that he had seen it recorded in public documents and had noticed it himself.



è fama, hanno avuto le loro case antichissime  
in via, ed è di via Sottana. E così, et oggi, Borgo de  
gl' Albizi in certe antichissime torri, nella quali  
ho habitato esse torri et in due torri ha uisto l'armi  
et insegna di questa famiglia dei guadagni impresse  
in pietra, si come in altre case sparse nella med.  
uia di Borgo de gl' Albizi. Dipinto in Et ha uisto le  
med. armi nella cappella della med. famiglia ed  
questa nella celeberrima Chiesa della med. Annunziata  
nelle quali armi è dipinto una croce d'oro in campo  
rosso con l'impresa d'un leopardo con elmo, e capo di  
leopardo e motto *Exaltabitur*. et si tiene, Et molto  
tempo fa de' suoi fuero abbeneate, fle dicono  
da civili et cauati, et Migliore di Vieri Guada-  
gni cono uno de' capitani di S. Stefano, il qual  
magistrato in quel tempo era di grand. autorità,  
interuenne all'ordinazione, che alcuni de' pri-  
mati non potessero conseguire magistrati, et  
credendo di tori antichissime, per in quelle l'armi  
et insegna di questa famiglia dei guadagni  
che la medesima famiglia ha  
flessa nobilita avanti i tempi Siro de' sinti  
ancora di memoria non bene pota haueuer nobilita  
fle perdita per abbeneamento di publiche senten-  
te causa di guerre, peste, incendij, et  
inondationi del fiume d'Arno, e così ad esso

Teste



On the fifth chapter which starts with “tam in Florentina hac Urbe” (“as much in the region of Florence as in the City”) and ends with “sint enim arma et insignia” (“there are the coat-of-arms and the crests”), the witness testified that the men of this Guadagni Family, as it is well known, have kept their very ancient houses in the slope of Porta San Piero (“St. Peter’s Door”), and today, in Borgo degli Albizzi (“degli Albizzi Street since the Middle Ages”) in certain very ancient towers, in which they lived and the witness testifies that he saw the coat-of-arms and Family Crests of this Guadagni Family, sculpted in stone, as in other houses, also located in Borgo degli Albizzi. They are painted and he saw the same crests in the Chapel built by the Guadagni Family in the very famous Church (now Basilica) of the Santissima Annunziata (from which the Nunziata Branch of the Guadagni Family takes its name), in these crests a golden cross on red background is painted, with a leopard with a unicorn on its helmet and the motto “Exaltabitur”. Some time ago these Guadagni crests of Borgo degli Albizzi were burnt because of a city discord due to Migliore, son of Vieri Guadagni, Captain of Parte Guelfa, who was a Magistrate of great authority, and intervened in the nominations, stating that some of the “primates” (very rich citizens) should not be able to obtain offices. The towers were very ancient, and had the crests and coat-of-arms of this Guadagni Family sculpted on them, as they were already noble before the times recounted in this story. People still remember the loss and burning of public records of these nobles because of wars, plague, fires, floods of the Arno River and this is what this witness testified to be the truth.

Essere la verità.

In causa del sapere interog. disse apparire la verità  
delle cose soprascritte & quielehi egli ha detto. Del  
luogo tempo e circostanze affermò haver detto di  
sopra. di poi

Sopra il 26<sup>to</sup> articolo Et comincia. De po. li. hge. agratis  
e finisee, regionibus, et civitatibus.

Peto. 6. 8. 2. ricercato depono. Per questa famiglia et  
uomini di quella, nella maniera, Et l'altre pro-  
sapie, onore, e nobiltà di quall' uoglio Città, Ron-  
nabili, e capoe. d'essere ricercati, et ammessi in  
quall' uoglio ordine, e religione, siccome l'offa. già  
per Pietro Quadagni Figlio di D. Guglielmo fu  
ammesso nella militia, e religione dell' Ordine di S. Maria  
il quale fu anco in Toscana, e D. religione Vice-  
uitore generale, e fuotenente del Duca del  
Ducato di Lira. Et in D. religione fu ammesso  
ancora Guglielmo figlio del D. Sommaro Quadagni  
Barone di Camperio uicere di D. Sig. Guglielmo  
figlio di D. Simone, e Senescalco di Lione.

Incauto di sapere interrogato da noi D. Barte. rispon-  
dendo conosciute di fra Pietro e fra Guglielmo  
nella città di Firenze agli anni passati. Del luogo  
tempo e circostanze affermò haverlo deposto di  
sopra. Di poi

Sopra il libro d'arte e Commercio. ultimo li da  
contenuto in preinserto tabulato & finisce di diretta



On the sixth article beginning with “sesto di agnatio” (“Sixth on the fame”) and ending with “ragionibus et limitatibus” (“reasons and limits”), the witness testified that this family and the men from it in the way of the other ancient and noble traditions of any City are able and capable to be received and admitted in any Order and Congregation, as we see that already Brother Pietro Guadagni, son of Guglielmo, was admitted in the Militia and Order of Jerusalem (“Knights of Malta” originally named “The Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of Saint John of Jerusalem of Rhodes and of Malta, also known as the Sovereign Military Order of Malta”), who was also in Tuscany as General Collector of the Order and Lieutenant of the Prior of the Priory of Pisa and in the same Order was also received Guglielmo Guadagni, son of Tommaso Guadagni, Baron of Champroux, nephew of Guglielmo Guadagni, Lord of Boutheon and Seneschal of Lyon.



Rooftop terrace of the 6<sup>th</sup> floor of the Gadagne (Guadagni) Palace, now Museum, leaning against the highest hill of Lyon. On the right you can see the narrow Gadagne Street six floors below, on the left, you walk directly on the slope of the adjacent hill.

Questioned of his knowledge of this, the witness answered that he had personally known Brother Pietro and Brother Guglielmo Guadagni in the City of Florence a few years ago. He said that he had already mentioned above localities, times and co-witnesses.

lineam.

Edo. testis. da noi interrogato disse, ed quella dalle  
memorie pubbliche, e dall' albero di questa fami-  
glia, e dal libro chiamato L'istoria cominciato  
l'anno di nra salute 1281. hauere ottimamente  
letto, e cognosciuto della nobiltà, et antichità  
de gl' heronimi di questa famiglia de' guadagni  
diastanti per gradi ascendenti di d.  
Guglielmo guadagni fig. d. Roberto  
per linea retta.

Interrogato poi come egli ciò sappia, rispose,  
che ha letto stare in questa maniera in  
libri pubblici, e memore di questa Città di Firenze,  
dal tempo di sua memoria in qua, et i suoi  
contadini possono sapere queste cose. di poi.  
Sopra l'articolo primo, e comincia. 8.º quod in  
Urbe florentia p. c. finisce, modis et ordinibus  
utuntur.

Detto teste da noi ricercato disse, che esso contenute  
nell' articolo esser uera, che i figliuoli primo-  
geniti non hanno prerogativa alcuna, ed i nobili  
gl' altri suoi figli minori, per la ciascheduna  
nelle divisioni de' beni conegna fuqual rata e  
porzione, e tutto si ha osservato, e si osserva in  
Firenze, et in tutto il suo dominio.

Del luogo tempo, e circostanze disse haueo detto  
di sopra. di poi.



On the Seventh Article, questioned by us the witness said that from public memoirs and from the time the book “The Priorist” was started in the Year of our salvation 1281, he read very good reports on the nobility and antiquity of the men of this Guadagni Family, twelve generations ancestors in direct line of Guglielmo Guadagni, Lord of Boutheon.



Castle of Boutheon (above and below)

The castle of Boutheon has been recently bought by the City of Boutheon and the Mayor of the City, Mr. Schalk, a dear friend of ours (he invited Carlo Guadagni, me, and Guadagni Historian Edouard Lejeune to lunch, when we went there several years ago, and he invited my sister Eleonora and her husband Gian Domenico Profilo to lunch in a new restaurant, just opened next to the Guadagni castle), toured us all around the castle, which has been transformed in one of the most important museums of the Loire River Valley. The Loire flows 200 yards from the Guadagni Castle.



Guadagni Castle of Boutheon



On the 8<sup>th</sup> article, the witness said that what was written in the article was true about the firstborn sons not having any more inheritance than the younger siblings in the division of the goods and the same you can notice and observe in every family of the City of Florence and its Dominions.

[illegible]



On the 9<sup>th</sup> article the witness said that they are not used to add other name or title to their name, or their father's or their family's and that the Florentine Republic has already become absolute master and owner of all the fiefs in all its dominions and that everybody today acknowledges the Republic as owner and promises to acknowledge it as the owner of their feudal properties.

Questioned on how he knew it, the witness answered that what he related were publicly known and notorious things. He said he had already talked above on the localities, times and co-witnesses.

On the tenth article we asked the witness to tell us the truth and he answered as follows: that the Commissaries, Captains and Mayors, entrusted with the government of the City, Castles and important localities, have practiced the offices to which they were appointed and nobody has appealed or appeals against their sentences in the criminal cases on the way the Magistrates of the City of Florence judge in the civil cases and in the Florentine Tribunal.



Tribunal of Florence

On how he knew these things he answered that that is what he saw and observed in the Magistrates, being himself a Florentine Senator, who had practiced in the City of Florence already for a certain period of time and his co-witnesses can notice the same things. Page 52 b

et Simone como Senatore fise carcerati nella città  
 di Firenze da quales tempo in qua, e dora, chi  
 suoi contrabimoni possono ciò sapere. di poi.  
 Sopra l'undecimo ed comincio a. quod praelibatus Ill.  
 Ill. Guglielmo de' Guadagni, nobilioris florent.  
 Loro teste d'ora così over la verità, ed d. Ill. signor  
 Guglielmo Guadagni sig. d. Bouteon in Francia  
 fu figlio legittimo e naturale di Tommaso di Ul-  
 livieri di Simone di Vieri di un altro Vieri di Migliore  
 di Vieri di Migliore di Guadagno di Migliore di  
 Ulivieri di Guadagno tutti dello stesso anteo e  
 nobil famiglia dei Guadagni, quali tutti, come ha  
 detto di sopra, sono stati habuti, tenuti e reputati  
 in d. città di Firenze fra i più nobili per hanno conse-  
 guito in tempi d'ietro i Magistrati del Gonfa-  
 loniere di giustizia, e dei Priori della libertà  
 quali Magistrati erano in quel tempo nella città  
 di Firenze supremi et ancora hanno goduto i  
 Magistrati del dieci e del trenta della militia  
 flor. quali magistrati, dignità n'è stato con-  
 cesso conferirli sono a i più nobili fiorentini, siccome  
 tale questo è notato e apparisce chiaramente in pub-  
 blic instrumenti. Intanto per del luogo, tempo e  
 contrabimoni d'ora hanno fatto a bastanza de' posti.  
 C'è d. ordine. e d'ordine d. Ill. d. Guglielmo,

On the eleventh article, which starts “Quod praelibatus illustrissimus Guglielmus” (“What the fantastic very eminent Guglielmo...”) and ends “Nobiliores Florentinos” (“Florentine nobles”). This Florentine witness said that this was the truth, that the Very Eminent Guglielmo Guadagni, Lord of Boutheon, in France, was the legitimate and natural (“not adopted”) son of Tommaso son of Ulivieri son of Simone son of Vieri son of another Vieri, son of Migliore son of Vieri son of Migliore son of Guadagno son of Migliore son of Ulivieri son of Guadagno, all of the same and noble family of the Guadagni, all of whom, as stated above, have been considered and reckoned in this City of Florence among the most noble and have attained in ancient times the Offices of Gonfalonier of Justice (i.e. President of the Republic of Florence) and of Priors of the Freedom, the two most important offices in the City of Florence in those times, and they have also held the offices of Magistrates of the Ten and of the force of the Florentine Militia, with offices and dignity only reserved for the most noble Florentines and everything he said is well known and clearly written in public documents.





Tommaso Guadagni II, moving his arm, and Tommaso Guadagni I, the two long gray bearded men on the left of Jesus in the painting "The Doubting of St. Thomas" by Florentine Artist Francesco Salviati (1510-1563). It used to be in the Guadagni Chapel of Lyon, now it is in the Louvre Museum in Paris.



Sculpture of the profile of Tommaso Guadagni I in Lyon.

Asked on the localities, times and co-witnesses of what he testified, the witness said he had already mentioned them above.

[illegible]



The witness said that he said only the truth about the Very Eminent Guglielmo and all the things about his life, and the witness was 56 years old and compared to the other witnesses interrogated in general, he answered very well and consistently.

October 22, 1595

The Very Eminent and Illustrious Lodovico, son of the late Very Eminent Luigi Mannelli, Florentine Senator and for the Seat of the Bishop of Zoppi and Assistant of the Church of Chiusi, new witness as above, chosen by us Lieutenants and Counselors, has been selected for this matter as witness, has been advised, sworn in, and finally he has



Church of Chiusi

been secretly and diligently examined as a witness on the subjects listed below; in the swearing in, he put his hand on his chest and witnessed as follows.

The witness testified that the Guadagni Family has been considered as noble and ancient for a long time and is among the most ancient families of this City, commonly known and reckoned as such by all the Florentine nobles and patricians, in the present time (1595), outright and publicly.

haute, tenuta, o deputata da tutti i nobili, e  
fabrikij fiorentini, et al presente si tiene, e  
regula palasemb. o publico.

Interrogato in cada una del sapere rispose. Perche  
egli ho hauuto et ha notitia e scienza dell'anti-  
chita, e nobilita di questa famiglia da guadagnar  
tanto da publici et autentichi Instrumenti,  
quanto dalla publico uoce, e fama, che e  
in questa citta di fiorenza. Del luogo in  
questa citta di fiorenza. Del tempo ditta da  
sua memoria in qua. De' suoi testimoni ditta  
di se stesso, e dell'officio suo. Mons. Fran.

abate da Diocesi, e la sua. gratia Vescou  
di Arezzo, e da' Signori, et altri. Di. Gualdo  
Valori, Lorenzo Niccolini, e dell'officio. Di.  
Auerado Medici, e Piero Manni Senatori  
fiorentini, i nomi de quali. Largo sarebbe rac-  
contare. Rispose.

Sopra il secondo punto, et condicione. Et an Vni  
agnationis, huiusmodi, prius, et post, patiantur palam, et  
publice.

Rispose, et il huiusmodi di questa nobile, et antica fami-  
glia, del guadagno in questa citta di fiorenza da  
lungo tempo, et tempo, del quale non e memoria  
non stata, et non e da augurare, ottenere, et



Questioned on his knowledge, he answered that he has had and has knowledge and acquaintance of the antiquity and nobility of this Guadagni Family from public and authentic documents and also through public fame and hearsay, in this City of Florence. As locality he said it was the City of Florence, timewise he stated as far as he can remember, as co-witnesses he mentioned himself first and then the Very Eminent Monsignor Francesco Cattani di Diacceto, Bishop of Fiesole, the very eminent and excellent Baccio Valori, Lorenzo Niccolini, the Very Eminent Averardo de' Medici, and Piero Alamanni, Florentine senators, and so many other names, that it would be too long to write them all down.

All of the co-witnesses on the nobility of the Guadagni Family listed above, were very important Florentine citizens.

Francesco Cattani di Diacceto (1531-1595), often referred to Francesco Cattani di Diacceto the “Younger” in order to distinguish him from his grandfather, the philosopher Francesco son of Zanobi Cattani di Diacceto (1466-1522), was Bishop of Fiesole and author of several works including an “Essamerone” (“Hexameron”) and a translation into vernacular Florentine Italian of the Hexameron of Saint Ambrose.



Allegory of our relative Dante Alighieri (related through our direct ancestor Vieri Guadagni), champion of the use of vernacular Italian for literature rather than Latin. Fresco by artist Luca Signorelli in the chapel of Saint Brizio dome, Orvieto. Because Dante was Florentine and his “Vernacular Italian” was “Florentine”, and he was the greatest writer of Italy of all times, “Florentine dialect became the official language” used in all of Italy, instead of Latin.

Francesco Cattani di Diacceto was born on September 2, 1531, to Dionigi Cattani di Diacceto and Maria daughter of Guglielmo Martini. His father was one of the thirteen children of the noted philosopher Francesco son of Zanobi Cattani from Diacceto, sometimes dubbed “The Older” to distinguish him from his grandson.



Bishop Cattani da Diaceto



Cattani of Diaceto Palace in Florence

In 1546 Cattani became a canon (cleric member of the Chapter of the Cathedral) of the Cathedral of Florence, and by 1558 was an apostolic protonotary (an honorary prelate on whom the Pope has conferred this title and its special privileges).



Generic coat of arms of a protonotary apostolic, it is blank because each protonotary apostolic can put his personal crest in it.



On August 11, 1570, he was named Bishop of Fiesole, on the retirement of his uncle Angelo Cattani of Diacceto from that post. During the 25 years of his tenure he completed the construction, begun by his uncle, of the monastery of Santa Maria della Neve (“Saint Mary of the Snow”) at Pratovecchio.



Monastery of Saint Mary of the Snow of the Dominican Sisters, at Pratovecchio



Dominican Sisters in prayer in the above Monastery, in Pratovecchio



Painting of Jesus descending into Hell, after His death on the Cross, to free the souls emprisoned in it.



His Holiness Saint Pope John Paul II at the Monastery of Saint Mary of the Snow, Pratovecchio, completed by the co-witness on the “Proofs of the Nobility of the Guadagni Family”, Bishop Angelo Cattani of Diacceto.





Chapel of San Jacopo, in Fiesole

He also restored the oratory of San Jacopo in Fiesole and the church of Santa Maria in Campo in Florence, and supervised the restoration of the Cathedral of Fiesole, giving the apse in its present form.



Fiesole Cathedral



Plain and majestic interior of the Cathedral of Fiesole

Cattani had studied civil law and theology, and as a young man had frequented the Florentine Academy.



Headquarters of the Florentine Academy, Villa of Careggi, near Florence.

Cattani was a prolific writer on religious topics. He attempted to collect and publish the works, in Latin and Italian, of his grandfather Francesco son of Zanobi Cattani da Diacceto, and commissioned Benedetto Varchi to write his biography.

Benedetto Varchi was an Italian humanist, a historian and a poet. He fought to defend Florence, during the Siege of Florence, together with the Guadagni and Michelangelo, in 1529-1530, and was exiled after the surrender of the city. In 1536 he took part in our cousin Strozzi's unsuccessful fight against Medicean rule, but seven years later Varchi was called back to Florence by Grand-Duke Cosimo I de' Medici, who gave him a pension and commissioned him to write a history of the city. His *Storia Fiorentina* ("History of Florence") in 16 volumes, covers the period from 1527 to 1538, though it was so frank it was not published in Florence until 1721.





Benedetto Varchi (1503-1565) by Titian



A paper by Francesco Cattani di Diacceto on “Di Quaresima” (“About Lent”), Florence, 1578.



Saint Francis of Assisi talking to Count Orlando Cattani, from Chiusi, ancestor of Francesco Cattani di Diacceto. In the picture Saint Francis says: "The good I expect from God is so great that every suffering I go through to attain it, fills me with joy."



Cattani Castle



In American writer Ezra Pound's "Cantos", Varchi is mentioned with approbation (Canto V) for his honesty as an historian who did not try to fill in gaps in an historical record just to make that record neat. Rather, he was willing to admit that he did not know or that the motives or the events surrounding a particular incident could not be absolutely determined. Pound gives as an example of Varchi's honesty his investigation- for his history of Florence- of the murder of Duke Alessandro de' Medici. Varchi admitted that after all his attempts to uncover the facts he could not decide on the motives of Alessandro's murderer (our cousin Lorenzino de' Medici, aka "Lorenzaccio", Alessandro's cousin). It is nice to learn that the co-witnesses to the "Proofs of the Nobility of the Guadagni Family" and/or their friends were so extremely honest in their historical research.

Francesco Cattani di Diacceto died on November 4, 1595; a few days after the document on the "Nobility of the Guadagni Family" of which he was mentioned as a co-witness was taken to the King of France. He was buried in the Oratory of S. Jacopo in the Bishop's Palace of Fiesole.

The second co-witness in the above list is "Baccio Valori". There are two famous "Baccio Valori" both related to the Guadagni. The first one was a Florentine politician and "condottiere", faithful to the Medici. He participated in the Siege of Florence, but on the besiegers' side, with the troops of Emperor Charles V. When Florence surrendered in 1530, Pope Clement VII de' Medici made him Governor of Florence and he was a rather ferocious one.

When Alessandro de' Medici was made Duke of Florence, Baccio was an important counselor of his and was appointed senator. However after the murder of Alessandro by his cousin Lorenzaccio de' Medici, he became disillusioned with tyranny and changed sides. With our cousin Piero Strozzi and other Florentine exiles he fought in the battle of Montemurlo, on August the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1537, against the troops of Cosimo I de' Medici and was defeated. He was beheaded on August the 20<sup>th</sup> of the same year.



AllPosters

Baccio Valori the Elder by artist Sebastiano del Piombo

There is an Apollo-David, Apollo or Apollino “little Apollo”, about 5 foot tall, which is an unfinished marble sculpture by Michelangelo that dates from approximately 1530, the year Florence was forced to surrender to Holy Roman Emperor Charles V. It now stands in the Bargello museum in Florence. The statue had been commissioned for the private palace of Baccio Valori the Elder when the fierce governor was imposed on Florence by Pope Clement VII after the recovery of the city from the protracted siege. Work on the sculpture stopped shortly after Alessandro de’ Medici was made duke and Michelangelo left the city. Michelangelo did not have the time to finish the sculpture of a naked young man, and that is why nobody knows if he represents David of “David and Goliath”, but his unfinished hand does not yet hold the sling in it, or a young teenage Apollo (that is why the statue is called “Apollino” (“little or young Apollo”) or Apollo-David, not knowing which of the two he represents). The sculpture then entered the collection of Duke Cosimo I de’ Medici and was placed in his private quarters. It is interesting how two cousins of ours, Baccio Valori and Cosimo I de’ Medici, competed over the ownership of a statue of Michelangelo. A few years later, the Guadagni Family had the most important private art collection in Florence and one of the most important in all of Europe.

Baccio Valori the Elder was obviously not the co-witness on the “Proofs of the Nobility of the Guadagni Family”, written in 1595, 58 years after his death.

The second Baccio Valori was his nephew, named “the Younger” to differentiate him from his famous uncle. Baccio Valori the Younger, co-witness to the “Proof on the Nobility of the Guadagni Family”, was a scholar, a humanist, a politician and a philanthropist. His family had been exiled from Florence after the defeat in the Battle of Montemurlo in which they had tried to block Cosimo I de’ Medici’s rise to power in Florence. They were able however to protect their properties from confiscation by making them seem as they were owned by the Alessi Family, who had recently married a Valori girl, whose dowry included the Valori Palace. Baccio recuperated the Family properties and estates by becoming Senator under Grand-Duke Ferdinando I de’ Medici, the one who signed the “Proofs on the Nobility of the Guadagni Family” by the Senate of Florence.

He was cultured and lover of Art, and he became Librarian at the Medici Laurentian Library and President of the Drawing Academy.



Façade of the Laurentian Medici Library by Michelangelo.

He adorned the family palace with the sculpted busts of 15 famous Florentines by sculptor Giovan Battista Caccini. These busts were set on “niches” on the façade of the palace. However some of them were of people unknown to the majority of the Florentines but only to a select restraint group of erudites like him.





“Palace of the Ugly Faces”, Florence, first owned by the Degli Albizzi Family, then by co-witness Baccio Valori, who had sculpted busts of famous Florentines (nicknamed “Ugly Faces” by the ironical citizens of Florence) put on the facade of his palace.

After his death, his widow Virginia Ardinghelli, also, like him, related to the Guadagnis, had a special commemorative stone put under his bust, in the atrium of the Valori palace.



Portrait of co-witness Baccio Valori “the Younger” in a niche in his palace.



Valori Family Crest

In 1607, Filippo Valori of the Valori Family married Caterina Guadagni (1590-1642), daughter of our great-uncle Alessandro Guadagni (1545-1625), nephew of our direct ancestor Jacopo Guadagni, and Maria del Nero. Bartolomeo Valori (+1477 in Rome)'s grand-daughter Lucrezia Valori Tornabuoni, was a cousin of our direct ancestors Migliore and Vieri Guadagni, through their and our common ancestor, Simone Tornabuoni and so forth. Several marriages occurred that tie us with the Valori Family.

The third listed co-witness was Lorenzo Niccolini.



Niccolini villa, near Florence.

Lorenzo Niccolini was married to Maddalena Gondi, whose second cousin Girolamo Gondi (1472-1557) married Francesca Tornabuoni (+1555), cousin of Francesco Guadagni (1534-1611), our direct ancestor. I could not find any information on his life, but he was obviously rich and noble (his family became "marchese" like ours), and being also related to us he was able to be a good co-witness. I found some interesting information on his cousin Giovanni Niccolini (1544-1611), who is 10 years younger than Francesco Guadagni but died on the



same year, 1611. Francesco Guadagni's mother is Lucrezia *Capponi* and Giovanni Niccolini's great-grandmother was Giovanna *Capponi*.

Giovanni Niccolini's father Agnolo (1502-1567) was a trustworthy friend of Cosimo I de' Medici Grand-Duke of Tuscany who entrusted delicate missions to him like to defend his hereditary rights to be the ruler of Florence against Margherita de' Medici, widow of Duke Alessandro and illegitimate daughter of Holy Roman Emperor Charles V, and Caterina de' Medici, daughter of Lorenzo de' Medici Duke of Urbino and future Queen of France.

Fourth co-witness was Averardo de' Medici.



Averardo de' Medici, nicknamed "Bicci", father of Giovanni son of Bicci de' Medici and grandfather of Cosimo de' Medici, "the Elder"



Giovanni de' Bicci, son of Averardo de' Medici, nicknamed "Bicci".





Cosimo de' Medici, the "Elder", son of Giovanni de' Bicci and grandson of Averardo de' Medici



Piero de' Medici, called "the Gouty", by artist Giorgio Vasari. He was the son of Cosimo "the Elder" and the father of Lorenzo "the Magnificent". The Latin inscription on the painting says "Petrus Medices Cosmi filius" ("Piero de' Medici son of Cosimo"). He married Lucrezia Tornabuoni (see picture below) whose aunt, Francesca Tornabuoni, married Vieri Guadagni (1369-1426), our direct ancestor, in 1395 and gave him nine children: Francesco, Niccolosa, Simone (our direct ancestor), Margherita, Migliore, Maddalena, Cassandra, Manno, Malatesta. Vieri also had a first wife, Margherita Donati, whom he married in 1384, when he was barely fifteen, who gave him a daughter, Ginevra. The Donati used to be the most powerful family in Florence at the beginning of the 14<sup>th</sup> century, a few decades before Vieri and Margherita's marriage. Corso Donati, Florentine nobleman and soldier of a prominent Guelf (pro-papal) family who formed and led the political faction known as the "Blacks" ("Neri" in Italian), was supported by the aristocracy. He was master of Florence from 1301 to 1308. His sister, Emma, married the famous Italian Florentine poet Dante Alighieri. Through our common ancestor Vieri and his first wife Margherita Donati, we are thus related to Dante. Being related to Dante in Italy is like being related to Shakespeare in England. Dante is considered the greatest Italian poet and writer and the "founder of the Italian Language" (before him people still spoke Latin). Simone Tornabuoni, Francesca's father and Lucrezia's grandfather, is at the same time direct ancestor of all the Guadagni and of the Medici and that is how the two families are related.

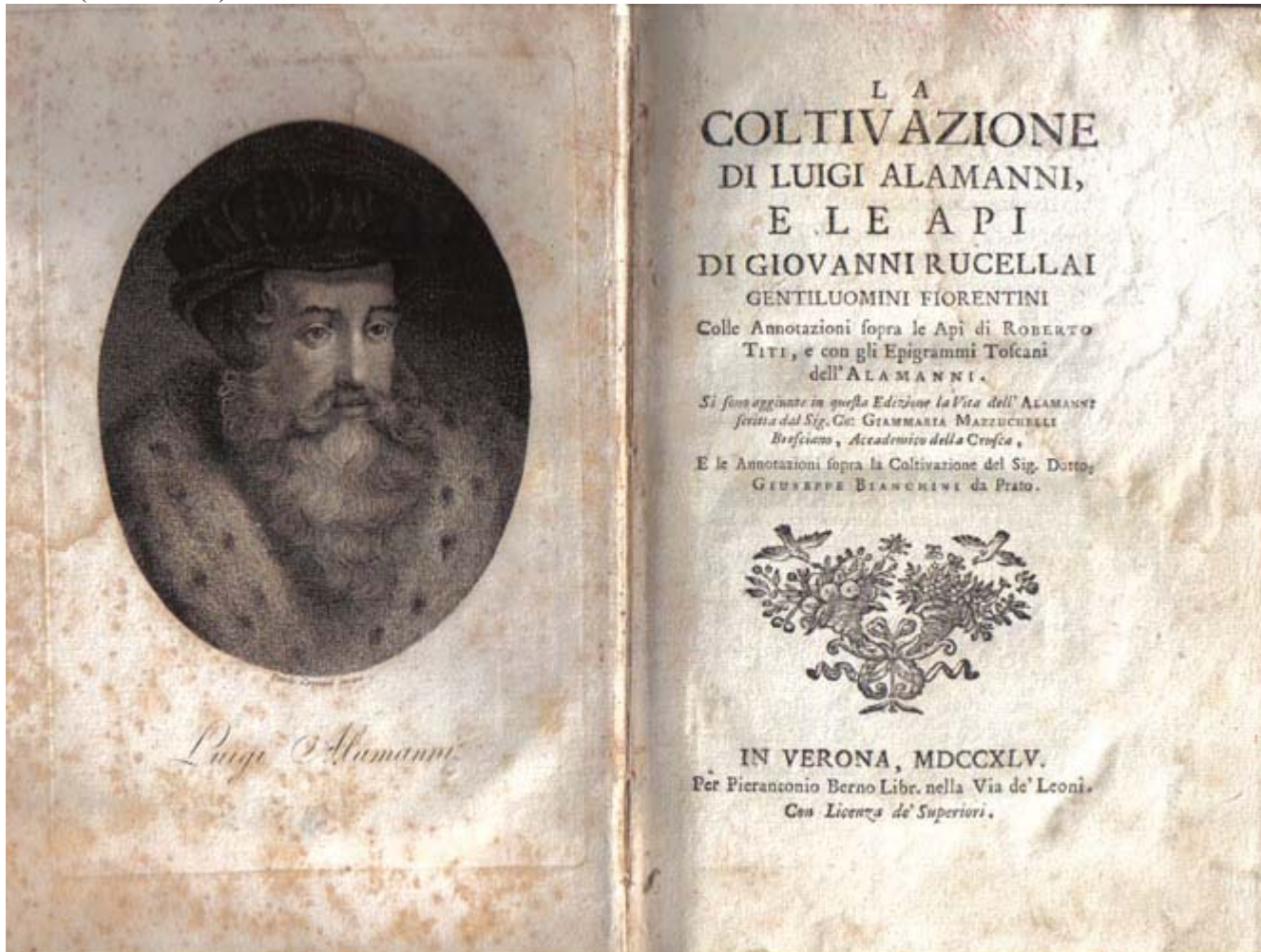


Lucrezia Tornabuoni (1425-1482), wife of Piero de' Medici the Gouty and niece of Vieri Guadagni, who is thus uncle of Piero de' Medici the Gouty and great-uncle of Lorenzo de' Medici the Magnificent. The fact that Piero de' Medici the Gouty, son of Cosimo de' Medici "the Elder", who was, even though not legally, in fact ruler of Florence, married a Tornabuoni, shows that the Tornabuoni were one of the best "marriage prospect" if not "the best" in Florence. The fact that Vieri Guadagni marries a Tornabuoni also, aunt of the one Piero married, shows how powerful and respected the Guadagni were in Florence at the time, by far one of the most important families in the city.

This co-witness Averardo however is obviously not Averardo de' Medici called "Bicci", whose son Giovanni de' Medici (1360-1429) was the father of Cosimo de' Medici the elder (the one arrested by Bernardo Guadagni) but Averardo de' Medici (1518-1601), son of Raffaele de' Medici and great-nephew of Bianca de' Medici, sister of Lorenzo de' Medici the Magnificent, and grand-daughter of Francesco Tornabuoni, who was Vieri Guadagni, our direct ancestor's, brother-in-law. Averardo was second cousin of Francesca Salviati, great aunt of Grand-Duke Ferdinando I de' Medici. So he was closely related both to the actual Medici Grand-Duke and to the Guadagni Family, which made him a good co-witness. I could not find any personal details on his life.



Fifth co-witness is Piero Alamanni. He married Argentina Soderini, great-great-niece of our direct ancestor Vieri Guadagni. So he was Vieri's great-great-nephew by marriage. Piero was cousin of Luigi Alamanni (1495-1556).



“The Cultivation (of the soil)”, by Luigi Alamanni “Florentine Gentleman” and the Tuscan Epigram by Luigi Alamanni added with “The life of Alamanni” by Giammaria Mazzucchelli and notes on the work by Giuseppe Bianchini of Prato (Portrait of Luigi Alamanni on the left page).



Castel (“Castle”) Ruggiero of the Alamanni Family



Sculpted bust of Luigi Alamanni for the facade of the palace of Baccio Valori (see above “Life of Baccio Valori”).

Luigi Alamanni (1495-1556) was an Italian poet and statesman. He was regarded as a prolific and versatile poet. He was credited with introducing the epigram into Italian poetry.

He was born in Florence. His father was a devoted adherent of the Medici party, but Luigi, smarting under a supposed injustice, joined with others in an unsuccessful conspiracy against Giulio de’Medici, afterwards Pope Clement VII.



Pope Clement VII de’Medici, 1478-1534

He was obliged in consequence to take refuge in Venice, and on the accession of Clement de’Medici to the Papacy, to flee to France. When Florence shook off the papal yoke in 1527, Alamanni returned, and took a prominent part in the management of the affairs of the republic and in the defense of Florence during the Siege, 1529-1530, side by side with the Guadagnis and Michelangelo. On the restoration of the Medici in 1530, he had again to take refuge in France, where he composed the greater part of his works. He was a favorite with King of France Francis I, who sent him as ambassador to Holy Roman Emperor Charles V after the Peace of Crepy in 1544.

After the death of King Francis I, Alamanni enjoyed the confidence of his successor Henry II, husband of our cousin Caterina de’Medici, and in 1551 was sent by him as his ambassador to Genoa. Alamanni died in Amboise, France, in 1556.

I found no personal specific information on our cousin Piero Alamanni, co-witness, but his relative Luigi Alamanni’s life, so connected with the Guadagnis and their cousin Caterina de’Medici, gives us a good idea on his family and political standing.



We examined the lives of the five above-mentioned co-witnesses on the “Proofs on the Nobility of the Guadagni Family”, taking advantage that they were mentioned by name, to realize that the “co-witnesses” on the “Nobility of our ancestors” were all trustworthy, noble, knowledgeable and important people in the public life of Florence. They are all related to us and some of them to the Medici, like we are. They are what you call in French “la crème de la crème”(“the cream of the cream” i.e. the very best) of Florence”, just like we are. We will now continue the translation of the document.

On the Second Article, the witness answered that the men of this noble and ancient family of the Guadagni in this City of Florence since such a long time that nobody remembers when it started have been able to attain and practice in the City of Florence as well as in its dominion all of the supreme and greatest charges, magistrature, degrees and privileges as are usually attained and have been attained by the other noble and ancient Florentines and that the men of this Guadagni Family have attained the same most sublime and supreme honors and offices, and they enjoy even now the offices and honors as it appears clearly in public records and memoirs how Guadagno of this family more or less in the year 1204, in the time when the City of Florence was governed by twelve counsels.

esercitare tanto nella Città di Firenze che nel suo  
 dominio tutti i supremi & grandissimi honori, magistrati  
 grandi, & sentenze, & privilegi, quali sono stati soliti  
 conseguire & hanno hauuto gl'altri nobili &  
 antichi fiorentini, & che gl'istessi più sublimi &  
 supremi honori, & magistrati hanno hauuto & con-  
 seguito gl'huomini di questa famiglia de' Guadagni,  
 i quali godono ancora al presente di gradi & honori  
 perche chiaramente appaiono in libri publici  
 & memorie, che Guadagni di questa famiglia  
 circa l'anno 1204. nel qual tempo la Città di  
 Firenze fu ridotta in Consolo, & ridotta da primi  
 Magistrati, & dignità della Repubblica fiorentina,  
 fu apparsa essere egli intervenuto alla celebra-  
 zione d'uno festo di processione fatto dalla medesima  
 nella persona di Sigismondo di Lambertuccio Consolo fior.  
 mandato alla Corte del Papa per negozi gravi: & fu  
 quello, che allora reggeuano i primi Magistrati, &  
 uideua gl'huomini di questa famiglia esser  
 nominati Guadagni. Et l'anno 1215. si legge nel  
 libro chiamato Duonota, che in quel tempo gl'huomini  
 di questa famiglia erano commemorati fra gl'altri  
 nobili nel detto libro de' Duonota. Et l'anno  
 1292. Nigello di Vignoria di questa famiglia

On the Second Article, the witness answered that the men of this noble and ancient family of the Guadagni in this City of Florence since such a long time that nobody remembers when it started have been able to attain and practice in the City of Florence as well as in its dominion all of the supreme and greatest charges,



magistrature, degrees and privileges as are usually attained and have been attained by the other noble and ancient Florentines and that the men of this Guadagni Family have attained the same most sublime and supreme honors and offices, and they enjoy even now the offices and honors as it appears clearly in public records and memoirs how Guadagno of this family more or less in the year 1204, in the time when the City of Florence was governed by twelve consuls, was among the first magistrates and dignitaries of the Republic of Florence and it appears that he intervened in an Act of Power of Attorney made by the same Republic of Florence for the person of Tignoso son of Lamberto, Consul of Florence, sent to the Court of the Pope for serious matters; and among the men, who in those times had attained the supreme offices, among the men of this family, we often find Guadagno mentioned.



Porta del Duomo (Door of the Cathedral), Florence; the red “cupola” of the Cathedral on the right in the back of the picture is the one reflecting its shadow on the façade of their neighboring Guadagni dell’Opera Palace two pictures below.

In the year 1215, we read in the book called “Priorista”, that in those times, the men of this Family were listed among the other nobles in the section of the Porta del Duomo (the neighborhood to which the Guadagni belonged, in the old center of Florence). In that neighborhood, just behind the Duomo, in the square of the Duomo itself, they will build the beautiful grandiose palace of the Guadagni dell’Opera del Duomo, now seat of the Region of Tuscany, officially listed as “one of the most beautiful palaces of Florence”).



**Regione Toscana**

**Palazzo Guadagni Strozzi Sacratì**  
*Breve guida alla visita*





Façade of the Palazzo Guadagni dell'Opera (now seat of the Region of Tuscany) in Piazza del Duomo. The Palace is listed above as “Palazzo Guadagni Strozzi Sacratì” because it was built by Alessandro Guadagni (1545-1625), son of Filippo Guadagni and nephew of our direct ancestor Jacopo Guadagni, at the beginning of the 17<sup>th</sup> century, and owned by the Guadagni Family until the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, when Pietro Guadagni inherited name and fortune from his mother Teresa Torrigiani and sold the Guadagni Palace to the Marchesa Anna Riccardi-Strozzi, from whom it was inherited by Marchese Massimiliano Strozzi-Sacratì. In 1989 The Region of Tuscany bought it from the Strozzi-Sacratì Family for **13 billions of Italian lire**. Then the Region spent **12 millions of Euro dollars (equal to 16 millions of US dollars)** to restore it. The Guadagni crest is sculpted in gray stone high above the main door and the flag of Italy is hanging from the balcony, between the European Union Flag and the Flag of the Region of Tuscany.



Guadagni Family Crest



Italian Flag



European Union Flag



### Flag of the Region of Tuscany

[Italy is divided in 20 regions, each one with its own flag. Abruzzi, where the Mapelli come from, is another of the 20 regions]



Complete view of the façade of the Guadagni dell'Opera Palace with the shadow of the round top of the “Cupola” of the Duomo of the Cathedral of Florence reflected on the lower right of it.

Views of the inside courtyard and rooms of the Guadagni dell'Opera Palace below.



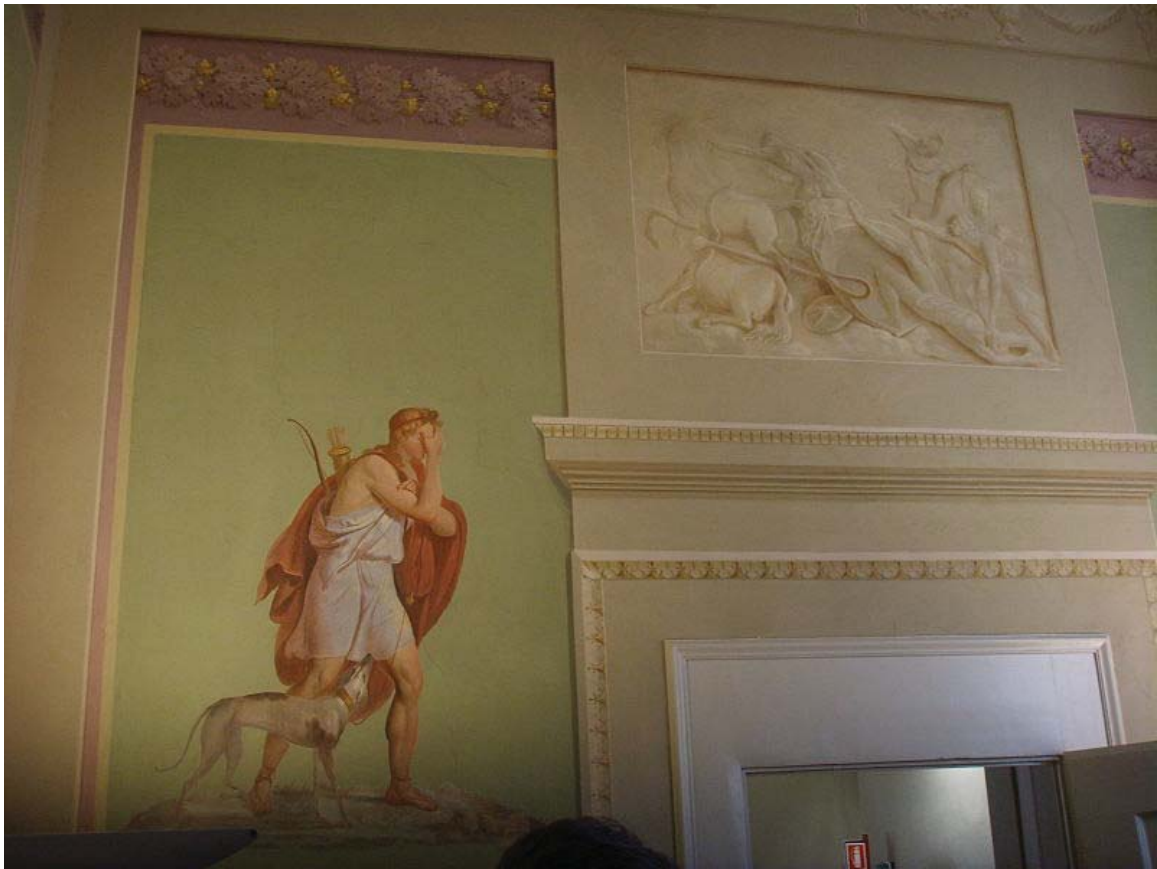






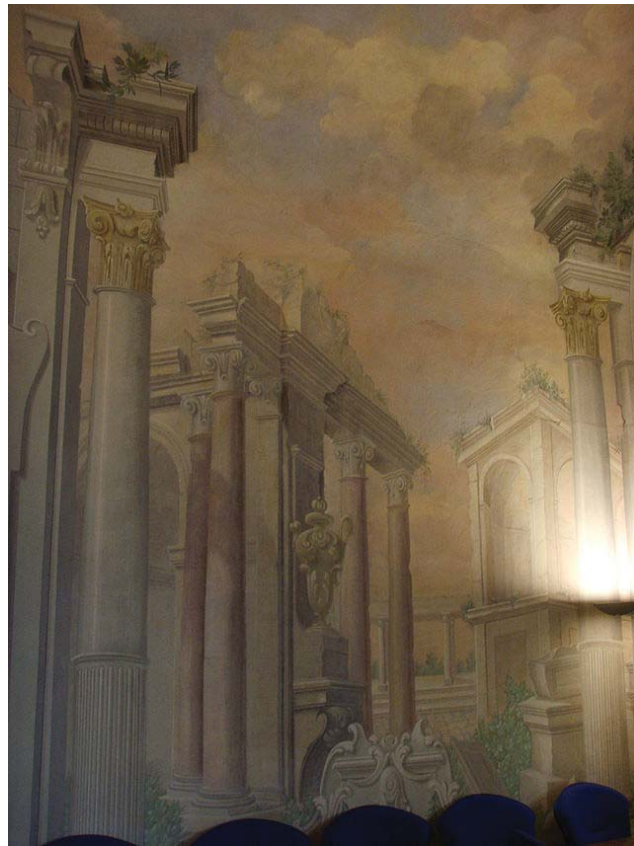


















Portrait of Brother Pietro Guadagni dell'Opera (1544-1592), in armor, with the cross of the Order of Saint John (Knight of Malta), son of Filippo Guadagni, who is the younger brother of our direct ancestor Jacopo Guadagni. Pietro is an older brother of Alessandro Guadagni who built the Guadagni dell'Opera Palace. Pietro wanted to be a military man, so, as soon as he was eighteen, he went to France to enroll in the French Army. He proved himself a brave warrior in the continuous war against Spain.

One day, however, he learned that the Island of Malta was threatened by the Turks. The Sultan had prepared a huge army to conquer the island. Gallantly, Pietro immediately asked to be accepted in the Knights of Malta. In June 1564, when he was twentytwo years old, he became a knight and rushed to the island to defend it.

In 1565, Sultan Suleiman arrived with his army and besieged the island. Pietro was one of "the last knights standing" in the defense of Fort St. Elmo, during the siege of the Island by the Turks. Historians recall his courage in the defense of the Fort. The Turks spared his life in admiration of it. He was however captured and emprisoned. His brothers ransomed him. Pietro immediately returned to Malta and rejoined his fellow knights,

A few years later, in a naval battle between the galleys of Malta and the Turkish fleet, Pietro was taken prisoner for the second time, and sold as a slave. His brothers gathered another ransom and freed him again. He returned to Malta. He was promoted Captain of a Galley. Then, he was made General Collector of the Order of the Knights of Malta in Tuscany. Finally, he was made Governor of the Fort of St.Elmo, in Malta. He was also appointed Lieutenant of the Great Priory of Pisa.

Pietro died on May 14, 1592, he was only 48 years old. He did not have the time to finish the construction of a palace he had started in Malta for the Knights of Malta of the Guadagni Family to live in. His brother, Alessandro, finished it.

Let's return to Pietro Guadagni's portrait, painted in 1592, the year he died. I happened to find a picture of the above portrait, on sale at Christie's London, on internet (see following details) and I did some research on our painted relative and on the author of the painting. It is on sale at **Christie's London (September 30, 2014), Lot 219 for \$60,735 USD. Oil on canvas, unlined. 52.17 inches (height) by 40.67 inches width.**



**Description:** ...his right hand resting on a cavalry helmet, the other resting on the hilt of a sword, at a window, with shipping beyond.

**Markings:** with the old inscription “FRA (Brother) PIERO DI (son of) FILIPPO GUADAGNI. COMMENDATORE DI TORTONA (Commander of Tortona, a town in Piedmont, Northern Italy)/1592 (year it was painted)/ Tintoretto Vecchio (“Tintoretto the Elder”) is the artist, on the reverse of the unlined canvas, and with the old inventory number “24” (twice on the reverse); with identifying inscription and date “FRA PIERO DI FILIPPO GUADAGNI/ COMMENDATORE DI TORTONA/ 1592.” (Lower center, on the frame) [See frame of the picture above].

**Literature:** “Information and Guide of Florence and its surroundings, Florence, 1841, page 423, as in the “Casa (“House or Palace”) Guadagni, Piazza Santo Spirito, “First Room”, as one of two portraits by Jacopo Tintoretto.”

**Provenance:** By descent to the Marchesi Guadagni, Piazza Santo Spirito, Florence, by 1841, and by descent to the present owner.

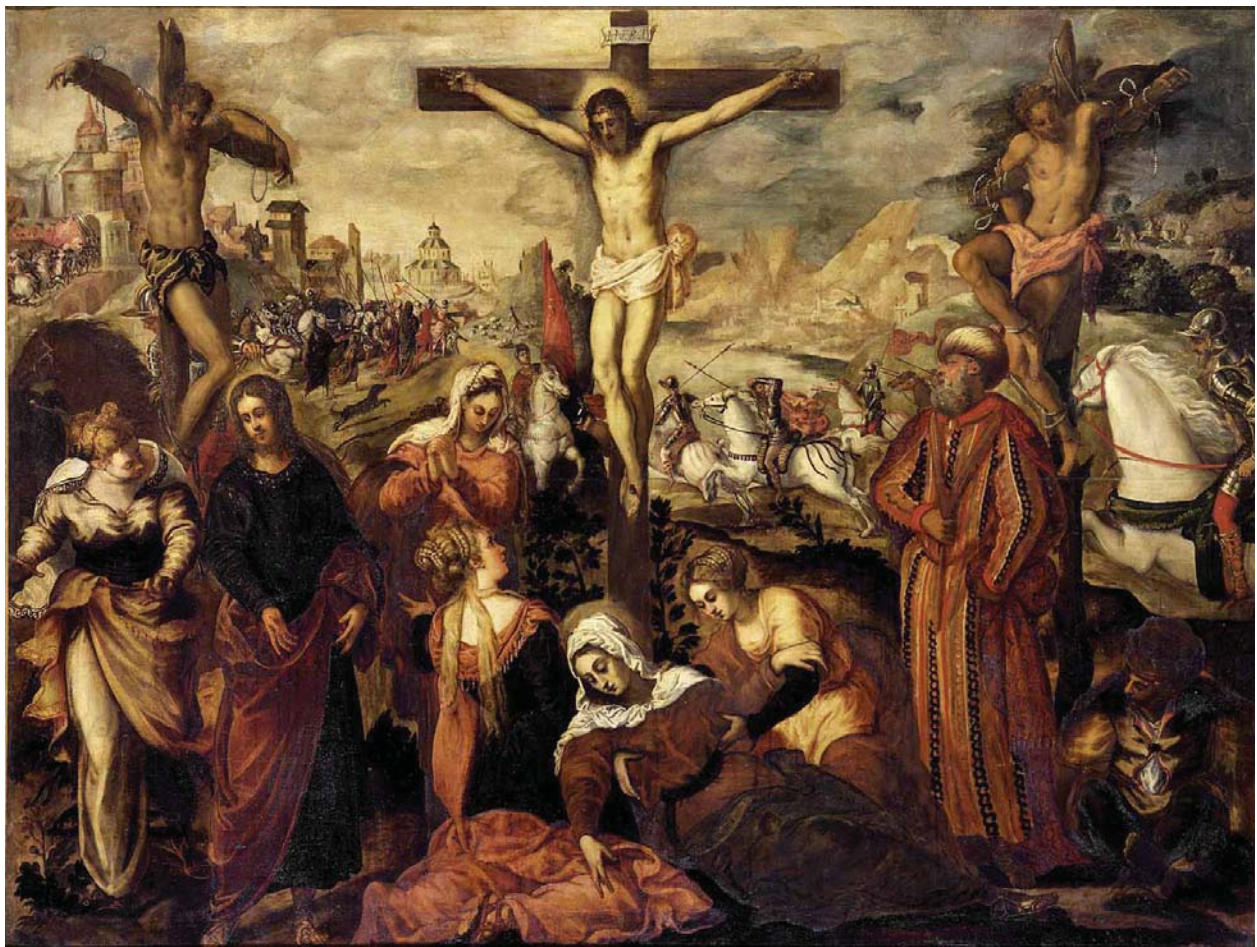
Jacopo Tintoretto (1518-1594) is considered one of the greatest Venetian painters of the 16<sup>th</sup> Century. He sought to combine Michelangelo’s drawing style with Titian’s use of color while developing his own style.



Jacopo Tintoretto’s self-portrait



Two “Crucifixion” by Jacopo Tintoretto ,above and below – “detail” of each.







Portrait of Doge Mocenigo by Jacopo Tintoretto

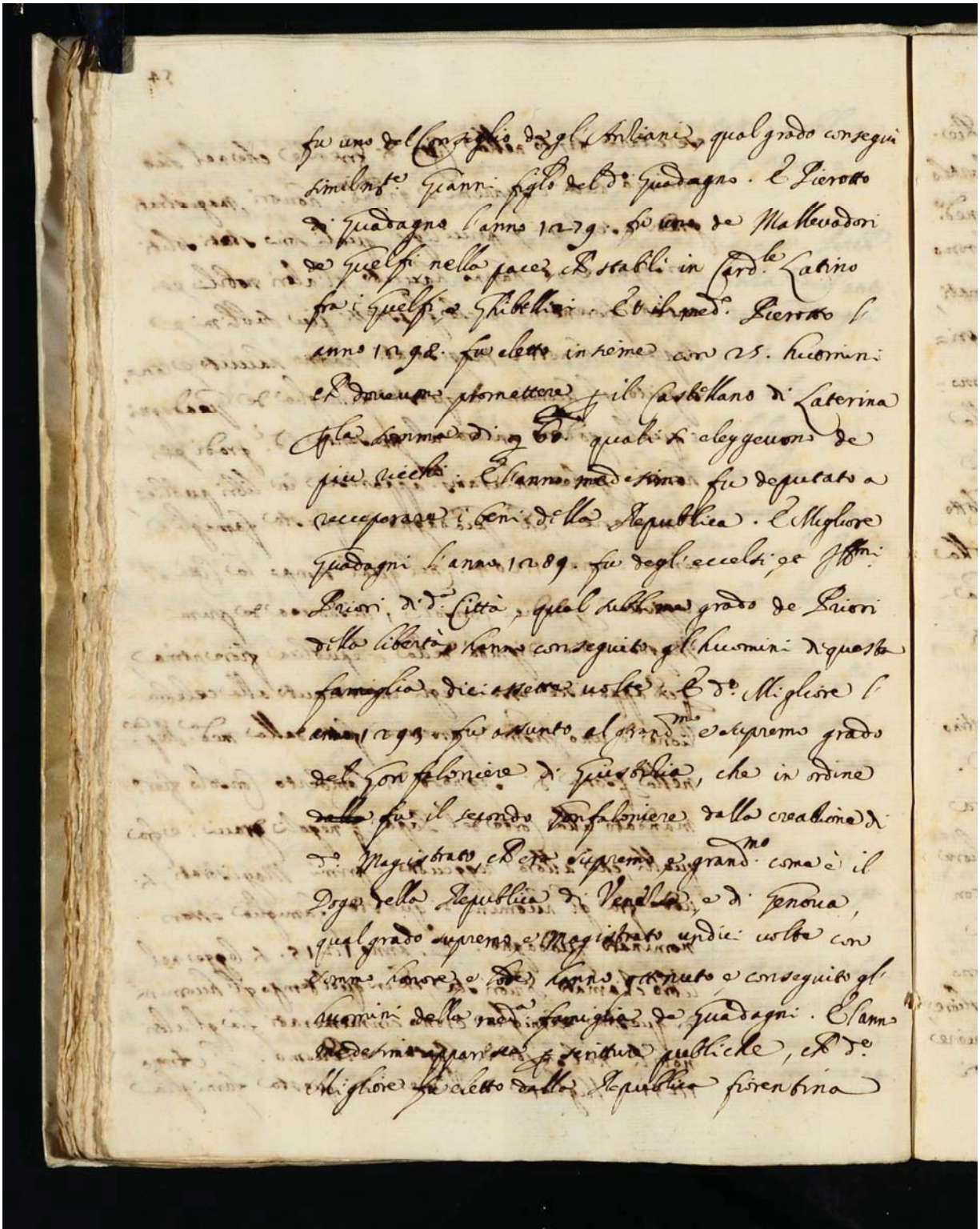
His son, Domenico Tintoretto (1560-1635), was an Italian painter from Venice who grew up under the tutelage of his father, the renowned painter Jacopo Tintoretto (see above). It is argued that Domenico's greatest contribution to the history of painting resides in his portraiture. Though he worked as an artist in the shadow of his father, at times his work was undeniably superior to that of Jacopo. In his portraits, Domenico goes beyond rendering physical likeness and social status and achieves the Renaissance ideal of capturing the individuality of the sitter, an accomplishment that places him in the tradition of Rembrandt, Velasquez or Titian.



Painting by Domenico Tintoretto

In the paper quoting the "Portrait of Fra Pietro di Filippo Guadagni dell'Opera (1544-1592)", his portrait is "attributed to Domenico Tintoretto" and not "Jacopo" in spite of what is written on the reverse of the canvas

i.e. "Tintoretto the Elder". So we tend to believe that Domenico painted the portrait of our great-uncle Pietro Guadagni. However both Tintoretts are very famous and internationally known Italian painters of the Renaissance and we are proud and happy that our great-uncle Pietro's portrait was painted by either one of them.



In the year 1251, Migliore, son of Ulivieri of this Guadagni family, was a member of the Council of the Elders, and so was Gianni son of Guadagno. The Council of the Elders was founded in Florence only one year

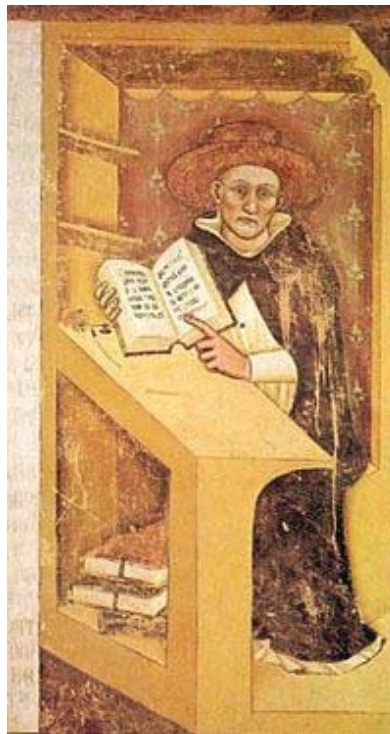


earlier, in 1250, and was formed by 12 members (of which 2 were part of the Guadagni Family, Migliore and Gianni) who had both legislative and executive power, shared with the Captain of the People, who represented the emerging middle-class.

And Pierotto, son of Guadagno, was part of the same Council of the Elders in 1279. He was also one of the “Mallevadori”, “guarantors”, of the Guelphs in the peace established by Cardinal Latino between the Guelphs and the Ghibellines.



Guelphs (left) and Ghibellines (right - notice the eagle of the Holy Roman Empire on two of the caparisons of the horses) in a painting by artist Ottavio Baussano



Cardinal Latino (+1294), nephew of Pope Nicholas III



Pope Nicholas III

The same Pierotto was elected in 1298, together with 25 other men, to promise the sum of 260 to the castle owner of Laterina to collect among the richest citizens of Florence.



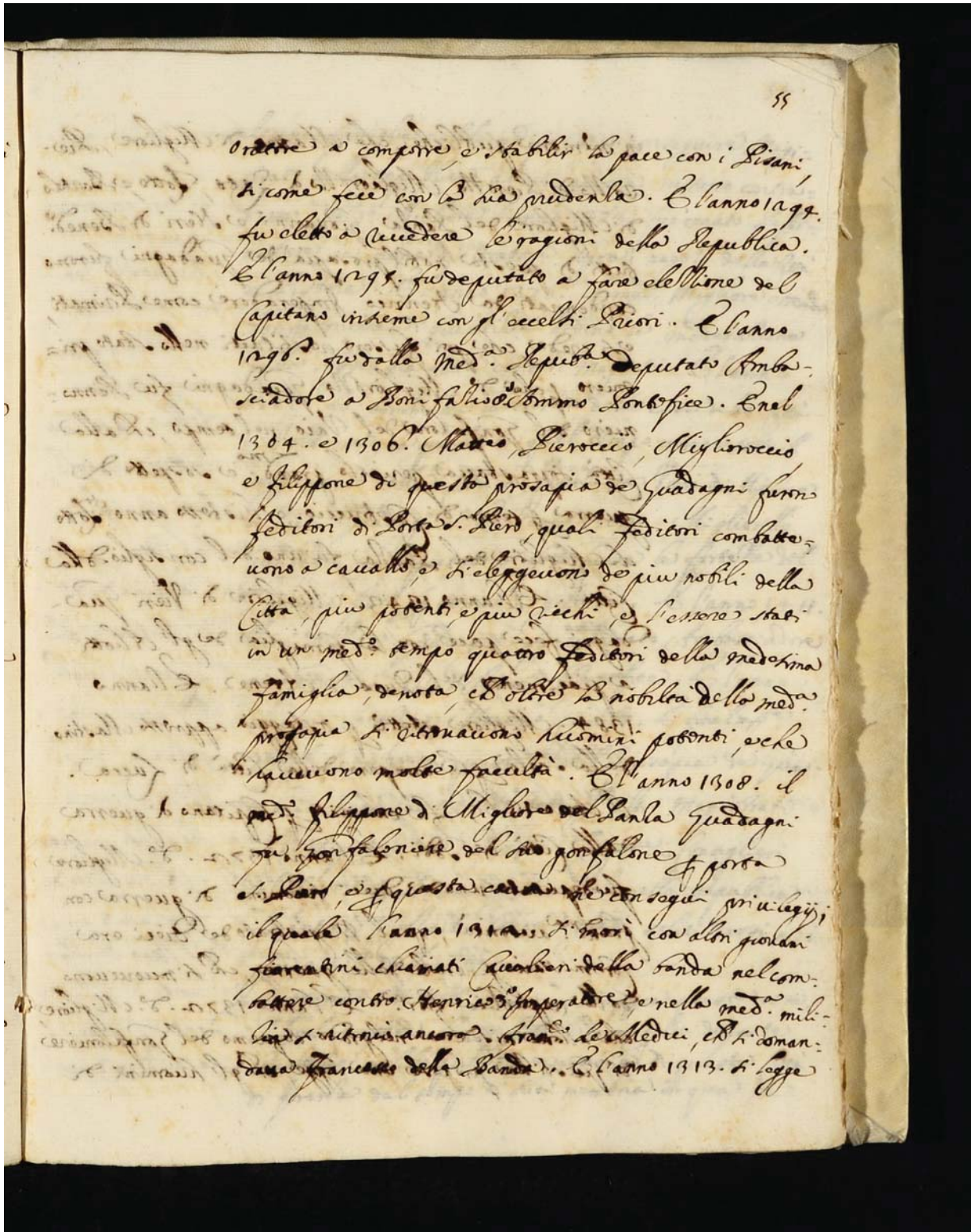
Laterina

In the same year Pierotto was appointed to recuperate the goods of the Republic of Florence. In 1289, Migliore Guadagni was among the excellent and very eminent Priors of the City of Florence; seventeen times the Guadagni had the sublime office of Priors of Freedom. The Priorate was a new institution in Florence, destined to bring peace between Guelphs (for the Pope) and Ghibellines (for the Holy Roman Emperor) and to give more power to the new emerging middle-class.

In 1293, Migliore Guadagni was elected the second Gonfalonier of Justice in the history of the City of Florence, a magistrate that was elected to be supreme and all-powerful like the Doges of Venice and of Genoa. The Guadagnis were Gonfalonier of Justice eleven times and with the greatest honor. From public records we



see that in the same year Migliore was elected by the Republic of Florence to establish peace with the City of Pisa and he was able to do it with his usual carefulness.



In 1294, Migliore was appointed to correct and improve the politics of the Republic of Florence. In the same year, together with the other eminent Priors, he was appointed to elect the Captain. In 1296, the same Republic of Florence appointed Migliore Ambassador to Pope Boniface VIII.



Pope Boniface VIII (1230-1303)

In 1304 and 1306, Matteo, Pieroccio, Miglioroccio and Filippone of this Guadagni Family were “feditori” at the San Piero Door. As “feditori” they fought mounted on horse and were among the most noble, powerful and wealthy citizens of the City of Florence. The fact that the Guadagni Family had four “Feditori” among its members at the same time shows not only the “nobility” of the Family in the City, but that the Guadagni were powerful and very wealthy men.

In 1308, the same Filippone, son of Migliore son of Panda Guadagni was standard bearer of his “Gonfalone” (“standard”) of San Piero Door and this office was combined with important privileges. However, in the year 1312, he was killed with other young Florentines, called the Knights of the Band, in fighting against Holy Roman Emperor Henry VII, and in the same army was fighting Averardo de’Medici and the Commander was Francesco della Banda.



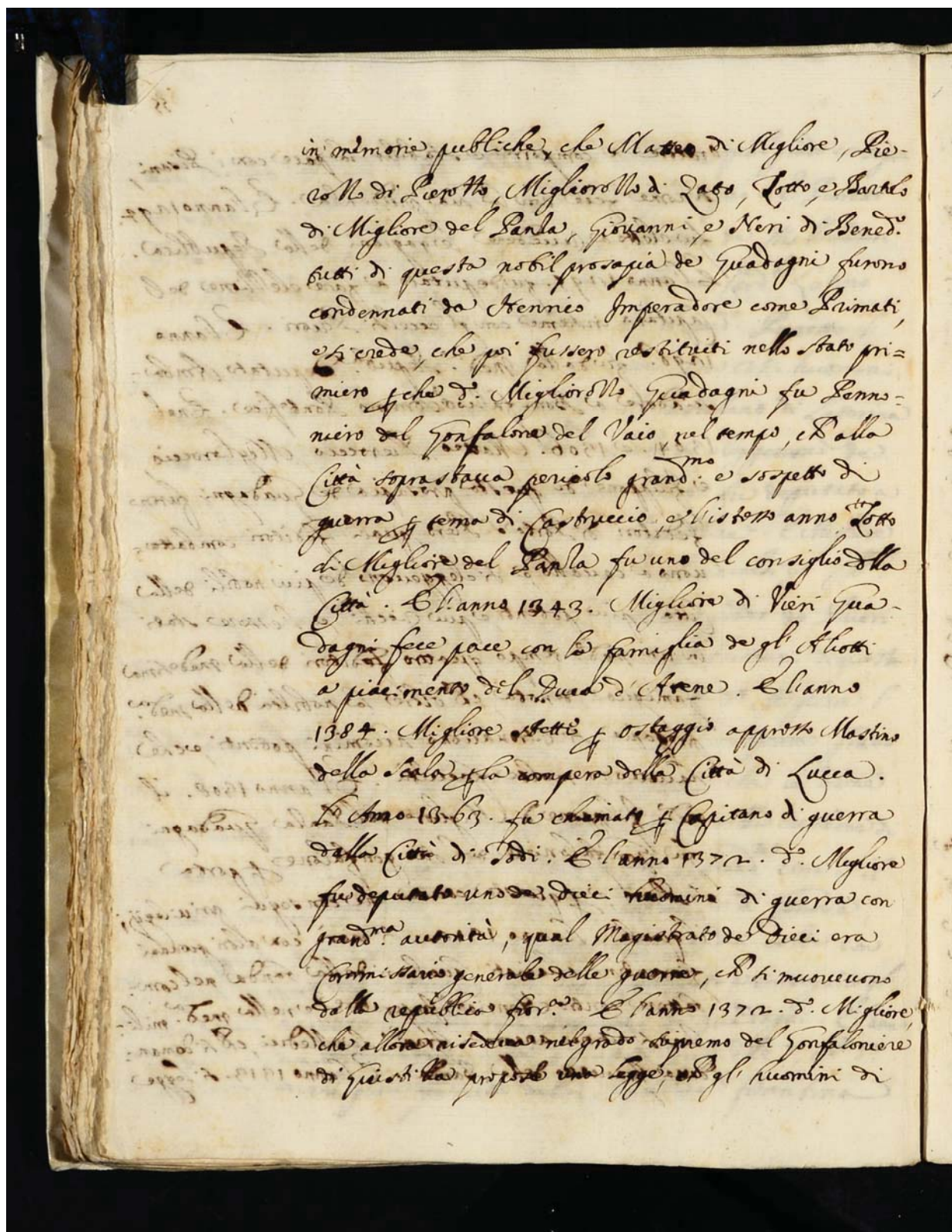


Holy Roman Emperor Henry VII (wearing a crown) invades Italy with his German knights.



Holy Roman Empire (in purple) in 1600. Florence was on the most Southern border of the Empire in North-Central Italy. As we see from the map, the Empire included Germany, Holland, Belgium, North-Eastern France, Switzerland, Austria, Hungary, Slovenia, Tcheck Republik, Western Poland and Northern Italy.





In 1313, you read in public records that Matteo, son of Migliore, Pierotto, son of Pierotto, Migliorotto, son of Zato, Lotto and Bartolo, sons of Migliore del Panda, Giovanni and Neri, sons of Benedetto, all members of the noble family of the Guadagnis were condemned by Holy Roman Emperor Henry VII as "Primates" i.e. main enemies of the Holy Roman Empire, but we believe that later on they were taken off this list of "most important enemies" because Migliorotto Guadagni was "standardbearer" of the "Gonfalone" of the Vaio in



those times and the City of Florence was threatened by the very serious danger of war against it by Castruccio Castracani, powerful Ghibelline ruler of the neighboring City of Lucca, and the same year Lotto Guadagni, son of Migliore del Panda, was part of the Council of the City.



Castruccio Castracani (1281-1328)

In 1343, Migliore Guadagni, son of Vieri, made peace with the Aliotti Family, according to the request of the Duke of Athens, foreign ruler of Florence for 10 months, called by the Florentines unable to elect a government pleasing to all of them. Eventually he became a tyrant and had to flee Florence for his life 10 months only after his arrival.

Migliore was sent as a hostage to Mastino della Scala for the purchase of the City of Lucca. In 1363, he was appointed Captain of war by the City of Todi.

In 1372 Migliore was appointed one of the “Ten Men of War” with supreme authority and as Magistrate of the Ten he was General Commissary of all the Wars promoted by the Republic of Florence.

alcune famiglie nobili non potessero conseguire Magi-  
 strato nella Republica, al cui parere nessuno contra-  
 disse. Et: Migliore l'anno 1373. fu creato Refor-  
 matore in nome di Oratore sopra i negoti della città  
 di Pisa. Et l'anno 1376. il med. Migliore essendo  
 Gonfaloniere di giustizia ordinò la moderazione  
 della legge già fatta contro i Magnati. Et l'anno  
 1361. fu commessa la cura delle cose della città  
 di Volterra, la quale in quel tempo ueniva sotto il  
 reggimento della città di Firenze, a Vieri di Migliore  
 di Vieri Guadagni. Et l'anno 1380. Migliore  
 Guadagni fu deputato a fortificare le fortelle del  
 Dominio fior. & come di guerra. Et l'anno 1411.  
 Vieri di Vieri Guadagni fu mandato Ambasciadore  
 a Giovanni 23. Re di Francia. Et l'anno  
 1412. a Papa Martino quinto. Et finalmente  
 20. gl'ordini di questa nobil prosapia de Gua-  
 dagni hanno conseguito tutti gl'altri Magistrati  
 anco supremi de' Principi Luogheri & consiglieri  
 del Ser. mo. Gran Duca di Toscana nella Republica  
 fiorentina & gl'altri honori & gradi soliti darsi a i  
 più nobili della città.  
 Interrogammo otto test. come egli sapia queste cose,  
 il quale rispose, haver visto & uir & lui deposte  
 scritte in libri publici, e memoria di questa città  
 di Firenze dal tempo di sua memoria in qua, &

In 1372, Migliore had the supreme office of Gonfalonier of Justice of the Republic of Florence and proposed the law that the men of certain noble families could not attain the offices in the Republic of Florence and nobody contradicted him. The same Migliore, in 1373, was appointed as Reformer, under the title of



“Speaker” of the businesses of the City of Pistoia. In 1376, the same Migliore was again Gonfalonier of Justice (highest office in the Government of Florence) and ordered moderation in the law already made against the magnates (the rich people). In 1361, Vieri Guadagni, son of Migliore, son of Vieri, was appointed to check the organization of the government of Volterra, who at that time was under the authority of Florence.

In 1382, Migliorello Guadagni was appointed to fortify the fortresses of the Florentine Dominion versus a possibility of war.

In 1411, Vieri Guadagni son of Vieri was sent as Ambassador to antipope John XXIII.

In 1412, he was sent as Ambassador to Pope Martino V.

Finally, the men of this noble Guadagni Family attained the other offices, even supreme, of Very Eminent Lieutenants and Counselors of the Very Sereine Grand-Duke of Tuscany in the Florentine Republic and the other offices and charges usually granted to the noblest men of the City.

The three Very Sereine Medici Grand-Dukes who ruled over Florence before and during the year 1595.



Grand-Duke Cosimo I de' Medici (1519-1574) in armor by artist Bronzino (the same one who painted the “Resurrection” in the Guadagni Chapel of the Basilica of Santissima Annunziata, see below)



Grand-Duke Francesco I de' Medici (1541-1587), son of Cosimo I, also by artist Bronzino



Grand-Duke Ferdinando I de' Medici (1549-1609), younger brother of Francesco I

Questioned by us on how he knew all these things the witness answered that he read the things he testified in public records and memoirs of this City of Florence, from as far as he can remember and these things are also known by the co-witnesses he mentioned above.

In the years 1300s, in the Church of Santissima Annunziata (“Most Holy Annunciation”), in Florence, the Guadagni Family built the Chapel of San Martino [History of the Basilica of Santissima Annunziata – Wikipedia].

“In 1252, the Order of the Servites started to build the Church of the Annunciation. In 1252 the Church was completed and the Servites asked artist Bartolomeo to paint a fresco of the “Annunciation” in the Church. In spite of working at it with all his strength and dedication, Bartolomeo was not able to paint the face of the Virgin. Suddenly, he felt a strange desire to sleep and waking up with a start he saw that Mary’s face was completely painted, by an angel. The fresco of the Annunciation gave the name to the church, now Basilica, and immediately became object of great devotion and veneration by the Florentines. The “Nunziata” Branch of the Guadagni Family, our direct ancestors, also derives its name from it.





Fresco of the Annunciation in the Basilica. Mary's face, painted, according to the legend, by an angel, is on the right just above the top of a candle.

In the History of the Basilica, Wikipedia lists several chapels and altars built in the Church in the first half of the 14th century: Saint Ann, St. Biagio, San Martino *by the Guadagni Family*, St. Iacopo, St. Michael the Archangel, St. Mary of the Purgatory, St. Ansano, and Santissima Annunziata. The fact that the Guadagni Family is the only family listed among the builders of altars and chapels in the Church of Santissima Annunziata, seems to indicate that in the 1300s they were the most important and well-known Florentine family contributing to the building of the most important Basilica of Florence. In the same article, relating to the completion of the Basilica during the following centuries, all of the chapels of the Basilica are listed with accurate description of everything in it, but except for the chapel of the Annunciation (picture above), the only other chapel whose altar work of art is reproduced in the article is the Guadagni Chapel (see below), as if the Resurrection painting by Bronzino was by far the most important and interesting chapel painting of the Basilica.



Guadagni Chapel in the Basilica of the Santissima Annunziata, Florence with the  
“Resurrection” by artist Bronzino (1503-1572).





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Detail of the Resurrection by Bronzino in the Guadagni Chapel: Jesus.



Close-ups of the painting





Latin inscription on top: "Christo triumphator mortis" means "Christ triumphant over Death".

The Guadagni Family had lost the above mentioned Chapel of San Martino, during the late Middle-ages, so on their return to Florence from France, they acquired the above Chapel, one of the most important chapels of the Basilica, in full view on the left of the main Altar (picture above with painting by Bronzino). The Guadagni Crest with the crown of Marchese still towers above the entrance of the Guadagni chapel in the Basilica. I presume it still belongs to the Guadagni Family, but I am not sure; Uncle Adriano Guadagni told me that he received his First Holy Communion in it as a child.

In 1552, continues Wikipedia, the patrons of the above Chapel were the Guadagni Family. They restored it in 1742. Interesting is also the statue of Saint Rocco, continues the article on the Guadagni Chapel, sculpted in wood by Veit Stoss, a famous German sculptor, painter and engraver (1447-1533). Agnolo Bronzino was one of the most refined and amazing painters of the Florentine Mannerism. He was also one of the most able and incisive portraitists of the Medici Grand-Dukes Court. Bronzino's original name was Agnolo son of Cosimo. He was born in Florence, son of a butcher. His "nickname" comes either from the "bronze" color of his hair, or from his relatively dark complexion.

Some paintings by Bronzino:



Husband Bartolomeo (1540) and wife Lucrezia Panciatichi (1541) by Bronzino (Uffizi Gallery, Florence)

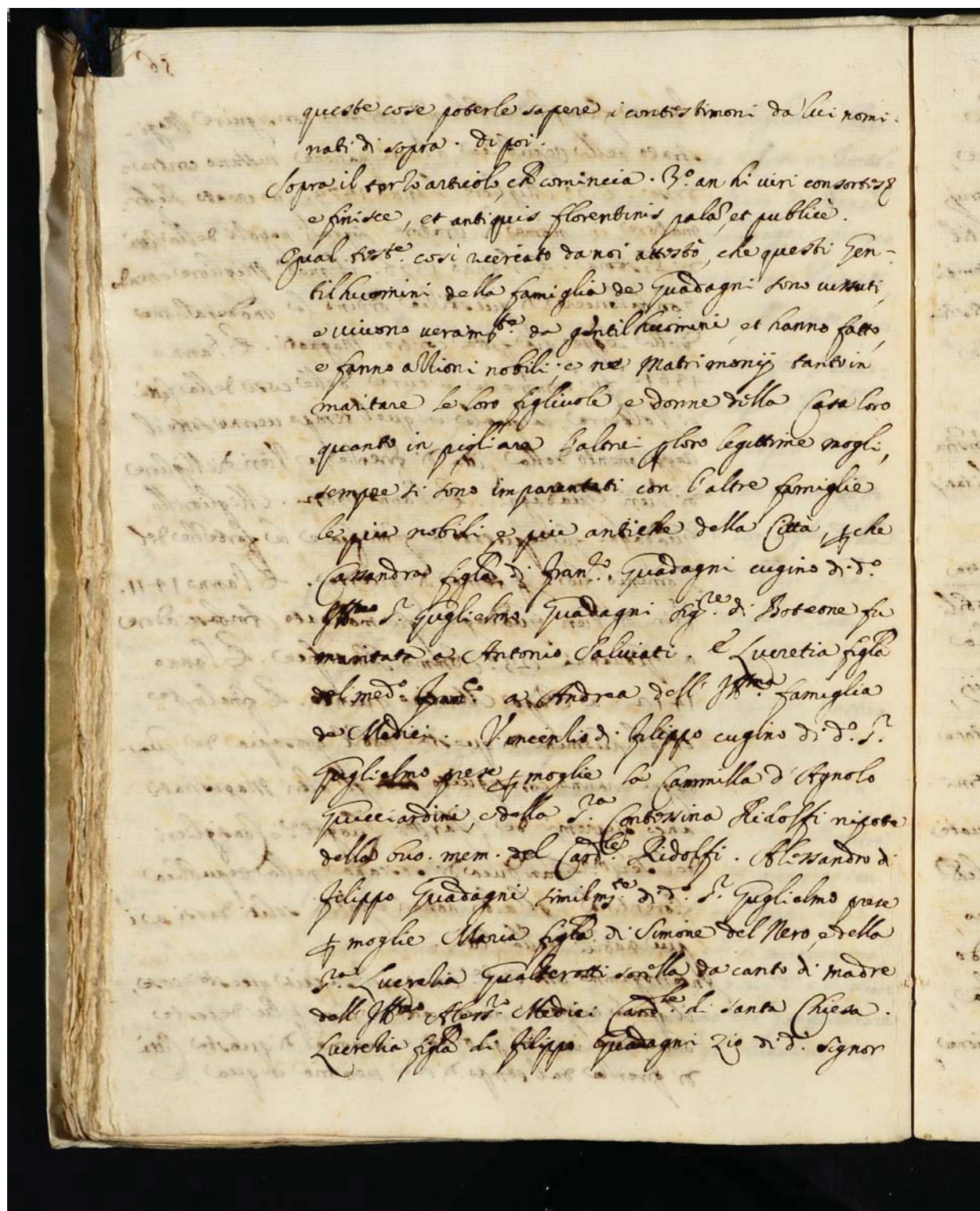




Deposition of Christ with Angels and Saints, 1545, Art Museum of Besancon, France



Saint Matthew, Church of Santa Felicita, Florence



Our witness testified that these Gentlemen of the Guadagni Family have lived and live really as gentlemen and have married and marry noble women and have their daughters and women of their family marry noble men, and have always intermarried with members of the noblest and most ancient families of the City. Cassandra, daughter of Francesco Guadagni, cousin of the Very Eminent Guglielmo Guadagni, Lord of Boutheon, was married to Antonio Salviati and Lucretia, daughter of the same Francesco, to Andrea of the Very Eminent Medici Family.





Antonio Salviati

Vincenzo Filippo, cousin of Guglielmo, married Cammilla, daughter of Agnolo Guicciardini and of Contessina Ridolfi, niece of late Cardinal Ridolfi.



Cardinal Nicola Ridolfi (1501-1550) by artist Sebastiano del Piombo

Alessandro Guadagni, son of Filippo (and brother of famous Knight of Malta Pietro), also cousin of Guglielmo, married Maria del Nero, daughter of Simone and Lucrezia Gualterotti, half sister, by her mother, of Very Eminent Cardinal Alessandro de' Medici. Lucrezia Guadagni, daughter of Filippo (1504-1555), uncle of the Very Eminent Guglielmo Guadagni, Lord of Boutheon, married the Very Eminent Law Consultant Bernardo Ricasoli, Knight of Santo Stefano.

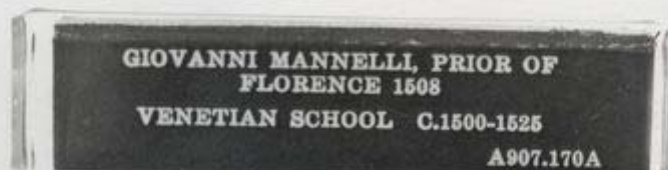


Ricasoli Castle of Brolio

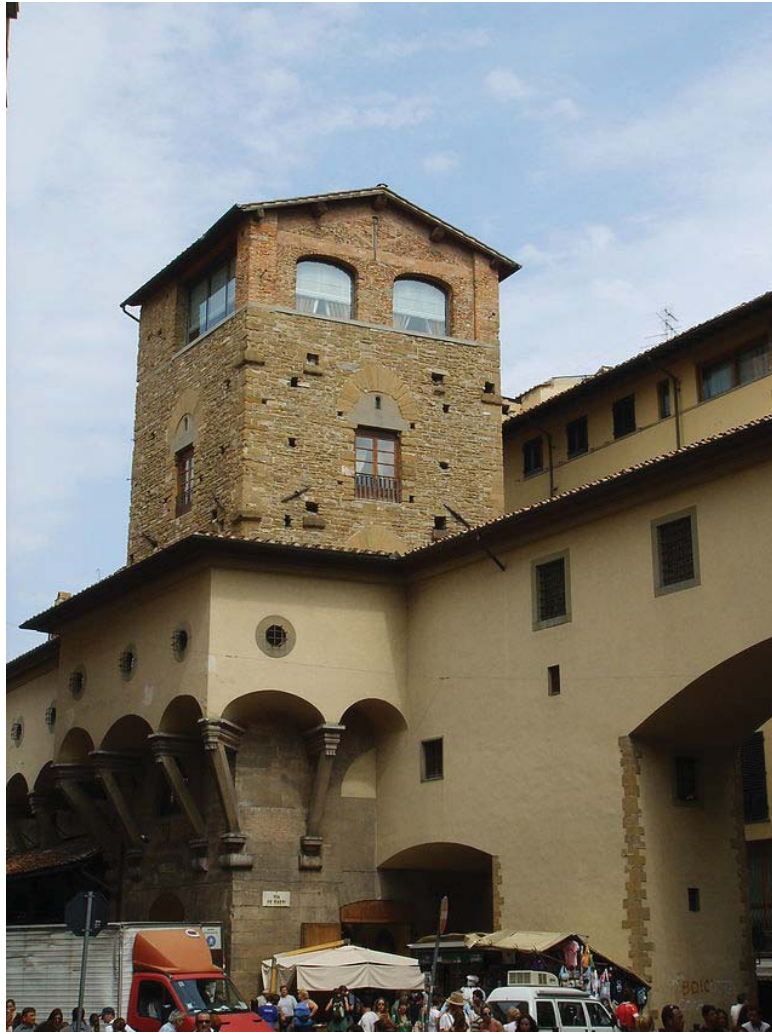




Maria, daughter of Filippo Guadagni, married Giovanni Mannelli.







Mannelli Tower, at the beginning of the Ponte Vecchio, Florence. It was used to defend the entrance of the bridge in the Middle-Ages. The private Medici Granduke elevated passage (named the “Vasari Corridor”) from Pitti Palace, their residence, to Palazzo Vecchio, their office, is attached to the Mannelli Tower. The elevated private passage made it harder for political enemies to murder the Grandukes on their way to work or back home. Granduke Cosimo I really wanted to destroy the Mannelli Tower so his elevated passage home-office could go straight on the Ponte Vecchio. But Mannelli, whose wife was probably the abovementioned Maria Guadagni, refused. So Cosimo said: “Everybody is master in his own house” and he had architect Vasari make the elevated passage go around the tower as you can see above.



Mannelli Family Crest

Francesco Guadagni (1534-1611), son of Jacopo (1497-1569) and cousin of Guglielmo, married Laura, daughter of Pierantonio Bandini.



Pierantonio Bandini, Marchese of Antrodoco, portrait by Bronzino (Guadagni Chapel and Medici Grandukes). All of us, Guadagni of Santo Spirito, are direct descendants of Francesco Guadagni and Laura Bandini. So Laura's father, Pierantonio Bandini, is the great-great---grandfather of all of us.

Giovanna Guadagni, Tommaso's (1495-1543) daughter and Guglielmo's sister, married Lorenzo Antinori, son of Alessandro, in 1550. In 1385, Giovanni Antinori joined the Guild of Winemakers. Thanks to the fame of their wine, in 1506, the Antinori Family could afford to pay 4,000 florins for the Antinori Palace (see below), built in the 1460s for the Boni Family. At this time, Alessandro Antinori was one of the richest men in Florence (Today Antinori is the 10<sup>th</sup> oldest family owned company in the world).





Palazzo Antinori, Florence



Antinori Palace, Piazza Antinori, 3, Florence, inside. It still belongs to the family.

Elena Guadagni, daughter of the same Tommaso and sister of Tommaso Guadagni Junior, married Lorenzo Capponi, Baron of Crevecoeur.



“Lorenzo Capponi?” by artist Pontorno, commissioned by Lodovico Capponi



Lorenzo Capponi was one of the leaders of the Anti-Medicean Faction.





Lodovico Capponi, Lorenzo's cousin, by Bronzino

Filippo Guadagni (1504-1555), Guglielmo's uncle, married Maddalena Bandini, daughter of Francesco, (son of the above Pierantonio Bandini), and of Ginevra Salviati, daughter of Alamanno Salviati.



Laudomia de' Medici (1519-1559), wife of Alamanno Salviati, and grandmother of Maddalena Bandini, Filippo Guadagni's wife, see above. So she is the ancestress of all of Filippo Guadagni's descendants, i.e. Guadagni dell'Opera and Torrigiani. Filippo Guadagni is our direct ancestor Jacopo Guadagni's younger brother.

Jacopo Guadagni (1497-1569), also uncle of Guglielmo, Lord of Boutheon, married Lucrezia Capponi, daughter of Gino and of Caterina Strozzi, sister of Filippo Strozzi, father of Piero Strozzi, Marshall of France and the same cowitness stated that these members of the Guadagni Family married respectively men and women of the Ardinghelli, Popoleschi, Minerbetti, Giovanni, Berti, Gianfigliuzzi, Castellani, Buondelmonti, da Verrazzano, Strozzi, Macchiavelli, Fioravanti, Albizzi, Rinuccini, and other noble families.

### **Marriage Guadagni - Ardinghelli**

Bernardo Guadagni (1367-1434), [who arrested Cosimo de' Medici], son of Vieri Guadagni (+1368) and Bernarda Rucellai (+1417), our direct ancestors, married Giovanna Ardinghelli in 1401 and had seven children with her: Antonio, Nicola, Francesca, Piero, Giovanni, Filippo (b.1404), Antonio (1405-1436).

## **Marriage Guadagni - Popoleschi**

Ginevra Guadagni, daughter of Ulivieri Guadagni (1452-1541) and Oretta Giovanni (+1510), our direct ancestors, married Giovanni Popoleschi in 1512.

## **Marriage Guadagni – Minerbetti**

Ulivieri Guadagni (1452-1541), our direct ancestor, married Caterina Minerbetti in 1512 and had no children with her, after the death of his first wife, Oretta Giovanni (+1511), with whom he had eleven children including our direct ancestor, Jacopo Guadagni (1497-1569) .

## **Marriage Guadagni – Giovanni**

Ulivieri Guadagni (1452-1541), our direct ancestor, married Oretta Giovanni (+1510) in 1488 and had eleven children with her:

Simone 1489-1528

Pierre de Gadagne 1491- ca 1540

Jean-Baptiste 1493

Ginevra married Giovanni Popoleschi in 1512, see above

Thomas de Gadagne 1495-1544, father of Guglielmo Guadagni, 1534-1601, Lord of Boutheon and Knight of the Holy Spirit, for whom this document of “Proofs of the Nobility of the Guadagni Family” was written by the Senate of Florence, undersigned by the Grand-Duke Ferdinando I de’Medici of Tuscany, and sent to King Henry IV of France in 1595.

Jacopo 1497-1569, direct ancestor of all the “Nunziata” Guadagni (us, until Donato Maria separated from his brothers and started the Santo Spirito Branch), Guadagni of Santo Spirito(us) and Dufour Berte

Lisabetta +1506

Francesco 1502-1575

Filippo 1504-1556, direct ancestor of all the Guadagni dell’Opera and Torrigiani

Paul-Antoine de Gadagne 1509-1566

Andrea

## **Marriage Guadagni – Berti**

Vieri Guadagni (our direct ancestor) 1369-1426

|

Simone Guadagni 1411-1468

|

Ulivieri Guadagni 1452-1541

Guglielmo Berti & Claudia Gianfigliuzzi

|

\_\_\_\_\_

|

Jacopo Guadagni

Filippo

Tommaso Guadagni

Peronetta Berti

Our direct

Guadagni

Lord of Beauregard

Ancestor

Ancestor of

1495-1544

All the Guadagni  
Dell’Opera and Torrigiani

|

\_\_\_\_\_

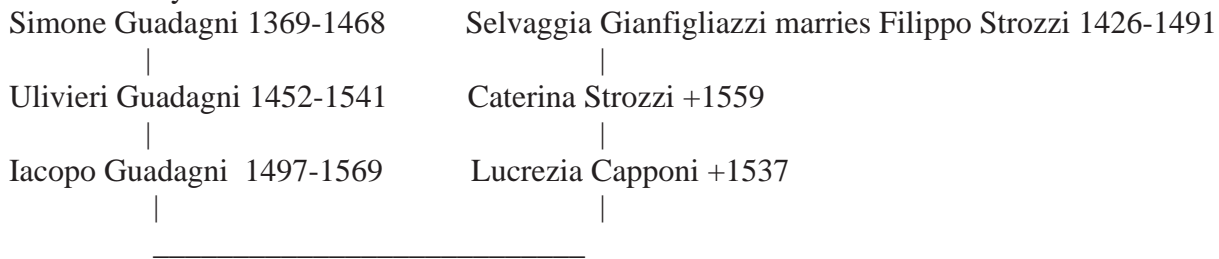
Ancestors of all the French  
Guadagni

## **Marriage Guadagni – Gianfigliuzzi**



I did not find any direct marriage Guadagni-Gianfigliuzzi. However, in the Guadagni-Berti marriage above we see that Claudia Gianfigliuzzi is Tommaso's Guadagni's mother in law and so the direct ancestor of all the French Guadagni.

On the family tree below we see that



Selvaggia Gianfigliuzzi is Iacopo Guadagni's wife's grandmother so she is the great-grandmother of all their children and direct ancestor of all the "Nunziata" Guadagni, "Santo Spirito" Guadagni (us) and Dufour Berte.



Palazzo Gianfigliuzzi is the second from the right on Lungarno ("Street along the Arno River") Corsini, Florence. The Palace of our cousins Corsini, that gave the name to the Lungarno, is made of the two buildings with statues on the top terraces, linked by a smaller building in between, second palace left of Gianfigliuzzi.



Façade of the Gianfigliuzzi Palace, aka Gianfigliuzzi Bonaparte Palace, because after the death of the last Gianfigliuzzi, it was bought by Louis Bonaparte, King of Holland, brother of Napoleon Bonaparte Emperor of the French, in 1828.

In 1867 the palace was purchased by our great-uncle the Belgian Baron Adrian Van Der Linden d'Hoogvorst (whose mother was Saint Aunt Emily), who was married to our great-aunt Aurora Guadagni. The baron made the building even more beautiful, transforming it into an elegant residence in the French style. Known both for its furnishing and lavish receptions, Palazzo d'Hoogvorst-Guadagni became one of the most brilliant and exclusive salons of the City of Florence, so much so that in his "Voyage in Italy", famous French author Hippolite Taine described it as the "jewel of Florence".

On d'Hoogvorst's death, the building was bought by the Cesaroni Venanzi family and lastly, in 1920, by the lawyer Aldemiro Campodonico, a politician and journalist. Today his grand-daughter Maria, Baroness de Hagenauer - Tuzzy to her friends – is dedicated to preserving its splendor and heritage.

The following pictures show us the inside of the palace owned by our great-uncles d'Hoogvorst-Guadagni and where our grandfathers, Luigi, Bernardo and siblings spent many happy hours as children.





## GALLERY



A party at the d'Hoogvorst-Guadagni House in the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century. The picture is more recent but it gives us a good idea of what a party in our great-uncles' palace looked like 140 years ago. Our grandfathers Luigi and Bernardo, and all their siblings, were probably often invited there by their Uncle Adrien and Aunt Aurora Guadagni (our great-grandfather Guadagno Guadagni's sister) who had no children of their own.









### **Marriage Guadagni – Castellani**

Vieri Guadagni 1369-1426, our direct ancestor  
& Francesca Tornabuoni

|

Simone Guadagni (1411-1468), our direct ancestor, marries Ginevra Castellani (+1508)  
together they have 10 children

### **Marriage Guadagni – Buondelmonti**

Vieri Guadagni 1369-1426, our direct ancestor  
& Francesca Tornabuoni

|

Francesco Guadagni (1400-1457), the eldest of 10 children, marries Lucrezia Buondelmonti

|

Arnaldo Guadagni + 1451

### **Marriage Guadagni – da Verrazzano**

Simone Guadagni 1411-1468, our direct ancestor  
& Ginevra Castellani +1508

|

Giovanna Guadagni (b 1458) marries Alessandro da Verrazzano

|

Giovanni da Verrazzano (1485-1528)



Giovanni da Verrazzano, Florentine explorer, is renowned as the first European since the Viking expeditions around 1000 AD, to explore the Atlantic Coast of North America between Florida and New Brunswick, including New York Bay, in whose honor was built the famous Verrazzano Bridge and Narragansett Bay in 1524.

### **Marriage Guadagni – Strozzi**

Simone Guadagni 1411-1468, our direct ancestor  
& Ginevra Castellani +1508

|



Francesca Guadagni 1448-1499, eldest of 10 children, marries Niccolo' Strozzi in 1469

### **Marriage Guadagni – Macchiavelli**

Bernardo Guadagni 1367-1434, older brother of our direct ancestor Vieri  
& Giovanna Ardinghelli

|  
Filippo Guadagni b 1404  
& Dianora Guicciardini

|  
Piera Guadagni (+ 1506) marries Pietropaolo Macchiavelli in 1456

### **Marriage Guadagni – Fioravanti**

Vieri Guadagni 1369-1426  
& Francesca Tornabuoni

|  
-  
Migliore Guadagni (1403-1457) marries Margherita Fioravanti in 1428

### **Marriage Guadagni – Albizzi**

Vieri Guadagni 1369-1426  
& Francesca Tornabuoni

|  
-  
Niccolosa Guadagni (+1476) in 1429, marries Giovanni degli Albizzi (1390-1451)

### **Marriage Guadagni – Rinuccini**

Vieri Guadagni 1369-1426  
& 1395 Francesca Tornabuoni

|  
|-----|  
| |  
Simone Guadagni      Cassandra Guadagni marries Iacopo Rinuccini  
1411-1468

|  
Ulivieri Guadagni 1452-1541  
(Our direct ancestor)

hauer conosciuto alcuni di questa nobil famiglia  
de' guadagni, et hanno preso per mogli gentildonne,  
et ha visto come sopra ha detto tali matrimoni  
essere stati contratti fra gentilhuomini, e genti-  
l donne, in questa città di Firenze da tutti tempi  
et furono contratti, da quali i soprannominati testi-  
monij Senatori fiorentini non possono hauere  
scienza di più.

Dopo il quarto articolo et comincia. 4.<sup>o</sup> an. et infra  
di cui è compila et finisce probationi nobilitas  
proprie famiglie.

Qual cosa ricercato habbino se hauer detto di sopra  
nel precedente capitolo con quali famiglie nobili  
fiorentine i gentilhuomini di questa famiglia  
de' guadagni habbino contratto matrimoni,  
et hauer visto le cose da lui deposte constare  
per memoria pubblica, e che i nobili fiorentini  
nelle azioni loro siano publiche quanto private  
e che si ritrovano costituiti in qualche  
grado, o Magistrato, etiam Tribunale, o Repub-  
lica, o altro, o in qualche altro, o grado  
fuori del proprio nome del padre e famiglia,  
senza essere Dottori, o Cavalieri di qualche Religione,



Asked about his knowledge the witness answered that he knew some members of this noble Guadagni family who married gentle-women (“ladies”) and he noticed what was referred above i.e. that such marriages were made between gentlemen and ladies in this city of Florence since time immemorial and contracts were signed which the above mentioned Florentine Senators can acknowledge.

Our witness answered that what he said above in this chapter i.e. concerning which of these noble Florentine family members the gentlemen of this Guadagni Family had married and if they had seen the facts he had recounted published in public memoirs and that the Florentine nobles in their actions public and private even if they performed an important office, even a sublime and supreme function, have never used to add a title or an honorific office to their name or the one of their father’s or their family’s, and even if they were Doctors or Knights of some Order, or if they had a Church dignity, and so it appears in ancient and public records, even if they were from noble families, they were called Lorenzo son of Giovanni Medici, Piero son of Cosimo Medici, Alessandro son of Cosimo Pazzi, and so all the Florentine nobles used to call themselves in public or private actions.

laureati, e hauer per qualità d'ignia ecclesia-  
 bea, e con dno apparire in libri antichi, e  
 publici, cioè nel nominarli hauer detto omi nobili  
 Lorenzo d. Giovanni Medici, Piero d. Cosimo Medici,  
 Alessandro d. Cosimo Salvi, e così usavano tutti  
 i nobili fiorentini questa maniera nel nominarli  
 in publiche opinate allioni.

In causa del suo sapere interrogato disse, così esserli  
 osservato. Del luogo, tempo, e contradiemoni  
 affermò hauerlo detto di sopra. Di poi.  
 Sopra il quinto articolo, che cominciava. 5.º an in flora  
 hae vrbis & finisce. coram arma, et insignia.

Detto vrbis depono, che gli huomini di questa nobil  
 famiglia de' guadagni, si come porta la voce, e  
 fama, anticamente hanno hauerlo casa loro in via  
 già chiamata Porta San Piero, et oggi Borgo degli  
 Albizi, e vicino all'orto de' Salvi, nel qual luogo  
 li veggono torri antiche, ma et li dicono esser  
 state fabbricate da quelli di questa famiglia de  
 guadagni, et dno vrbis affermò hauer visto l'armi  
 et insegna di questa famiglia sotto la Pietà di S.  
 Croce accanto alla compagnia chiamata del Tesoro  
 donata, fuor calata di S.  
 Maria Annunziata  
 di fronte nella cappella fabbricata dalla famiglia  
 de' guadagni, nelle quali armi u'è dipinto una croce  
 d'oro in campo rosso con l'impronta d'un leopardo con



Questioned on how he knew all this, he answered that was what he noticed. On localities, times and co-witnesses, he said he had already talked about it above.

On the fifth article which starts “In Florentia hac urbe” (“In this City of Florence”) and ends: “Con arma et insignia” (“With crests and coat-of-arms”), our witness stated that the men of this noble Guadagni Family as it is publicly well known from ancient times, used to have their houses in a street called “Porta San Piero” (“St. Peter’s Door”), and nowadays they are in Borgo degli Albizzi (Old street of the Albizzis) at the Canto de’ Pazzi (“Pazzi’s Corner”), where there are very ancient towers said to be built by members of the Guadagni Family, and the same witness stated that he had seen and the witness testified that he had seen family crests and coat-of-arms of this Family under the Church of Santa Croce, next to the Company of Jesus.



Old Middle-Age Florence. The towers of the Guadagni can be seen on the back upper right of the Battistero (the church in the front center next to the walls and the upfront Arno River). The Duomo and the Palazzo Vecchio have not been built yet. On the right is a side sketch of the old towers, showing us how they were inside.



Middle-Age Tower of the Castagna (“of the Chestnut”) in Florence. The Guadagni towers were similar to this one. Tower of our cousins Donati below.





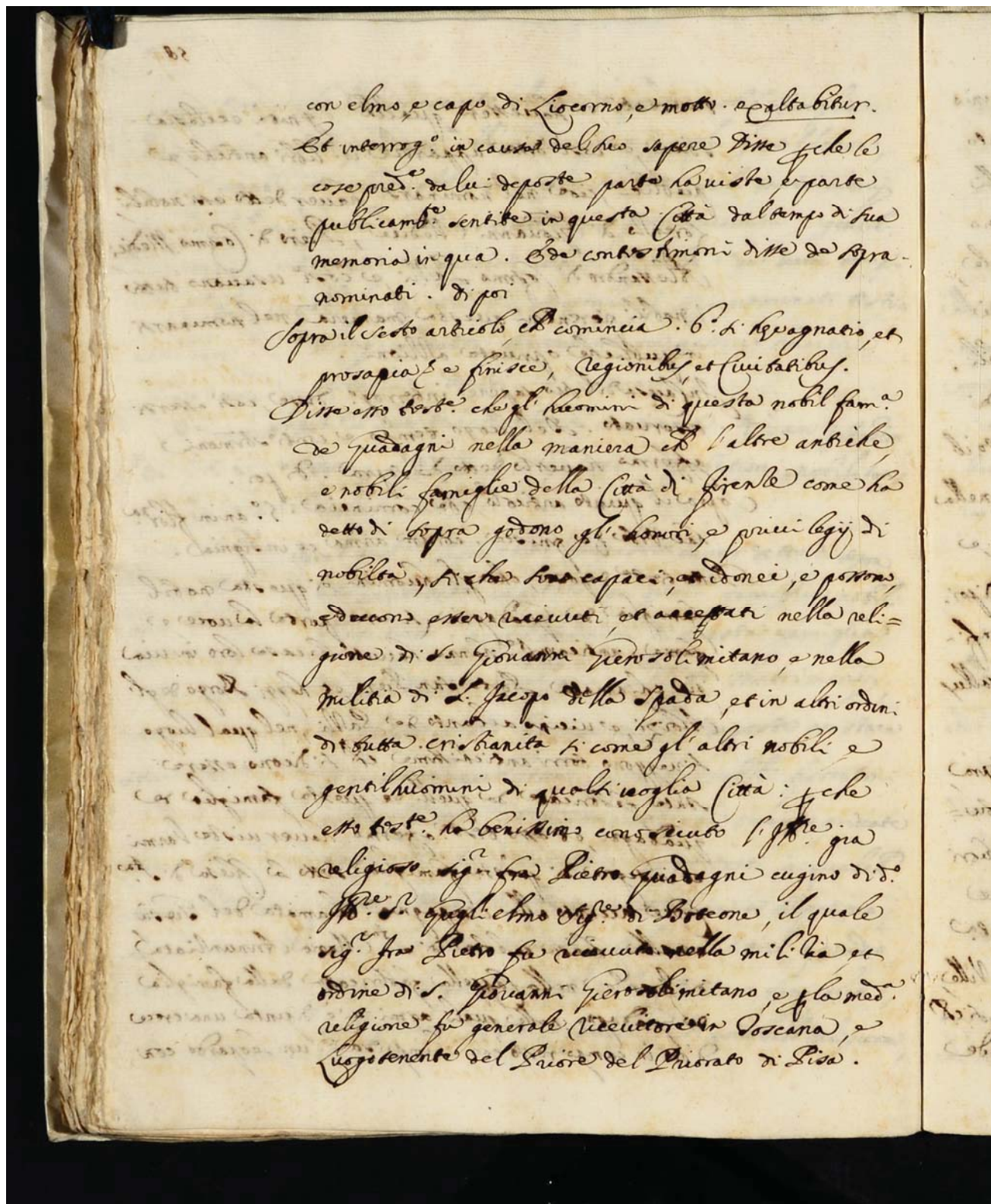




Middle-Age Florentine towers similar to the ones owned by the Guadagni and maybe partly made on top of the original Guadagni foundations. As we know the Guadagni built and owned several towers in Middle-Age Florence.

Also in the very famous Church of Santissima Annunziata, in the Chapel built by the Guadagni Family, you can find their family crest, in which a golden cross is painted over a red background held by a leopard with a helmet with a unicorn on top of it and the motto “Exaltabitur”. (The Guadagni motto is underlined in the original year 1595 text.)





Questioned on the source of his knowledge the witness answered that part of what he had seen it himself and the rest were publicly known and talked about in this City of Florence from as far as he can remember. He added that he mentioned the co-witnesses above. On the 6<sup>th</sup> Article a new witness said that the men of this noble Guadagni Family, similarly to the other ancient and noble families of the City of Florence, as he mentioned above, enjoy the honors and privileges of the nobility, which make them able and suitable to be received and accepted in the Order of St. John of Jerusalem



(Knights of Malta) and in the militia of St. James of the Sword and in other Christian Orders as all the other nobles and gentlemen of any other cities.

The witness affirms that he knows very well Brother Pietro Guadagni (the one whose portrait was made by Tintoretto), cousin of the very eminent Guglielmo Guadagni, Lord of Boutheon, who (Pietro) was accepted in the Militia of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem (Malta) and became General Receptor in Tuscany of the same and Lieutenant of the Prior of the Priory of Pisa.



Square of the Knights of Malta in Pisa; statue of Grand-Duke Cosimo I de' Medici upfront.



Interrogato in causa del suo sapere, luogo, tempo, e  
contraddizioni, affermò hauere detto di sopra. Di poi.  
Sopra il settimo articolo, che comincia. 7.º si de con-  
tentis in primis articulis e finis, gradus et  
directam lineam.

Qual h'ò bene? da noi così ricercato affermò le cose  
contenute in d.º settimo articolo essere vere, e notorie  
e di esse nome stata et essere publica voce,  
e fama fra i più nobili patribus, e senatori  
fiorentini, et apparire ancora in publiche  
memorie d'iste hauer letto con molte et parti-  
colari. Nel libro chiamato Priori sta comin-  
ciato l'anno di nostra salute 1281. ne quali  
libri e publiche scritture citato f'ò b'ò bene.  
d'iste apparire i nomi de gl' huomini di questa  
provincia de guadagni ordinati per ordine  
gradi f'ò linea ascendenti d.º f'ò.º g.º  
figli et no guadagni f'ò.º d.º Boreone.

Interrogato di suo sapere, luogo, tempo, e contraddizioni  
simili. interrogato, rispose. hauer detto di sopra.  
Di poi.

Sopra l'ottavo articolo, che comincia. 8.º quod in Vrbe  
fiorentia filij primogenitura e finis, modis,  
et aduocatum.

Detto f'ò bene. da noi così ricercato, le cose conte-  
nute in d.º ottavo articolo essere state, et essere vere,



Questioned on the source of his knowledge, locality, times and co-witnesses, he stated that he had already mentioned it above.

On the seventh article, the witness said that everything written there is true and well-known, and it is public rumor and fame among the noblest Florentine patricians and senators, and it appears also in public memoirs. He added that he read it mostly in a book called Priorista ("The Priorist"), which starts in the Year of Our Salvation 1281. In these books and public records, continues the witness, he read the names of the men of this Guadagni Family in a straight line of 13 generations of ancestors of the very Eminent Guglielmo Guadagni, Lord of Boutheon. In regard to localities, time, and co-witnesses, he answered he had already talked about it above.

On the 8<sup>th</sup> article which starts with "Quod in Urbe Florentiae filio primogenitum" ("What in the City of Florence the first born son...") and ends "modis et ordinis..." ("Ways and orders...").

The witness said the things contained in this 8<sup>th</sup> article were and are true because in the City of Florence and all its dominion, the rights of the firstborn are not recognized, so as both the firstborns and the younger siblings inherit exactly the same part of the inheritance, and for a long time we have noticed, as we do nowadays, that both nobles and not nobles, questioned on the above habit, answered that those laws were observed in the City of Florence and its Dominion.



About time and co-witnesses, he said he had mentioned them above.

The ninth article starts with "Quod in Conficiendis publicis Justus" ("What seems right in the public opinion") and ends "Eius vassalli teneatur" ("His vassal kept"). Said witness stated that he had said above that Florentine nobles and commoners do not have the custom of adding to their name office or dignity but only use their name, their father's name and the last name of their family and that the Florentine Republic has already become the master of the cities, countryside, castles, localities and fiefs, in all the Florentine Empire, and nowadays no Florentine noble owns any feudal fiefs for which he does not acknowledge the Florentine



Republic as master of it with his own obligation and promise to recognize that his feudal properties come from the Republic of Florence.

66

beni feudali, per quali egli riconosce la med.  
Repubblica per in padrone e obbligo, ne giuri  
e promette riconoscere da ora beni feudali.  
qual ordine interrogammo come egli sappia  
queste cose, rispose Perche la Repubblica  
per diuenne gia padrone di tutto il suo dominio  
e come in realta. Oggi il Ser. mo Granduca  
di Toscana, e questo cosa da lui d'essere bono  
uere, pubbliche e notorie. Del luogo, tempo, e  
contribuioni rispose. Rispose de' d. sopra. di poi.  
Sopra l'articolo 9. e comincio. 7. di uenuto ut  
quando s. finisce. et offesi de' possessori.  
E' lo stesso. così da noi interrogato, affermò esser  
così la verità, che Commissarij, Capitani, Vicarij  
e Potestà eletti e mandati alle sudd. luoghi  
insigni, e castelli della giurisdizione di Firenze  
e d'ogni ragione hanno esercitato et esercitano il  
loro Magistrato con superiorità tutto il tempo che  
dura la loro amministrazione, e che dalle sen-  
tenze proferte da loro nelle cause criminali non si  
è dato, né si dà appello, et il med. modo si osserva  
nei Magistrati della Città di Firenze. Nella causa  
Cavali per la permessa d'appello, eccetto però da Magi-  
strati de' Castelli e Borghieri, da gl'otto d.

## PALAZZO GIANFIGLIAZZI BUONAPARTE aka d'HOOGVORST-GUADAGNI PALACE

The Gianfigliuzzi Bonaparte Palace, situated on Lungarno Corsini, 4, in Florence, built by the Gianfigliuzzi Family in 1427, owned by the Gianfigliuzzi (direct ancestors of the Guadagni), until their extinction in 1818, bought by Luigi Bonaparte, King of Holland and brother of Napoleon Bonaparte, Emperor of the French, in 1828, was purchased by our great-uncle Belgian Baron Adrian Van Der Linden d'Hoogvorst, whose mother Aunt Emily, beatified by Pope John Paul II, was born d'Oultremont, one of the four most important families in Belgium, and his wife our great-aunt Aurora Guadagni, sister of our great-grandfather Guadagno Guadagni, from whom we all descend, and sister of Emma Guadagni, in 1867.



Great Uncle Adrien and his wife Greant Aunt Aurora Guadagni

Aunt Emily (Emilie in French) was Adrien's mother and Aurora Guadagni's mother-in-law. She was born in 1818 in Wegimont, Belgium, daughter of Count Emile d'Oultremont de Wegimont and de Warfusee', a Belgian diplomat who represented King Leopold I to the Vatican. In 1837, when she was nineteen, she married Victor van der Linden, Baron d'Hoogvorst. Mother of two boys and two girls, she was widowed in 1847, at 29 years old. On May 1, 1857, she founded the Sisters of Mary Reparatrix, in Strasbourg, France. On May 1858, she made her vows, taking the name Mary of Jesus. The Sisters expanded in India, England, Belgium, Mauritius, France, Italy, Ireland, Spain, and then Jerusalem in 1888. The mother house was relocated from Strasbourg to Rome, Italy.

She died on February 22, 1878 at the home of her son Adrien and her daughter-in-law Aurora in the Palace d'Hoogvorst-Guadagni, in Florence.

She was buried in the church of Saint Bonaventure in Rome, Italy.



She was proclaimed Venerated on December 23, 1993 by Pope Saint John Paul II (decree of heroic virtues).

She was proclaimed Blessed on October 12, 1997 by Pope Saint John Paul II.

As the history book of the Palace states, Adrien and Aurora made the palace even more beautiful and sumptuous transforming it in a refined, French style residence. The palace became known as well for its extremely elegant furniture as for its sumptuous, lavish receptions. It became one of the most brilliant and exclusive social gatherings drawing rooms of Florence, so much so that French writer Hippolite Taine called it “The “parure” (“set of jewels” or “elegant hairdo”) of Florence”.

At the death of great-uncle Adrien and great-aunt Aurora, the palace was bought by the Cesaroni-Venanzi Family and finally by lawyer Aldemiro Camodonico, politician and journalist. Nowadays, his niece Baroness Maria de Hagenauer contributes to maintain it in its ancient splendor (when it was owned and embellished by our great-uncle Adrien and great-aunt Aurora Van Der Linden d’Hoogvorst-Guadagni).

This is why this palace is a precious witness as to how the Florentine Guadagni lived a few generations ago.

The d’Hoogvorst-Guadagni Palace is a unique witness, as far as I know, of how the Florentine and worldwide Guadagnis lived four generations ago. I will try to gather here as many pictures as I can find of the inside of it, with its interior architecture, frescoes and furniture and commentaries about it.



**Entrance staircase to the “Noble Floor” (above).**

**Room of the Lilies:** The hall of the Lilies is the first room you enter in, on the Noble Floor. The Noble Floor in the old Florentine palaces, was the floor where the “nobles” (owners of the palace) lived with the living room, dining room, bedrooms of the heads-of-the-family. It often was the second floor of the palace while the ground floor, opening on the street, was for the carriages, horses, and some servants. As we see from the pictures of the Façade in our d’Hoogvorst-Guadagni Palace, the noble floor, with the large windows, was the third floor. The Room of the Lilies was used to greet the guests.



The ceiling is made of wood decorated with squares of golden lilies on blue background. This decorative ceiling was added to the palace during the important restorations made by great-uncle Adrien from 1865 to 1868.



It looks like a door golden handle with the head of a lion, the d'Hoogvorst crest ("three hammers") and the crown of Baron on top.





A view of the room.



“La Boiserie”: Above and below



The “Boiserie”:



The “Boiserie” (French for woowork, paneling) or Hall of the Lions is the obligatory passage between two salons with panoramic view on the Arno River, the Music Room and the Clock Room, and then the Room of the Paintings, opened towards the interior garden-courtyard of the Palace.

The “Boiserie” is intelligently upholstered with a wooden structure from which it derives its name. This long hall has paintings on its ceiling painted by Belgian artist Keirsbilch, 1813-1884, author of remarkable artworks inside the building plus several prized painting with historical subjects.



The walls of the hall show symbolic embellishments dedicated to the Gianfigliuzzi Family Crest, represented by a rampant lion also on the main façade of the palace. This hall is used for the passage of the guests or for a long refreshment room for cocktails.

The d’Hoogvorst coat-of-arms is seen painted in the above picture of the “Boiserie”: three hammers with the crown of Baron on top, carried by little angels.

### **The Room of the Paintings:**

The “Room of the Paintings” is the room that has several paintings above each interior door, representing still life with flowers and fruits, hunting scenes and dancing little angels, around angelic pictures painted in the center of the ceiling.

The ceiling of the room is decorated on the sides by crowns of leaves of the “acanto” tree (taken by the ancient Greeks as a model of Corinthian capital) coated with silver and pure gold put on the whole perimeter of the frame next to rectangular shapes located side by side, also painted on golden leaf.







To the glorious ceiling we add the peculiarity of the grotesque decors inserted in the still lives painted above the doors.



A long representation of dancing neoclassical female figures, golden on a charcoal blue background, decorates the jamb of the large fireplace in the center of the room.

The room of the paintings is used for drinks and cocktails.

### **The Music Salon**



The Music Salon is the main and the most representative salon of the entire Noble Floor (3<sup>rd</sup> floor). It has the largest space available for the creation of any event or activity, it has the advantage of a fantastic view of the historical center of Florence and a long balcony offering the viewer the sight of intense and suggestive sunsets on the peaceful and beautiful unwinding of the most suggestive “lungarni” (“streets along the Arno River”) of the City.

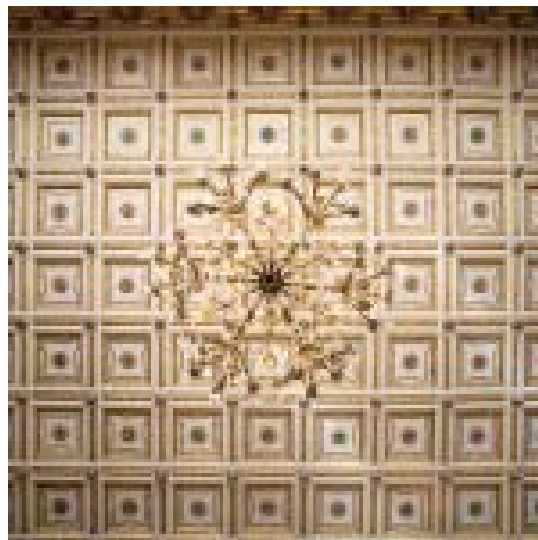
With this “name” the room indicates its destination of being the protagonist of sumptuous parties, balls, concerts and meetings of the European intellectuals that flocked to Florence in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Through the window on the right, on the other side of the Arno River, we can see the red dome of the Church of Santo Spirito, next to which the Guadagni of Santo Spirito Palace is.





Another picture of Lungarno Corsini with the d'Hoogvorst-Guadagni Palace on the right: you can see the balcony of the “Music Salon” on the Noble Floor of the palace. As you can see, Palazzo d'Hoogvorst-Guadagni is the only palace in the picture that has the Noble Floor on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor and not on the 2<sup>nd</sup>. It is also one story higher than the other palaces.





The Music salon is a profusion of gilded stucco, huge mirrors, decorated panels depicting compositions of musical instruments, friezes and finally the large coat of arms of the d'Hoogvorst Family, a bas-relief of three hammers, and the engraved motto "Espoir et Courage" (Hope and Courage).



The Music Salon is furnished with some of the original pieces of furniture recuperated and restored after years of neglect; noteworthy are the golden bronze chandelier and Bohemian crystals in the center of the salon, the two flowery consols Empire style also decorated with gold leafs, and other pieces of furniture.

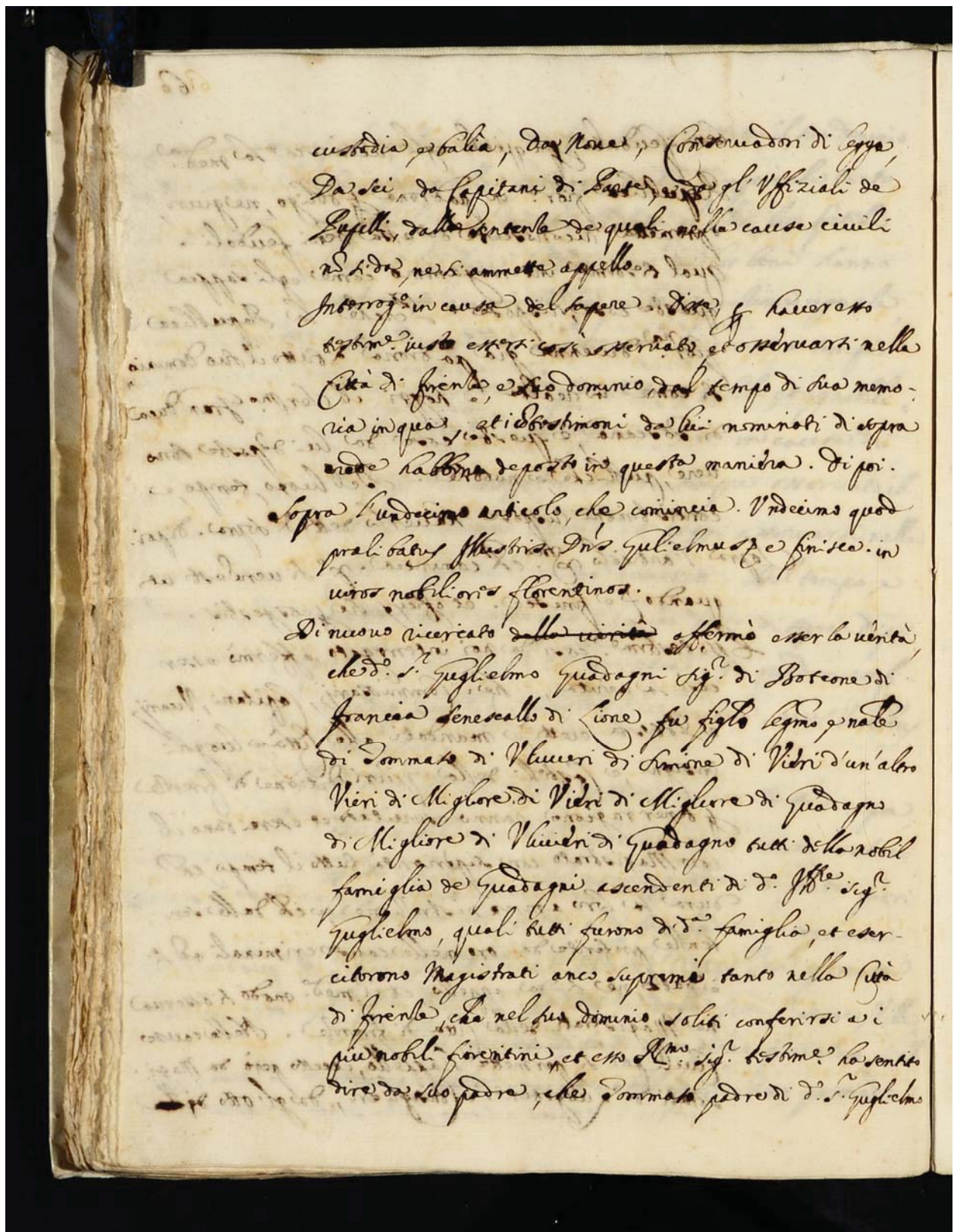
It has a perfect acoustic for concerts and music playing. Everything is magically transformed in this salon.



Continuation of page 60

When questioned on how he knew these things the witness answered that the reason was because the Florentine Republic had already become owner of all its dominion as now the Very Sereine Grand-Duke of Tuscany has, and these things he stated were true, public and notorious. He said he had already mentioned above locality, time and cowitnesses.

On the Tenth Article, questioned by us, the witness stated that the truth was that the Commissaries, Captains, Vicars and Mayors, elected and sent to cities, important localities and castles of the Jurisdiction of Florence, have exercised and still exercise their offices with superiority all the time that their office lasts, and from the sentences pronounced by them in the criminal lawsuits, appeal has not been given before or now, and the Magistrates in Florence act in the same way. In the civil lawsuits appeal is allowed except by Magistrates, Lieutenants, Counselors, by the Eight of the Balia, by the Keepers of the Law, by the Six, by the Captains of Part, by the Officers of the Pupils, by the sentences in the civil lawsuits in which appeal is not given or allowed.



Questioned on his knowledge of it, he answered that it was thus observed and continues to be noticed in the City of Florence and its dominion, from as far as he can remember, and that the cowitnesses he mentioned above had testified in the same way.

On the eleventh article, starting: "Undecimo quod praelibatus illustrissimus Guglielmus" ("Eleventh (article) about the Excellent, Very Famous, Guglielmo") and ending "in unos nobilioris florentinos" ("In some Florentine nobles"). Questioned by us again, the witness stated that it was the truth, that Guglielmo Guadagni,



Lord of Boutheon of France, Seneschal of Lyon, was the legitimate and natural son of Tommaso son of Ulivieri son of Simone son of Vieri son of another Vieri son of Migliore son of Vieri son of Migliore son of Guadagno son of Migliore son of Ulivieri son of Guadagno all of the noble family of the Guadagni, ancestors of the Eminent Guglielmo, all being of his family, and holding offices even supreme, both in the City of Florence and in its Dominion, usually given to the noblest Florentines, and about this, the above witness heard from his father that Tommaso, father of Guglielmo, went to France when he was young, with his uncle Tommaso Guadagni, whose fortune and goods he inherited, and he, being the father of Guglielmo, during his life he lived in France with splendor, and from him, Florentine gentleman living in France, were born the Very Eminent Guglielmo and his brother the Very Eminent Tommaso, and he said he had heard that Tommaso the Uncle and Tommaso the father of Guglielmo purchased many properties, castles and jurisdictions in parts of France and built extremely beautiful palaces and hospitals, one in Lyon, and the other in the City of Avignon.



Guadagni Palace in Rue Doree' ("Golden Street") Avignon, inside courtyard.



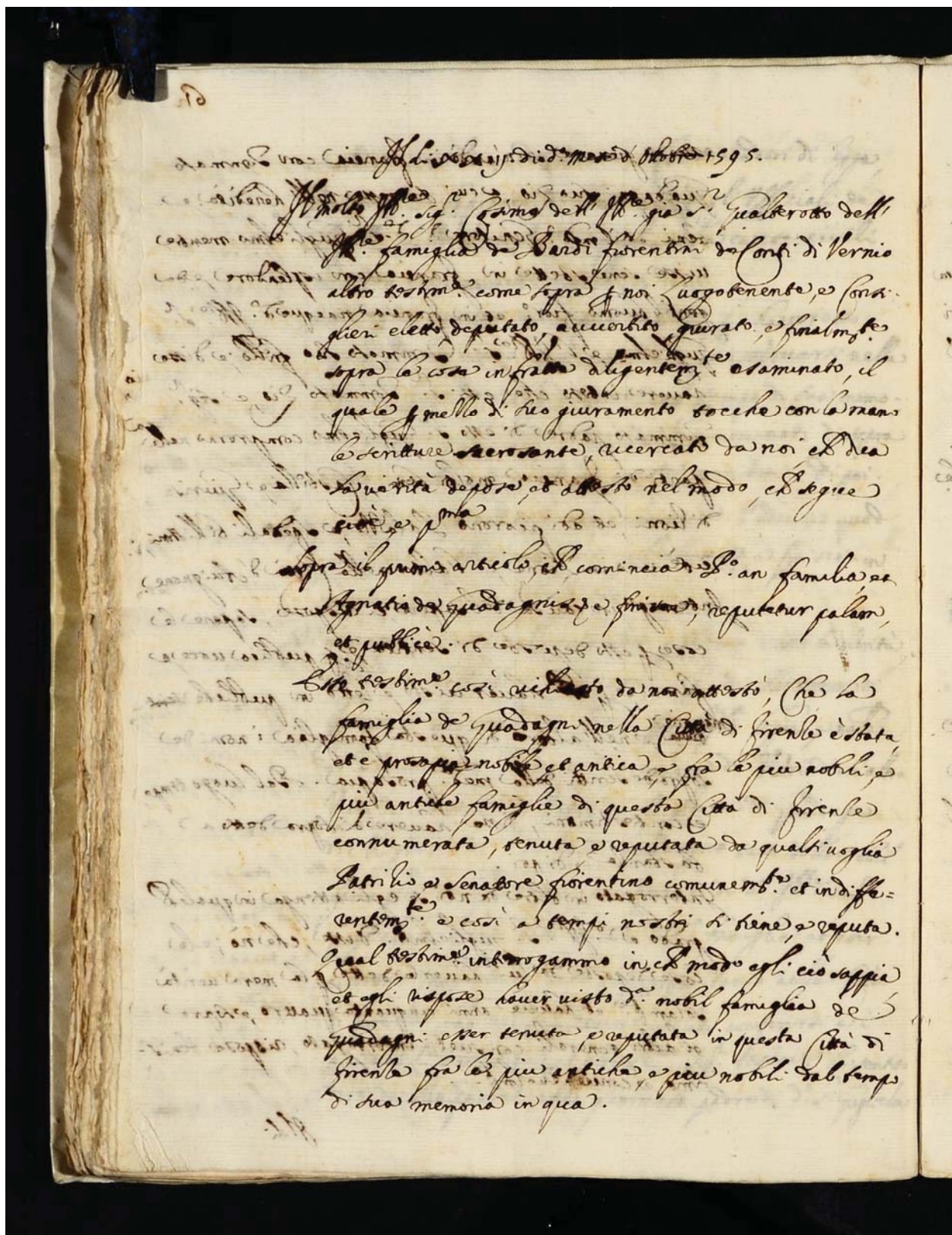
Entrance (left) of the Guadagni (Gadagne) Palace-Museum, and Gadagne Street on the right, Lyon. The Guadagni palace continues on the right side of Gadagne Street, which was built as a “shortcut” through the immense Gadagne Palace, whose huge size was dividing old Lyon in two separate halves.







Further questioned by us if he was connected in some way to the Very Eminent Guglielmo, he said he was not. And that he had only stated the pure truth and that he was fiftyfour years old, and if we compare him to the other usual cowitnesses, he answered very well and appropriately.





On October 22, 1595, the very Eminent Cosimo son of the very Eminent Gualterotto of the famous family of the Florentine Bardi of the Counts of Vernio, other cowitness, as above, and we Lieutenant and Counselor elected and appointed, advised, sworn in and finally examined him with diligence on the concerning things, after having him swear while touching with his hand the Holy Scriptures, questioned by us on the truth of his statements, he answered in the following way:

On the first article, which starts: “Primo an familia et Agnatio de Guadagnis” (“First about the family and the members of a group having a common male ancestor of the Guadagnis”), and ends “Reputator palam et publice.” (“Open and public reputation”).



Bardi Palace in Via de' Bardi (“Bardi Street”)

The Bardi were a Florentine family of bankers and merchants, like the Guadagni, who created an immensely rich trading company in the late Middle-Ages. One of them, Simone de' Bardi, nicknamed “Mone” married Beatrice Portinari, the woman our cousin and great poet Dante Alighieri was madly in love with and who inspired him to write the “Divine Comedy” in which Dante and Beatrice meet in Heaven.

The Bardi were related both to the Guadagni and to the Medici. Contessina de' Bardi (1390-1473) married Cosimo de' Medici the Elder. I am sure Contessina was happy when Bernardo Guadagni sent Cosimo into exile instead of having him sentenced to death, like Ormannozzo, son of Rinaldo degli Albizzi, wanted. Cosimo the Elder and Contessina de' Bardi's son, Piero de' Medici the Gouty (1416-1469), became Vieri Guadagni(1369-1426)'s nephew by marrying his niece, Lucrezia Tornabuoni (1425-1482). Cassandra Guadagni, daughter of our direct ancestor Francesco, was the sister-in-law of Ottavio de' Bardi (+1591), see below.



Contessina de' Bardi (1390-1473), wife of Cosimo de' Medici the Elder.







Back of Palazzo Guadagni-Torrigiani-del Nero, on Lungarno Torrigiani. The opposite facade is in Via de' Bardi, close to the De' Bardi Palace.





Facade of the Guadagni-Torrigiani-Del Nero Palace (Torrigiani crest sculpted above the main door) in via de' Bardi.

Requested by us as above, this witness, related to the Guadagni and the Medici, stated that the Guadagni Family in the City of Florence has been and is a noble and ancient family, and among the noblest and most ancient families of this City of Florence, and is thus considered, held and acknowledged by any Florentine patrician and senator generally and commonly, also in our time. Questioned on how he knew all this, the witness answered that he saw the noble family of the Guadagnis considered and acknowledged among the most ancient and noble of this City of Florence from as far as he can remember.